

APPROVED MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Monday, March 9, 2009
Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Board Room
9601 Groh Road

The Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Township Supervisor Loftus.

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O'Connor, Trustee Ranka, Trustee Frucci, Trustee Johnson, and Trustee Kantz.

Absent: Treasurer Van Os

Pledge of Allegiance

7:00 p.m. SPECIAL MEETING ó Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

DISCUSSION ITEM:

1. Downriver Community Conference (DCC) Alternate Representative

ACTION:

1. Motion to Appoint an Alternate Representative to the Downriver Community Conference (DCC)

Public Comment

Adjourn Special Meeting

7:30 p.m. Convene Township Board Budget Study Session

1. Township Board Review of Proposed 2009-2010 Township Budget

Adjourn

Motion Ranka, second Kantz, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion Item: DCC Alternate Representative

Supervisor Loftus invited guest speaker Mr. William Krauss to speak about his qualifications to serve as DCC alternate.

Mr. Krauss informed the board that he worked for the DCC from 1980 to 1989 as a full time employee. He was hired by Dewey Henry to start the DCC Weatherization program as the director. Mr. Krauss explained that the DCC is a group of downriver communities and the only monetary liability is their annual dues. The DCC has approximately 100 employees. Mr. Krauss then asked for any questions from the board.

Trustee Frucci commented that she has been an alternate under previous supervisors.

Trustee Johnson asked if it was typical for communities to have a private citizen as an alternate.

Mr. Krauss stated that about a third of the communities would have an alternate at the meeting at any given time.

Trustee Johnson questioned if it was the intent that the alternates be elected officials.

Mr. Krauss offered that often the Municipal Attorney would attend.

Clerk O'Connor asked if Mr. Krauss would foresee any conflicts of interest with any DCC programs such as weatherization.

Mr. Krauss didn't see any potential conflict.

Clerk O'Connor questioned what type of communication the board can expect from Mr. Krauss on a regular basis.

Mr. Krauss answered that he felt that he would communicate with the board in any way that they seem fit.

Clerk O'Connor read a statement from Treasurer Van Os into the record.

Treasurer Van Os's Statement:

1. Supports Supervisor's decision to appoint Bill Krauss
2. Against removing a person from an appointed position before the end of the appointed term without the person requesting to be removed.
3. Would have been a good move to advise the board prior to the appointment, however, it was the Supervisor's appointment to make.

Supervisor Loftus commented that historically this decision has been an executive one. Supervisor Loftus felt that choosing a community member would give him the option to replace the alternate if he/she was not performing as expected. That could not be done with a board member.

Trustee Kantz stated that in the case of Brownfield Funds, the DCC board does have a vote on distributing grant money.

Mr. Krauss informed the board that the DCC approves a grant and then it must be approved by the Township board after state and federal oversight of grant process.

Airport Manager Thiel further explained the Brownfield Grant process.

Clerk O'Connor asked Township Manager Reaume about the fact that most research indicates that 3 past Supervisorø have brought the appointment to the board for approval.

Manager Reaume indicated that there is no policy or past practice and that the appointment was an individual choice.

Trustee Ranka agreed with Treasurer Van Os and indicated that better communication would prevent future situations.

Supervisor Loftus stated that he should have used the advice and consent approach and that the policies and procedures manual should be updated.

Trustee Frucci informed the board that she spoke to the DCC Director and that the tradition isn't solid if an elected official should/must be an alternate.

Trustee Kantz remarked that when discussing the commission changes in December that it was decided that Mr. Loftus would be the representative and that Trustee Frucci had expressed interest in being the alternate. Trustee Kantz asked if the motion could be changed to read that the alternate for the DCC should be approved by the Township Board.

Supervisor Loftus stated that that is a completely different motion and that cannot be done at tonight's meeting.

Trustee Kantz asked if the motion could be moved to the next meeting.

Trustee Johnson exclaimed that there is nothing in the policies or procedures that automatically put the Supervisor in charge of being the representative to the DCC. Trustee Johnson questioned if the board should vote on that.

Supervisor Loftus explained that historically it has been mayors and supervisorø representing the DCC. Supervisor Loftus said that it comes with the territory of being elected Supervisor.

Trustee Ranka stated that the question at hand is the appointment of William Krauss to the DCC. Trustee Ranka went on to say that the Supervisor has appointed Mr. Krauss and he doesn't see how the board has any vote.

Township Manager Reaume announced that there are two items on the agenda and that maybe the board should move on to the action item.

Deputy Clerk Gray added that the board can affirm or deny Supervisor Loftus's appointment or fill someone else's name in, but the action item must be acted upon. Deputy Clerk Gray also added that the board must make a decision and if they want to come back to the table to modify the procedure for which they appoint alternates the can.

Trustee Kantz asked how long the appointment is for.

Trustee Johnson answered that it was up to the board.

Trustee Kantz stated that the board must make the procedures clear before we can move on. Trustee Kantz also felt that the past practices have worked for twenty years. Trustee Kantz also stated that he had no problem with Mr. Krauss continuing as the alternate until the policies and procedures are updated.

Deputy Clerk Gray mentioned that in the past the appointments were made on an annual basis.

Clerk O'Connor offered to amend the motion to appoint Mr. Krauss for a one year term.

ACTION ITEM:

09-032 Motion Ranka, second Johnson, to affirm the Supervisor's appointment of William Krauss to the DCC for the term of one year thru March 9, 2010. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion Ranka, second Johnson, to adjourn the special meeting and to move to the Budget Study Session. All aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Ute O'Connor
Township Clerk