

APPROVED MINUTES
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 11, 2010
Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2nd floor
9601 Groh Road

Regular Meeting of the Township Board was called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O' Connor, Treasurer Van Os, Trustees Frucci, Johnson, Kantz
and Ranka

Absent: None

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing convened at 7:40 p.m.

Recreation Director Tim Rooney provided an overview of the proposed projects being submitted for the 2010-2011 Community Development Block Grant pursuant to all federal guidelines and at least one of the following objectives:

- Benefit low and moderate income person(s); or
- Address the prevention or elimination of slum and blight; or
- Meet community development needs stemming from a declared state of emergency

The Grosse Ile Township Board is seeking funding from Wayne County Community Development Division for the following 2010-2011 Community Development Block Grant Projects as follows:

Township Wide	Senior Staffing and Services	28,000
Funds will be used for Senior Program Staff and Delivery Driver for the Senior Homebound Nutrition Program.		
Township Wide	Senior Alliance	1,750
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.		
Township Wide	Planning	12,000
Funds will be used to develop a five year Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan which will identify the most effective and Efficient methods of improving the existing services, facilities and programs for public use.		
Airport/Commerce Park Rehabilitation of Public/Private Facility		31,250
Funds will be utilized for the rehabilitation of a publicly owned, privately used facility for the purpose of generating low to moderate income jobs. Rehabilitation funds will be utilized for targeted facility improvements necessary for job growth and business attraction and retention.		

Total Proposed Projects: \$73,000

Trustee Johnson asked about the specifics for the Commerce Park Rehabilitation item and Airport/Commerce Park Manager Derek Thiel spoke about the planned Commerce Park building improvements under the grant proposal and explained that making the improvements would facilitate and provide incentive for a tenant to move into one of the vacant facilities. Mr. Thiel reported that some funding is able to be carried over to next year, if necessary.

Supervisor Loftus asked for further comments or questions from the Board and the public.

Receiving none, the Supervisor asked for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m.

Motion made by Trustee Johnson, second by Trustee Kantz to adjourn the CDBG Public Hearing.

Motion approved 7-0. Hearing adjourned.

Regular Meeting reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations: Opportunity Grosse Ile Marketing Report

Presenters including Andrew Johnson (Masi Court), Dena Dardzinski (Huron Circle), Susie Harrison, Ron Baker (Hawthorn Glen) and Chad Novak; all members of Opportunity Grosse Ile, a non-profit group of concerned citizens, comprised of members from the community, schools and businesses who are working together to promote Grosse Ile, provided information about their group and how they plan to market Grosse Ile to others.

Some of the areas the group focused on are the Quality of Life, Strong Schools, Proximity to the Detroit River and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and the Location within the Metro Area.

Their target audience is Island Residents, Prospective Island Residents, Businesses & Institutions, Media and Surrounding Communities.

Clerk O'Connor asked why the group didn't become a Chamber of Commerce which would allow for more networking opportunities and why the name of the group doesn't have Grosse Ile before Opportunity which would allow their website to be found at the same time as the official township website.

Mr. Baker commented that they might consider joining the Chamber of Commerce at some later date.

OPPGI (Opportunity Grosse Ile) is in the process of opening a "Welcome Home! Center" on Macomb Street in the Victoria Commons complex and will be holding their first fundraising event, An Enchanted Evening, on January 30, 2010 from 6-10 p.m. at the Grosse Ile Pilot House.

Trustees Frucci and Ranka and Treasurer Van Os complimented the group on their accomplishments thus far.

More information about the group and upcoming events is available at www.oppgrosseile.org or by calling the following numbers: 676-1920, 676-5041 or 671-1100.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

Motion Johnson, second Van Os, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion approved 7-0.

CONSENT AGENDA 09-141:

On request of Trustee Frucci Consent Agenda # 4, Downriver Community Conference (DCC) Mutual Aid Resolution for Public Services was removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Action Items as Action # 9.

Motion Van Os, second Johnson, approve Consent Agenda as amended. Motion Approved 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **09-142** Motion O’Connor, second Johnson, to authorize the Festival Commission to secure the contractual services of Great Lakes Fireworks to provide the IslandFest Fireworks display on Friday, June 4, 2010 with a rain date of Saturday, June 5, 2010. Township Board authorization is granted on condition that the following terms are met:
 1. Completion of a Fireworks Application approved by the Township Risk Manager.
 2. Compliance with National Fire Protection Association Code 1123.
 3. Approval from the Federal Aviation Administration, Grosse Ile Airport Commerce Park Commission, Grosse Ile Fire and Police Departments.
 4. Requirement of Fireworks Contractor to provide insurance certificate (minimum \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, no aggregate) naming Grosse Ile Township as an additional insured for liability coverage and provision of a hold harmless/indemnification waiver for Grosse Ile Township.

Approved 7-0.

Public Comment: R. Janowski, Groh Road, requested copies of all bids . Mrs. O’Connor reviewed aloud the bid process and amounts as well as the cost to the township for the annual display.

2. **09-143** Motion O’Connor, second Johnson, to grant approval to the Festival Commission to contract Skerbeck Brothers Shows, Inc. to operate a carnival during IslandFest from the dates Friday, June 4, 2010 through Sunday, June 6, 2010. Approved 7-0.
3. **09-144** Motion Kantz, second Johnson, the Grosse Ile Township Board grants approval to seek funding from Wayne County Community Development Division for the following 2010-2011 Community Development

Block Grant Projects:

Senior Staffing and Services	28,000
Senior Alliance	1,750
Planning	12,000
Airport/Commerce Park Blight and Clearance	<u>31,250</u>
Total	\$73,000

Resolution adopted 7-0.

Board Comment: Trustee Frucci asked for clarification on whether Senior Programs covers the Senior Bus service. Mr. Rooney clarified that Meals on Wheels comes out of the \$28,000; Smart Bus services does not.

4. **09-145** Motion O’Connor, second Van Os, to accept with regret the resignation of Robert Wischer from the Community Recreation Commission. Approved 7-0.
5. **09-146** Motion Ranka , second Johnson, **WHEREAS**, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and **WHEREAS**, the Township Board of Trustees is required by Section 7u of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211.7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, that the Township of Grosse Ile, Wayne County, adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement in 2010 which shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 4) Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if requested.
- 5) Meet the current poverty income guidelines as adopted by the Board of Trustees as listed below:

No. of Persons Residing in Homestead	Poverty Threshold
1 person	\$ 21,000
2 persons	\$ 23,000
3 persons	\$ 25,000

***For each additional household member, add \$2,000

- 6) Meet additional eligibility requirements as determined by the Board of Trustees, including: Homeowners with liquid assets (defined as anything readily converted to cash) in excess of \$57,000 shall not be eligible for a poverty exemption.
- 7) The completion of the Township of Grosse Ile Application for Hardship Exemption.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and State guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and Township and State guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

Resolution adopted 7-0.

6. **09-147** Motion Ranka, second Van Os, to allow Grosse Ile residents and/or their representatives to appeal 2010 assessments in writing without a personal appearance required. Motion approved 7-0.
7. **09-148** Motion Johnson, second Van Os, to approve the appointment of Tim Walker to the Board of Review as an alternate member for the term length January 1, 2010 to January 1, 2012. Approved: 7-0
8. **09-149** Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to authorize the Charles E. Raines Company to prepare Bid Packets for sanitary sewer smoke testing repairs and authorization to seek bids. Approved: 7-0
Public Comment: R. Janowski, noticed smoke from areas in the Commerce Park along Midway. Township Manager Reaume and Treasurer Van Os commented that all areas in question will be reviewed to determine the exact location and cause of any leaks.
9. **09-150** Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to support a Resolution approving an agreement for Downriver Public Works/Services Mutual Aid. Motion approved 7-0.
Trustee Frucci asked if this is the first time this has been done. Township Manager Reaume responded that it has been done for a number of years; however, this is probably the first formal resolution to be adopted.
Clerk O'Connor asked if the township pays other communities if they step in to help Grosse Ile. Mr. Reaume indicated that to date that has never happened, although it could.

Clerk's Report

1. United States 2010 Census Update: Clerk O'Connor reminded residents that the US Census is about to begin and residents should expect to see the forms arrive in the mail during February and March for completion on Census Day, April 1, 2010.

Mrs. O'Connor noted the following key points:

- The Census determines the distribution of more than \$400 billion annually of government funding for critical community services such as hospitals, roads, schools, job training centers and more.
- The count is required every ten years and shows state population which determines representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Census data can justify the need for an after-school program or designating urban revitalization areas.
- A link to more information about the Census is available at grosseile.com and a handout of "Frequently Asked Questions" about the census is available in the Clerk's Office and the Assessing Office at township hall. Residents may also visit the U. S. Census website at 2010census.gov for more information and to see a sample questionnaire.

Clerk O'Connor also noted that IslandFest will be held on June 4, 5, and 6 this year and will once again have an abundance of fun for people of all ages. More specific information will follow.

Treasurer's Report

1. Investment Report:

For the month of November Grosse Ile Township had \$ 5,579,857.58 invested in Certificates of Deposit ranging from .50% to 1.21% with terms ranging from 60-90 days.

For the month of November the balance of the MBIA Class investment pool is \$1,439,157.79 which is earned investment interest of \$372.58 at a rate of .23%

\$3,652,477.85 is the amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of November 30, 2009 earning interest of \$517.39 at a rate of .09 %

Grosse Ile Township Treasurer's office has been very busy collecting tax bill payments. The due date of the 2009 winter taxes is February 14th, 2010.

To date have collected \$8,115,436.00 *, which is about 55% of the total tax roll. Comparing to last year for the same time frame we collected about 60% of the tax roll.

*

Total School Collections	1,454,440
Total County Collections	3,102,645
Total Township Collections	3,408,356
Special Assessments	149,995
Total Winter Collections to date	8,115,436

The Treasurer's office will accept tax payments:

- a) During regular office hours
- b) Through our drop box after hours
- c) By mail
- d) At the Grosse Ile branches of Metro Shores Credit Union. Account holders at Fifth Third Bank and National City Bank can also pay their taxes at their banks.
- e) Credit card payments will also be accepted via the Internet with a processing fee of 3%.

Dog Licenses are also available at the Treasurer's office. The fee is \$6.00 before February 1st, 2010. After that date the fee is \$12.00. Be sure to bring in proof of Rabies Vaccination for your pet.

Trustees Reports

1. Trustee Ranka reported that the Planning Commission will not have a meeting in February. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3rd. Mr. Ranka also announced openings on both the Police and Planning Commissions. Applications are available in the Clerk's Office.
2. Trustee Johnson had no report.
3. Trustee Kantz reported that the NAS Duathlon will be held on May 22nd and the course will be shorter due to the earlier date and there will be a \$10.00 discount for early registrants.
4. Trustee Frucci read a thank you letter from Greg Loselle for the opportunity to read his award winning poetry at the last township board meeting.

Supervisor's Report

1. Mr. Loftus commented on the continuation of the board's Planning/Visioning sessions being held regularly to help make Grosse Ile even better.
2. Supervisor Loftus stated that he is intensely proud of Fire and Rescue for their efforts in assisting three young men stranded in the Trenton Channel when their boat became disabled.

Township Manager's Report

1. Mr. Reaume announced that the Water Treatment Plant Consultant has been approved by all three communities and that results of the study are expected in late April.
2. Reminder that Monday, January 18th is a National Holiday in honor of Martin Luther King. Township Offices will be closed in observance of the day and will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 19th.

Public Comment: Three minute time limit per person

1. Woody Clark, Parke Lane, asked about legal bills included on the check registers and noted that some roads were not plowed in a timely manner by the county.
Finance Director Darniek informed Mr. Clark that there were two legal bills on the check registers: Township Attorney William Look in the amount of \$1,260.00 and to Mr. Timothy Galligan, the attorney handling the D'Agostini lawsuit in the amount of \$4,616.17.
2. R. Janowski, had questions and comments about Freedom of Information Act requests and Open Space purchasing procedures and documents pertaining to both.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Treasurer Van Os, second Trustee Kantz. Motion approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk