

APPROVED MINUTES
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 26, 2009

Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2nd floor
9601 Groh Road

7:30 p.m. CONVENE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Present: Loftus, Van Os, Frucci, Johnson, Kantz, Ranka

Absent: O' Connor (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations:

1. Robert Brown, Executive Director, The Senior Alliance Outreach Program, Area Agency on Aging provided information to the Board and community about the wide range of services that the Senior Alliance provides to Grosse Ile residents for the township matching funds of \$1,750.00 annually. In 2008, the Alliance served Home Delivered Meals to 38 clients at an expense of \$22,952.00, provided one congregate meal at the rate of \$441.00, assisted four hearing impaired, two adult day care, two legal assistance, forty cases of information and assistance, thirteen family/caregiver support, five holiday meals and two transportation services for a total service expenditure for Grosse Ile residents of \$31,622.00. Mr. Brown asked that residents contact the Senior Alliance to find out more about the services available including medicare/Medicaid counseling and assistance with digital TV converters. Mr. Brown introduced Grosse Ile's local citizen advocate Mrs. Helen Morrison. The phone number for the Outreach Program is (734)722-2830 or (800) 815-1112.
2. Molly Luempert-Coy, DTE Energy Regional Director, Lori LaFleur-Todd, Engineering and Mark Stefanick, Engineering, presented a review of the December 27, 2008 storm facts and figures and provided an update on the
 - The catastrophic storm caused by high winds and gusts above 60 mph affected 265,582 DTE customers. Storm costs are estimated at \$148,000,000.00
 - More than 350 additional personnel were brought in from nearby states to help in the restoration process
 - Majority of outages caused by downed wires from trees
 - January 14, 2009 short intentional outage of 1.5 hours to make it safe for DTE crews to remove downed branches on some power lines in the center of the island
 - Director Luempert-Coy praised the Grosse Ile Ordinance Officer for his partnership in working for solutions with DTE
 - AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) monitored the system during the storm and provided information to the emergency headquarters and helped to pinpoint the areas on Grosse Ile that experienced outages and provide status updates
 - AMI experienced power and backup generator power loss at 7 a.m. on December 28th causing a cellular network outage in eight of ten cell relays.
 - DTE believes the AMI system will continue to help provide improved service
 - \$1.1 million Pole top maintenance upgrades are scheduled in 2009
 - Replacement of regulators at two locations to improve voltage control
 - \$400,000 of work is scheduled on Grosse Ile grid DC2841
 - Additional work is planned for Grosse Ile grid DC333

Supervisor Loftus thanked the DTE crews and asked residents to partner with DTE to remove tree issues.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

1. Motion O'Connor, second Johnson, to Delete Action Item # 6, Water's Edge Marina Seawall Bid Award. Approved 7-0

Motion Van Os, second O'Connor, to approve the agenda as amended. Approved 7-0

CONSENT AGENDA 09-009:

Motion Van Os, Second Johnson, to approve consent agenda as presented. Approved 7-0

1. Minutes of January 12, 2009

2. Cash Requirements List dated January 26, 2009

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **09- 010** Motion Ranka, Second O'Connor, to approve the 2009 Board of Review Income and Asset Threshold Guidelines as provided by Resolution: *(Full text available in the Assessing Office)*

GROSSE ILE HARDSHIP INCOME STANDARDS FOR 2009 ASSESSMENT YEAR

No. of Persons Residing in Homestead	Poverty Threshold
1 person	\$ 21,000
2 persons	\$ 23,000
3 persons	\$ 25,000
4 persons	\$ 27,000
5 persons	\$ 29,000
For each additional person add \$2,000	

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 adopted by the Board of Trustees:
- 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. Approved 7-0

2. **09- 011** Motion Van Os, Second Ranka, to allow Grosse Ile residents and/or their representatives to appeal 2009 assessments in writing without a personal appearance required. Approved 7-0
3. **09- 012** Motion Frucci, Second Van Os, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Ed Hughes from the Cable Commission effective January 7, 2009. Approved 7-0
4. **09-013** Motion Kantz, Second O'Connor, to approve the request from the Grosse Ile Soccer Association of the Township of Grosse Ile, County of Wayne, asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses. Approved 7-0
5. **09-014** Motion O'Connor, Second Frucci, based on the recommendation of the Festival Commission, the Township Board appoints Mr. Thomas Saunders to the Grosse Ile Festival Commission for the term January 26, 2009 through August 31, 2012. Approved 7-0
6. *Deleted from the Agenda*
7. **09-015** Motion Johnson, Second O'Connor, based on the request from the Grosse Ile High School Hockey Team asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization, operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses, be approved. Approved 7-0

Clerk's Report

1. IslandFest Report: Clerk O'Connor previewed events planned for Islandfest 2009. She highlighted the return of Michigan Cart go-cart races, an expanded Flea Market/Antique show, the always popular carnival, high school jazz bands festival, VFW beverage tent and a huge fireworks surprise. The festival is held annually on the first weekend in June and offers local groups and organizations the opportunity for fundraising. The Festival Commission meets monthly on Wednesday evenings and welcomes suggestions from the public. Islandfest volunteers are always appreciated. Contact the Commission by calling 675-2364.

Treasurer's Report

1. Investment Report: Treasurer Van Os reported that as of January 26, 2009 the township has \$9,855,126 invested in Certificates of Deposit with terms ranging from 30 days to 90 days with rates ranging from .26% to 3.32% or an average of 1.04% interest. The balance for the month of December of the MBIA CLASS investment pool is \$4,413,611. The MBIA CLASS investments earned \$2,469.66 interest at a rate of 1.34%. \$3,341,500.65 is the amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of December 30, 2008 earning interest of \$2,304.52 at an average rate of 1.25% interest.
2. Treasurer Van Os reported that property tax collections for the winter tax season to date are \$9,107,251.00 and reminded residents that the tax deadline is February 14, 2009. Since the deadline falls on a Saturday this year and township offices will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day; taxes will be collected without late penalty until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17th.
3. Animal Licenses for 2009 are available at the Treasurer's Office for \$6.00 per animal until January 31st, as of February 1, 2009 the cost increases to \$12.00. Proof of the pet's rabies vaccine is required to obtain a license.

Supervisor's Report

1. Project Updates: Supervisor Loftus announced that he would be spending the next two days at the Michigan Township Association Conference in Detroit learning how to do the Supervisor's job.
2. Mr. Loftus reported that state and federal grant opportunities through the economic stimulus program are being sought to fund as many local projects and programs for Grosse Ile as possible.
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 help to 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. Township Manager reported that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), federal bank regulatory agencies and the Nation Credit Union Administration (NCUA) have issued regulations (Red Flag Rules) requiring financial institutions and creditors to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs, as part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions (FACT) Act of 2003.

Mr. Reaume outlined that the programs must provide for the identification, detection and response to patterns, practices, or specific activities, known as "red flags" that could indicate identity theft. The township would be considered a "creditor" as an entity that regularly extends, renews or continues credit; any entity that regularly arranges for the extension, renewal, or continuation of credit. Accepting credit cards as a form of payment does not in and of itself make an entity a creditor. Where non-profit and government entities defer payment for goods or services, they, too, are to be considered creditors. Under the Red Flags Rules, financial institutions and creditors must develop a written program that identifies and detects the relevant warning signs or "red flags" of identity theft; which may include, for example, unusual account activity, fraud alerts on a consumer report, or attempted use of suspicious account application documents. The program must describe appropriate responses that would prevent and mitigate the crime and detail a plan to update the program. The program must be managed by the Board of Directors or senior employees of the creditor and include appropriate staff training and provide for oversight of any service providers.

Township Manager Reaume reported that all employees will be trained to be aware of privacy laws and how to spot problems and that the entire plan will be reviewed annually.

09-016 Motion Van Os, Second O'Connor, to approve the Grosse Ile Township Identity Theft Program dated January 27, 2009. Approved 7-0

2. Mr. Reaume reminded residents that the County Bridge would be closed on January 31st and February 1st from 7:30 a.m. Saturday until 5 p.m. Sunday for additional maintenance work.

Discussion Items: None

Extended Public Comment:

Public Comments were heard from the following people on the topics indicated.

1. R. Janowski, Groh Road, Macomb Street Urgent Care Facility and federal funding to buy/fix County Bridge.
2. Recreation Director Rooney and Carl Moehr, announced the opening of the Water's Edge ice skating rink on January 31st at 2:00 p.m.; the rink will be open daily as weather permits for figure skating and will accept reservations to use the rink for hockey.
3. Trustee Frucci asked if the township is required to conduct a public hearing on the deer herd management project. *Supervisor Loftus stated that a public hearing is not necessary and assures everyone that the township will employ the safest, most controlled methods of handling the situation and that this is being done to not only have a healthy, controlled deer herd on Grosse Ile, but also to insure the safety of residents, aviators, drivers and the deer.*
4. W. Clark, Parke Lane, appreciated pothole repairs, toll bridge fare increase situation
5. R. Janowski, Groh Road, commented about the content in the board minutes and a letter to the editor by the Township Clerk
6. C. Pilkington, Southpointe, suggested combined township/school board marketing program
7. W. Moco, Voight, requested to know the estimated number of deer to be eliminated

Supervisor Loftus announced that the February 23rd board meeting has been cancelled and the next meeting of the township board will be the Annual Meeting and Regular Meeting on Saturday, March 28, 2009. A brief reception will be held at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:00 a.m. which will be followed by the Regular Business Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Van Os, second O'Connor. Approved 7-0
Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk