

APPROVED MINUTES
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 12, 2009
Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2nd floor
9601 Groh Road

7:05 p.m. Call to Order
Adjourn to Executive Session: Litigation

7:35 p.m. RECONVENE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance

7:35 p.m. Convene PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG Block Grant Program 2009-2010

Pursuant to Federal guidelines, Grosse Ile Township is announcing its objectives and possible uses for projects using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Total funds anticipated to be allocated for Grosse Ile Township for 2009-2010 Community Development Block Grant Program Year is \$70,000.

OBJECTIVES

Activities funded by CDBG must meet at least one of the following three criteria:

- A. Benefit low to moderate income persons
- B. Address slum and blight
- C. Meet an urgent need

Potential/Proposed Project Statement

<u>Location</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Township Wide</i>	<i>Senior Programs</i>	<i>25,000.00</i>

Funds will be used for Senior Program Staff and Delivery Driver for the Senior Homebound Nutrition Program.

<i>Township Wide</i>	<i>Senior Alliance</i>	<i>1,750.00</i>
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The Senior Alliance is a non-profit (Area Agency on Aging 1-C) that provides services to seniors such as providing meals, in home nursing care, emergency prescriptions, and various support services to Wayne County seniors in 34 communities.

<i>Airport/Commerce Park</i>	<i>Blight and Clearance</i>	<i>43,250.00</i>
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The Grosse Ile Airport Commerce Park Road Reconstruction: The entire Airport and Commerce Park is designated as "Eligible Property" under the Brownfield Redevelopment Act and has also been designated as a "Redevelopment Zone" by the Township of Grosse Ile. Funds will be used for design and engineering as well as reconstruction of the Grosse Ile Airport Commerce Park Roads. Expenditure of funds is necessary to correct the general economic obsolescence of the Commerce Park and remedy the currently blighted conditions existing as a result of deteriorating infrastructure.

Public Comments Regarding CDBG Block Grant Hearing:

1. Mary Britt, Coolsaet Lane, asked the Board to consider allocating \$10,000 of funding from the proposed CDBG proposal to allow the residents on Coolsaet Lane to conduct the survey to begin the work of transferring three homes off septic tanks and onto sanitary sewer lines.
2. Township Manager Reaume outlined the research and recommendations he has made to the Board and ultimately recommended the Board not allow the grant application to be modified to include Mrs. Britt's proposal.
3. Clerk O'Connor and Treasurer Van Os asked Mr. Reaume what the township's future financial liability would be if the low to moderate income level of the applicants were to change in the future or if the property was sold to someone not meeting the income requirement. According to DPS Director Sedlock, the estimated cost could be between \$100,000 and \$125,000.
4. Dave Drock, Bellevue Road, pled with the Board to grant Mrs. Britt's request.
5. Mr. Sedlock pointed to a previous similar situation that resulted in a lien on the property upon sale.
6. Trustee Frucci asked if Mrs. Britt had asked to be included in this round of CDBG grants before the proposal had been projected and further suggested that perhaps Mrs. Britt would consider switching to a composting toilet system to replace the septic tank.
7. Clerk O'Connor commented that the Board has to base their decision on the expert opinions of township consultants in comparison to the non-expert figures being tossed around.
8. Treasurer Van Os added that at least the Board knows that all of the projected areas in the grant proposal have already met the criteria required.
9. Ron Janowski, Groh Road, asked if there is a way to assess the developer for the sewer line attached to the vacant parcels on Coolsaet Lane.
10. Clerk O'Connor asked Mr. Janowski how he will feel when suddenly 10 years from now the situation has changed on Coolsaet and because of the board's actions tonight with the information available, the township would become responsible for paying the lien on the property for the sewer tie-in.
11. Mrs. Britt suggested the Board move on the CDBG Project before them tonight and she will bring her project back for consideration next year after more research can be provided.

Motion Van Os, second Ranka to close the Public Hearing on this matter at 8:38 p.m.

Regular Meeting resumed.

Presentations:

Motion Kantz, second Johnson, to incorporate the presentation by the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist Joseph Robison into Action Item # 5. All aye.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

1. Motion Ranka, second Kantz, to combine Action # 6 and # 7 as Action Item # 6, Titled, Amendment to Article 21.3, Site Plan Review and Article 24, Administrative Organization of the Grosse Ile Township Zoning Ordinance. All aye.
2. Motion Ranka, second Van Os, to delete Action Item # 7 from the Agenda. All aye.

CONSENT AGENDA 09- 001:

Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to remove Consent Agenda # 3, Cash Requirements List dated January 5, 2009 from the Consent Agenda for questions and to move it to Action Item # 7 on the regular agenda. All aye.

Motion Johnson, second O'Connor to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

All aye.

1. Minutes of December 8, 2008
2. Cash Requirements List dated December 22, 2008
3. *Moved to Regular Agenda for discussion as Action Item # 7*

Motion O'Connor, second Van Os, to approve the Regular Agenda as amended. All aye.

Approved Agenda

7:00 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation

7:30 p.m. REGULAR MEETING - Call to Order

Convene PUBLIC HEARING: CDBG Block Grant Program 2009-10

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations: *Moved and incorporated into Action Item # 5.*

Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources: Joseph Robison, Wildlife Biologist

Additions/Deletions to Amend the Agenda:

1. Motion Ranka, second Kantz, to combine Action # 6 and # 7 as Action Item # 6, Titled, Amendment to Article 21.3, Site Plan Review and Article 24, Administrative Organization of the Grosse Ile Township Zoning Ordinance. All aye.
2. Motion Ranka, second Van Os, to delete Action Item # 7 from the Agenda. All aye.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of December 8, 2008 Regular Meeting
2. Cash Requirements List dated December 22, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

1. Board of Review Re-appointments
2. CDBG Block Grant Approval
3. Safe Routes to School Grant Funding
4. Tractor/Loader/Backhoe Bid Award
5. Wildlife Management
6. Adoption of Amendment to Zoning Ordinance Article 21, Site Plan Review and Article 24, Adoption of Administrative Organization of the Grosse Ile Township Zoning Ordinance
7. Cash Requirements List dated January 5, 2009

Clerk's Report

1. Passports: Spring/Summer 2009 Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
2. IslandFest Preview

Treasurer's Report

1. Investment Report through November 30, 2008

Supervisor's Report

1. General Updates
 - DTE/Area wide power outage report

Township Manager's Report

Discussion Items

Extended Public Comment: *Comments limited to 3 minutes per person*

Adjourn

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **09- 002** Motion Van Os, Second Ranka, to approve the re-appointments of Richard Nielsen, Shelley Schmidtke and William Mead to the Board of Review for the term length January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2011. VOTE: 7-0
2. **09- 003** Motion Johnson, Second Van Os, to grant approval to seek funding from Wayne County Community Development Division for the following 2009-2010 Community Block Grant Projects:

Senior Staffing and Services	\$25,000
Senior Alliance	1,750
Airport/Commerce Park Blight and Clearance	<u>43,250</u>
Total:	\$70,000

VOTE: 7-0

Trustee Ranka thanked the staff for bringing this type of funding to the community.

3. **09- 004** Motion Van Os, Second Kantz,
WHEREAS, the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees, the Grosse Ile Township Department of Public Services Commission, and the Grosse Ile Township School Board and Staff support the grass roots resident initiative Safe Routes to School Program to provide safe routes to school for children by means of walking or biking, and;
WHEREAS, in 2008 grant applications were submitted to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDPT) for signage, parking lot upgrades, and path construction at and near the Meridian Elementary School, Parke Lane Elementary School, and Grosse Ile Middle School campuses, and;
WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation granted an award of project funding in the amount of \$496,328, and;
WHEREAS, funding of non-eligible costs are not awarded as part of the grant approval, and;
WHEREAS, the Township of Grosse Ile designated an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for non-eligible costs such as permit fees, review fees, administration fees, Engineering fees such as surveying, design, specifications, Wayne County/MDOT/MDEQ permit approvals, bidding, contract administration, stake-out, inspection, testing, field management and MDOT documentation, etc, and;
WHEREAS, the Township of Grosse Ile shall appropriate the funds in the amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the bike path construction fund # 2960-101-975.100, and;
Whereas, the Township of Grosse Ile will enter into an agreement with the Grosse Ile Schools in which the payment of the non-eligible costs shall be made to the Grosse Ile Schools, and;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees supports the appropriation of funding in the amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the Safe Routes to School Program # SRTS2008-0022.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Grosse Ile Township School Board, Superintendent Dena Dardzinski, and Finance Director Tony Krukowski.

Yeas		Nays
<u>X</u>	Brian Loftus	
<u>X</u>	Ute O'Connor	
<u>X</u>	Ted Van Os	
<u>X</u>	Pamela Frucci	
<u>X</u>	James A. Johnson, Jr.	
<u>X</u>	Peter Kantz	
<u>X</u>	Erik Ranka	

Public Comment on Action Item# 3:

1. Jack Delphy, Loma Circle, asked if Bike Path funds will be used to renovate the path in the area. *Mr. Van Os replied that they would.*
 2. Dave Drook, Bellevue, asked if the residents had been surveyed about widening sidewalks.
 3. Mr. Hennessey responded that there is community/neighborhood consensus on the benefits and the location of the proposed sidewalks.
 4. Lt. Joe Porcerelli reported that surveys were given to parents of school age children that asked what their concerns were regarding getting their children to and from school. He also reported that both the engineer and police department observed the areas in question for extended periods to identify any problem areas including wooded areas that could present a danger.
4. **09- 005** Motion Van Os , Second Kantz, to accept the Bid from Michigan Cat, in the amount of \$70,563 for the purchase of one Caterpillar 416E Tractor/Backhoe/Loader, based on the recommendation of the DPS Commission. VOTE: 7-0
5. Supervisor Loftus called upon Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist Joe Robison to give the Board a presentation on the status of the deer herd on Grosse Ile.

Mr. Robison reported that recently conducted deer herd counts revealed that over the past five years the Grosse Ile deer population has increased exponentially and have reached a level four times the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources recommended per square mile population. The increased population has in their opinion created a significant health concern for the herd and serious safety concerns for motorists and pilots operating aircraft at the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport. The following deer population information was provided:

Grosse Ile is 10.44 square miles

Sustainable deer habitat excluding Grosse Ile Airport, residential and commercial properties and roadways is 3.5 square miles

Aerial deer survey conducted in February, 2008 was 375

Estimated population after spring birthing is 600

600 divided by 10.44 square miles equals 57 deer per square mile

The DNR recommendation is 8 to 12 deer per square mile

Number of car/deer accidents between 2002 and 2008 were 130

Motion 09- 006 Motion Johnson, Second O'Connor, based upon a recommendation by the following:

- The United States Department of Agriculture
- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- The Grosse Ile Police Commission
- The Grosse Ile Township Police Chief
- Grosse Ile Airfield/Commerce Park Manager
- Grosse Ile Airport Advisory committee
- Grosse Ile Airport Commerce Park Commission

The Grosse Ile Township Board hereby authorizes the utilization of MDNR deer damage permits to be issued to Grosse Ile Municipal airport and Grosse Ile Township for deer herd management.

Utilization of the permits shall be governed by the policy dated January 12, 2009, developed by the Grosse Ile Police Department under the direction and guidance of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. VOTE: 7-0

Board Comment on Action Item # 5:

1. Trustee Frucci asked if the deer harvesting would only take place at the airport and if there were any chance that it would take place on open space land or near houses. Mrs. Frucci also inquired about the number expected to be harvested. *Township Manager Reaume replied that the number expected to be harvested should be below one hundred with approximately fifty being eliminated this year.*
2. Clerk O'Connor asked how public access would be restricted and how the public safety would be protected. *Chief Barron indicated that every precaution will be taken so that the residents will most likely be unaware that the harvesting is happening; in addition, suppressed weapons will be used to limit the noise.*
3. Supervisor Loftus commented that the long term goal is a smaller healthy herd.
Trustee Ranka thanked the Michigan DNR staff for their help.

Public Comment on Action Item # 5:

1. Jake Adkins, Bellevue, commented that the root cause of over population is baiting and feeding the deer and indicated his support of harvesting deer at the airport instead of island wide.
2. Mel Rowe, Lakewood, commended the board for tackling the problem.
3. Dave Drook, Bellevue Road, stated that deer have overtaken his yard and eaten landscaping and that he trusts the police department to handle the problem.
4. Jack Hartley, Meridian, stated that the board's responsibility is to the safety of residents, not deer and hopes the harvesting will continue in the future.
5. Craig Pilkington, Southpoint, asked if the legal department looked at the issue and considered notifying residents.

6. R. Janowski, Groh Road, suggested the township put up ten foot fences along Groh Road along the airport boundary to deter the deer from entering the airport.
6. **09-007** Motion Ranka, Second O'Connor, to adopt Amendments to Article 21, Site Plan Review, and Article 24, Administrative Organization, of the Grosse Ile Township Zoning Ordinance; based upon the recommendations and the Findings of Fact Resolution as adopted by the Grosse Ile Township Planning Commission at the Planning Commission Meeting held on December 1, 2008.

Note: Supervisor Loftus noted that this action places the township in compliance with State of Michigan guidelines.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Yeas		Nays
<u>X</u>	Brian Loftus	
<u>X</u>	Ute O'Connor	
<u>X</u>	Ted Van Os	
<u>X</u>	Pamela Frucci	
<u>X</u>	James A. Johnson, Jr.	
<u>X</u>	Peter Kantz	
<u>X</u>	Erik Ranka	

7. **09-008** Motion Van Os, Second Ranka, to approve the Cash Requirements List dated January 5, 2009 as presented. VOTE: 7-0

Clerk's Report

1. Passports: Clerk O'Connor announced the implementation of additional federal passport guidelines.

All persons traveling by air outside of the United States are required to present a passport or other valid travel document to enter or re-enter the United States.

On June 1, 2009, the U.S. Government will implement the full requirements of the land and sea phase of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The proposed rules require most U.S. Citizens entering the U.S. at sea or land ports of entry to have a Passport, Passport Card, or Western Hemisphere Initiative compliant document.

Children: U.S. Citizen Children under the age of 16 will be able to present the original or copy of their birth certificate, or other proof of citizenship; such as a naturalization certificate or citizenship card. **Groups** of U.S. Citizen Children ages 16 through 18, when traveling with a school or religious group, social organization or sports team, will be able to enter under adult supervision with originals or copies of their birth certificates or other proof of citizenship. Estimated processing time is approximately five weeks

- Passport Processing is available by appointment in the Clerk's Office during the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday mornings and evenings after 5 p.m.
 - Forms are available at the Clerk's Office and online at travel.state.gov
 - Passport photos are available at many area drug stores and at Meijer Photo departments and AAA insurance agencies (clients only)
- Call the Clerk's Office at 676-4422, ext. 241 to schedule an appointment.

2. Islandfest: *Deferred to next meeting*

3. Notice of joint meeting of the School Board and Township Board:
Clerk O'Connor notified residents that a majority of the township board will be attending a Study/Work Session of the Board of Education on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office at 23270 East River Road in order to discuss matters of mutual concern. No action will be decided during this session.

Treasurer's Report

1. Investment Report through November 30, 2008 indicates \$2,378,916.00 in the sweep/investments accounts, earning interest of \$10,459.00 at an average rate of .81%.
As of January 8, 2009 the township has \$9,854,505 invested in Certificate of Deposits with terms ranging from 30 to 90 days with rates ranging from .26% to 3.32% or an average of 1.79%.
The balance for the month of December of the MBIA CLASS investment pool is \$4,413,611. The MBIA CLASS investment earned \$2,469.66 at a rate of 1.34%.
2. Property taxes for winter 2008 continue to be paid. Payments received for Year End rush have been processed and distributions will be made timely.
Total collections for the Winter Tax billing to date are \$8,530,000.00.
Winter Taxes are due without penalty on February 14, 2009.
Dog Licenses for 2009 are now available at the treasurer's office. The fee is \$6.00 until February 1st and \$12.00 beginning on February 2nd. Residents will need proof of the pet's rabies vaccine to obtain a license.

Supervisor's Report

1. Supervisor Loftus stated that after review of the recent snow event and power outage it was apparent that the extra money spent for Wayne County premier road clearing service is worth the expense. The main roads were cleared quickly.

The Supervisor stated that the power outage was a storm event, not an infrastructure problem and after review he determined that everything ran smoothly except that the communications from the Supervisor's office needs to be improved and expanded to provide more timely information to the residents in order to allow them to plan better. Supervisor Loftus reported that the DTE Regional Director will be at the January 26th meeting to provide an overview of the power outage event. Mr. Loftus asked Chief Murdock to explain a new information system option that is being developed to contact residents by email or text message during similar events in the future.

Chief Murdock explained that through the townships current Reverse 9-1-1 calling system it will be possible for residents to have information regarding emergency or storm problems sent to up to three of their mobile phones or email addresses. The annual cost of the 9-1-1 calling system is currently about \$10,000; by adding the extra text/e-mail functions it will add approximately \$2,000 per event to the overall cost. Chief Murdock cautioned that if residents have registered their cell numbers with a Do Not Call listing, some calls may be blocked. He also reminded residents that the 911 phone line at Public Safety are not to be used to find out about power outages. Outages should always be reported directly to DTE in order to help them pinpoint the problem areas since information is limited during the first couple hours of an outage while the situation is being assessed.

2. Mr. Loftus announced the closure of the Wayne County Bridge for maintenance work to the underside of the bridge starting at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, January 24th through 5:00 p.m. Sunday, January 25th. It will also be necessary for the bridge to be closed during the same hours on the following weekend, January 30th and 31st.
3. Supervisor Loftus announced that Patricia Hartig, former Trenton Mayor and more recently the District Director for Congressman John Conyers office is leaving public service for a position in the private sector. Mr. Loftus stated that Mrs. Hartig was a great conduit for Grosse Ile and the downriver area and will be missed. The Congressman's downriver office will be staffed by Katie Gorno and District Director Melanie Light.

Township Manager's Report

1. Mr. Reaume issued a reminder that Waterø Edge discount season passes are still available and the Waterø Edge Golf Course will be open as a public course this year.
2. Mr. Reaume reminded residents that Township Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19th in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Public Comment: *Three minute time limit per person*

1. D. Drook, Bellevue Road, cautioned the board about safety issues of children walking along sidewalks and bike paths in secluded areas and suggested surveying the people about what they want. *Supervisor Loftus responded that because Grosse Ile does have a natural way of life, the sidewalks will be provided to allow parents to decide when their children are old enough to safely walk to school. The option will be available to residents so they can walk or bike and not be automobile dependent.*
2. W. Clark, Parke Lane, thanked the fire department for their care in transporting him to the hospital recently, thanked Ed Heineman for his help in getting potholes filled and thanked Ralph Gronda for digging him out during the storm. Mr. Clark also asked about the status of getting a Deer Crossing sign at Potowatomie Woods.
3. S. Astin, asked if the township attorney had responded to inquiries about road ending vacation.
4. C. Pilkington, Southpointe Road, suggested everyone should obtain and wear a Grosse Ile Nature and Land Conservancy hat and shirt from the Historical Society Store on East River and Parkway. Mr. Pilkington asked the board to consider chartering a true marketing commission to upgrade the township website in order to attract new residents and businesses and to better compete with other communities.
5. R. Janowski, Groh Road, asked about an update on the toll bridge litigation and if the township has the money to cover the expected costs. *Treasurer Van Os replied that it's too early to really know what the final outcome will be; funds are available, anything over 1.2 million dollars will require review and board discussions.*

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Van Os, second Trustee Johnson. All aye.
Meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk