

APPROVED MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GROSSE ILE
Saturday, March 28, 2009

**THE MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING WERE APPROVED AT
THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING.**

Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Board Room- 9601 Groh Road

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Van Os, Trustees Frucci, Kantz, Ranka, and Johnson, Township Manager Dale Reaume, Finance Director Ann Darzniek, Deputy Clerk Sharon Gray.

Absent: None

Supervisor Loftus opened the Annual meeting at 10:03 a.m. approximately 65 residents, staff, and consultants were in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Loftus introduced State Representative Deb Kennedy

09-033: Motion by O'Connor, second by Van Os, to adopt Roberts Rules of Order as the Township Bylaws governing meeting conduct. All aye. Motion carried.

09-034: Motion by Van Os, second by Ranka, to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2008 Annual Meeting as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Introductions

Township Manager Reaume introduced the fellow staff members and consultants that were present.

Supervisor Loftus praised Township Manager Reaume and commented that the Board could not do what they must without Mr. Reaume's expertise and guidance.

The Supervisor gave each Board Member the opportunity to report on the commissions and committees they serve on as Board Liaison.

Supervisor Loftus started with Trustee Kantz.

Trustee Kantz is liaison to the Airport Commerce Park Commission, the Brownfield Authority, and the Airport Advisory Committee. Mr. Kantz recognized the commission/committee members in attendance.

Trustee Frucci, is liaison to the Cable Commission and sits on the Beautification Committee and the Greenways/Open Space Committee. Trustee Frucci introduced all the members of the commissions/committees that she is a part of and thanked them.

Treasurer Van Os is liaison to the Public Service Commission and sits on the Construction Board of Appeals. Mr. Van Os recognized the members involved in those to entities.

Trustee Ranka is liaison to the Police Commission and the Planning Commission. Mr. Ranka thanked all the commission members for their service.

Trustee Johnson is liaison to the Fire Commission and sits on the Airport Advisory Committee. Mr. Johnson praised all members of those groups.

Clerk O'Connor is liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Festival Commission, and the Community Recreation Commission. Clerk O'Connor introduced and thanked all the Commission members who are involved with each commission.

Supervisor Loftus is liaison to the Downtown Development Authority. Mr. Loftus thanked all involved on the committee and commented that the DDA is reasonably well funded and making some progress, although we have many empty store fronts. Mr. Loftus is also a member of the Downriver Community Conference.

Clerk's Report

Clerk O'Connor started by encouraging everyone to participate in Earth Hour. Earth Hour is today from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Earth Hour is a symbolic commitment to saving energy by turning off your power for one hour. Clerk O'Connor stated that the Clerk's department has many varied duties. Some of those duties include keeping all official Township documents, verifying and signing most official Township documents, recording the minutes at the Township Board Meetings and publishing them, keeping all records of all meetings of the Township Board, keeping all records of Commission meetings, all bids, summons, lawsuits, legal documents, ordinances, applications and official documents are forwarded to this office for processing and filing. The Clerk's Office is mostly known for voter registration and election management including Precinct Inspector Training. Clerk O'Connor stated that we have a very dedicated group of precinct inspectors. The Clerk's office also maintains the Code of Ordinances, which is available for \$50.00. The Clerk's office is a statutory function of the township and therefore does not have many opportunities to generate income, however the set fee (by federal mandate) for Passports, is one way. The Recreation Department is now offering passport photo service. Clerk O'Connor thanked her staff which includes Deputy Clerk Sharon Gray, Election and Records Assistant Bryan Friel, seasonal clerical staff Gayle Haeger, Finance Director Ann Silver, and Accounts Payable/Benefits Caryn Johnson. Trustee Frucci asked about

the welcome packet and post cards. Clerk O'Connor stated that there were just more important items on the agenda this year. Supervisor Loftus called the Clerk's office the "go-to office" at the Township.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Van Os announced that the 2008-2009 fiscal year was another successful year in the Treasurer's Office. The Treasurer's Office "team" worked together towards their mutual goal of sustaining the Treasurer's Office mission statement. Treasurer Van Os and his staff will continue their memberships in associations and continue their education to keep an up-to-date department and capable staff. The Treasurer's Office website is consistently updated and is a vital source of information to our residents, property owners, title companies and mortgage companies. Treasurer Van Os also announced that the tax collection and distribution for 2007-2008 was a success and that as of January 31, 2009 investment interest earned was \$451,691.40. Treasurer Van Os thanked his staff, Deputy Treasurer Annette Wurtsmith, Finance Director Ann Darznick, Cashier Barb McMahon, Payables/Benefits/Airport Caryn Johnson, and part time staff member Maggie Nash for their dedication to the community, professionalism, customer service, work ethic, and positive attitude.

Trustee's Report

Trustee Kantz

Trustee Kantz announced that the Airport Commerce Park and Brownfield Authority report would be given by Airport Manager Thiel, but he wanted to take this time to talk about his favorite event, the Grosse Ile Duathlon. The Duathlon will be held August 24, 2009 and participants and volunteers are welcome and appreciated. Sponsors are needed and the proceeds are put into the NAS Memorial Garden. Airport Manager Thiel provided his report on the Airport. Mr. Thiel thanked the variety of Airport Advisory Committee, Airport Commerce Park, and Brownfield Authority members who help him and his staff on a day to day basis. The biggest challenge for this upcoming year will be filling up the old Iverson facility and the Commerce Park. The Airport made \$3.75 million dollars of improvements to the airfield and the Commerce Park. Supervisor Loftus exclaimed that everyday that he sees Derrick Thiel working, he feels better.

Trustee Frucci

Trustee Frucci informed the public that three new members will be appointed to the cable commission today and that the Greenways and Open Space Committee just published a Trails Guide which is now available. Trustee Frucci also announced that on April 4, 2009 there will be an all island clean-up called "Keep the Island Clean and Green". Cable Manager Ted Fournier stated that the cable accomplishments can be seen in the Annual Report. Mr. Fournier also wanted to thank the members of the Cable Commission for their dedication.

Trustee Ranka

Trustee Ranka thanked the long standing commission in helping bring him up to speed in his first few months. Mr. Ranka also thanked the Grosse Ile Police Department command and staff for their efforts in keeping the Grosse Ile Police Department on of the top five Police

Departments in the state. Mr. Ranka finished by thanking the Planning Commission members and the Building Department staff.

Trustee Johnson

Trustee Johnson stated that Grosse Ile is fortunate to have one of the finest Fire Departments Downriver. The Grosse Ile Fire Department is well trained and has a very dedicated staff. Mr. Johnson asked Chief Murdock to comment on the Fire Department key achievements. Chief Murdock talked about the four main achievements pertaining to the Fire Department.

1. File of Life ó Documents are available at the Police and Fire Department
2. E-Light System ó Near miss accidents have been reduced significantly
3. DPS Hydrants ó Updating the hydrants to connect quicker
4. Reverse 911 Process/New First Call ó Information system is in place and now the information can be submitted online instead of at the Fire Department

Township Manager's Report

Township Manager Reaume stated that the Township is financially healthy and that the Township has always been proactive in their approach to consolidation of staff positions. Mr. Reaume went over some of the Township accomplishments including the rehabilitation of the bike path, the Commerce Park roadway and taxiway projects, the drainage grant program, the Waterø Edge conceptual waterfront plan, and the Waterø Edge basketball court. Mr. Reaume announced that the Ordinance Officer desponded to 54 complaints. With concerns to possible ordinance violations, the Ordinance Officer uses a soft-sell approach to achieve compliance. Mr. Reaume also listed some items that are on his radar for the upcoming fiscal year. Those items would include:

1. Goals and objectives of the new board and implementation of these by the management group
2. Marketing of Waterø Edge using community to promote it to friends and neighbors and the board and the community to recruit
3. Fill vacant Commerce Park buildings with tenants
4. Continue code enforcement program
5. Re-evaluate and amend internal administrative policies and procedures
6. New financial software program completion (nearly 98% complete)

Mr. Reaume thanked the board, staff, community, and his administrative assistant Carol Knopp.

Supervisor Loftus asked Clerk OøConnor to introduce Recreation Director Tim Rooney to discuss the Recreation Department.

Tim Rooney ó Recreation Department

Mr. Rooney thanked the Recreation Commission and the IslandFest Commission for all their effort. Mr. Rooney informed the board and public about some new and old programs at Waterø Edge. Programs include kayaking on the river, introductory golf, lifeguarding, the summer concert series, and the ice rink. Mr. Rooney explained that this is the 35th summer for Waterø Edge, and the first year since it has become a public facility. The golf course will open

April 1st with new rates. The recreation department offers many other events throughout the year which you can find on the website. Trustee Ranka stated that the ice rink had a lot of private funding and donations. Mr. Rooney explained that Karl Moehr was a donor and without him the rink would not have been possible. Trustee Johnson explained that the weather has been nice the last few weeks and asked why the golf course has not been open. Mr. Rooney stated that it is because of budgetary constraints. The amount it would cost to pay the staff would neutralize the amount of money being brought in. Mr. Rooney said that 140 passes for the golf course have been sold to date.

Supervisor's State of the Township Report

Supervisor Loftus introduced the Township Manager Dale Reaume, the Administrative Assistant Carol Knopp, and her husband Jim Knopp, who helps out, and thank them for their efforts. Mr. Loftus commented on the contentious election and the fact that the Island residents chose to go in a different direction. Mr. Loftus then went over some of the challenges and successes he has faced so far. Those challenges and successes are as follows.

1. Winter In Michigan ó A December snow and ice storm wiped out power to about 1000 households. Public safety responded admirably but the real time notification process can be improved. First call system is one method.
2. Safe Routes To School ó Two hour informational open house was successful. More will be discussed on this issue at the Regular Meeting following the Annual Meeting.
3. Stimulus Package ó A list has been prepared for consideration and the Township is waiting to see how the Federal Government money will be allocated. Mr. Loftus assures the island residents that the Township will use the money wisely.
4. Marketing Our Community ó The residents of the Township know what a truly unique and beautiful community this really is. Working on getting the word out to everyone else.
5. Grosse Ile Bridge Company Lawsuit ó Judgment was ordered in the favor of the Grosse Ile Bridge Company and the Township has been ordered to pay \$1,392,458.68. The Township board was stunned by Judge Borman's judgment and has filed an appeal.
6. Business Meeting Format ó A time constraint on public comment is still in place and the goal is to keep a peaceable gathering.

Mr. Loftus then went into goals he has for the Township on the horizon. Those goals are as follows.

1. Lighthouse Grant
2. Downtown Development Authority pursuing vacant property on Macomb Street. One reason to acquire the property is to develop a pocket park. Took pictures of pocket parks in Chicago to show to the DDA. Also a good idea would be to put a splash pool on Macomb Street.
3. Water Treatment Plant
4. International Wildlife Refuge and Remediation
5. Non-motorized boat launch at the Wildlife Refuge for kayaks and canoes.

In closing Supervisor Loftus announced that the Township Board will shape the island and do great things.

Trustee Johnson encouraged residents to remove dead and dying trees to help limit power outages.

Copies of the full Annual Report and Budget are available in the Township Clerk's Office.

Public Comment

1. Bill Morreau, asked how can the roads on the island be fixed? *Treasurer Van Os responded that with the exception of a few private roads, the majority of roads are owned and maintained by Wayne County. Supervisor Loftus added that the state took authority for the roads away from townships and gave them to the County.*
2. Kenneth Steel, 8043 Burning Bush, commented that there is no place to dump an RV tank on the island. *Supervisor Loftus commented that is something to consider.*
3. Woody Clark, 19620 Parke Lane, inquired how much the township has paid the bridge lawsuit attorney. *Supervisor Loftus didn't have the figures with him, but he would provide the exact numbers to the public as soon as possible. Mr. Clark also asked what is going on with the Water Treatment Plant and when will the contract with Detroit expire? Department of Public Services Manager Barry Sedlock informed the board and the public that the plan from Earth Tech on the water treatment plant will be presented to the Department of Public Service Commission of April 22. Also the contract with Detroit will expire in seven years.*

Supervisor Loftus recognized three members of the community for their volunteer efforts. The community members were Ed Kostaroff, Dave Branik, and Rod McMahon. Each was presented with a plaque of appreciation for their many hours of help with the deer culling program. Mrs. Kostaroff accepted on behalf of her husband and those fed by the donation.

Motion by Van Os, second by Ranka, to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 11:56 a.m. and take a fifteen minute break before the start of the Regular Meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk