

APPROVED MINUTES  
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
December 14, 2009  
Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
9601 Groh Road

Call to Order: Regular Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Van Os, Trustees Frucci, Johnson, Kantz  
and Ranka Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentations:

1. Employee Recognitions - Supervisor Loftus recognized the long careers and accomplishments of the following six retiring employees and thanked them for their service to the township:

Les Schmidtke, Forty-one years of service in the Department of Public Services/Water Department  
Rod Eastom, Thirty-six years of service at the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport  
Ed Heineman, Thirty-five years of service at Waterø Edge and the Department of Public Services  
Roger Petras, Thirty-one years of service in the Department of Public Services/Water Department  
Frank Suchan, Twenty-nine years of service in the Department of Public Services  
Gary Tissot, Twenty-six years of service at Waterø Edge and the Department of Public Services

2. Recognition of National & International Creative Writing and Poetry Contest Winners

- A) Greg Loselle
- B) Patty Barnes

Trustee Frucci introduced Mr. Greg Loselle, a local teacher who recently won two awards for his writing and invited him to read aloud his award winning poem, "Crossing to Fox Island"

Mrs. Frucci also introduced award winning local writer Patty Barnes who read aloud her poem, "On the Tip of My Tongue"

Trustee Frucci announced the creation of a new local Creative Writing Club that will meet monthly.

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. All aye.

**CONSENT AGENDA 09-133:**

Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

1. Minutes of November 9, 2009
2. Check Register dated November 20, 2009
3. Check Register dated December 11, 2009
4. Authorization to process payments through January 11, 2010
5. Resolution Authorizing Execution of Annual Maintenance Permits

Approved: 7-0

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **09-134** Motion Frucci, second Johnson, to approve the appointment of Linda Tilley to the Island Beautification Committee for the term length December 14, 2009 to March 31, 2011. All aye.
2. **09-135** Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to approve deposit of funds to the following additional financial institution: Trenton Federal Credit Union. All aye.

3. **09-136** Motion O'Connor, second Van Os, WHEREAS, the governing body for the Township of Grosse Ile has received the budget submitted by the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. NOW THEREFORE, the Township of Grosse Ile hereby resolves that the budget be adopted as submitted. Motion approved 7-0.
4. **09-137** Motion by Treasurer Van Os, second by Trustee Johnson to award the Bid to Michigan Generator Service, Inc. (Low Bidder) for a 15 kw trailer-mounted generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, in the amount of \$14,785.00; based upon the recommendation of the DPS Commission. Motion approved 7-0.

Ayes: Loftus, O'Connor, Van Os, Frucci, Johnson, Ranka, Kantz Nays: None

5. **09-138** Motion O'Connor, second Johnson, to approve a deficit reduction plan to close the balance sheet items as of March 31, 2009 (except for all fixed assets and bond debt obligations) reported in the Water's Edge Country Club Fund and combine/transfer the balance sheet amounts to the Recreation Fund, report all fixed assets and bond debt obligations in the governmental-wide financial statements, and to write off the entire reported Unrestricted Deficit to General Fund in the amount of \$454,208. Motion approved 7-0.

*Public Comment:*

1. *W. Clark, Parke Lane, inquired about the timeline to determine the future of Water's Edge.*
2. *G. Jones, Macomb St., inquired if inter-departmental fund loans are involved.*

6. **09-139** Motion Van Os, second Ranka, to accept the December 1, 2009 Bendzinski and Company proposal to perform a Water Rate Study for the Township of Grosse Ile, City of Riverview, and the City of Trenton to examine the financial feasibility of water treatment alternatives, which include the continuation of obtaining water from the City of Detroit and a joint water treatment plant between the three (3) communities. The cost of Grosse Ile Township's share of the feasibility study shall not exceed \$8,733. Motion approved 7-0.

*Public Comment:*

1. *G. Jones, Macomb St., inquired about stand alone option and obtaining an easement on Stony Island.*
2. *W. Clark, Parke Lane, questioned access to Wyandotte Water Department and stand alone cost.*
7. **09-140** Motion O'Connor, second Ranka, to appoint Carol Ann Knopp and re-appoint Michele T. Babcock to serve as Members of the Local Board of Canvassers through December 31, 2013. And, Further, to thank Timothy O'Donnell for his dedicated service as a Member of the Board of Canvassers since 1995. Motion approved 7-0.

### **Clerk's Report**

1. Updates: Nothing new to report
2. Passports: Clerk O'Connor provided a reminder that now is the time to apply for passports in order to be ready for Spring Break and summer travel outside of the United States. Passport photos are available at the Recreation Department Monday-Friday by appointment and Passport processing appointments are available by calling the Clerk's Office during regular business hours. Forms are available at the Clerk's Office or online at [travel.state.gov/passport](http://travel.state.gov/passport).

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **1. Investment Report :**

For the month of October Grosse Ile Township had \$ 7,086,831.07 invested in Certificates of Deposit ranging from .50% to 1.21% with terms ranging from 60-90 days.

For the month of October the balance of the MBIA Class investment pool is \$2,295,303.49, which is earned investment interest of \$498.70 at a rate of .25%

\$3,469,108.02 is the amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of October 31, 2009 earning interest of \$344.97 at a rate of .14 %

## 2. Winter Tax Update:

2009 Grosse Ile Township winter tax bills have been mailed. If you did not receive a tax bill, be sure to call the Treasurer's office. We can check the mailing address and send you a copy of your bill.

The Treasurer's office will accept tax payments:

- a) During regular office hours
- b) Through our drop box after hours
- c) By mail
- d) Credit card payments will also be accepted via the Internet with a processing fee of 3%.

Dog Licenses are also now available at the Treasurer's office. The fee is \$6.00 before February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 Kantz: No report
2. Trustee Frucci: Mrs. Frucci read a thank you note from the Rosie Meyer family for the flowers sent through donations by the staff and the board.
3. Trustee Johnson: No report
4. Trustee Ranka: No report

## Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Loftus answered multiple questions raised by a resident at a previous township meeting regarding the following subjects. *Italicized areas reflect the Supervisor's answers*

1. Questions regarding the status of water bills on commercial and retail properties on the island: *Late payments on water bills become liens on the property and although we know who is behind on their bills; that information will not be shared publicly in order to respect their privacy.*
2. Regarding the question about the high water and sewer rates projected for through 2019: *The projection of sewer rates for ten years is based on a Plante Moran study which provided recommended rates to cover the known capital improvement projects and repairs and the needs of the DPS to provide water and sewer service. Copies of a 2008 Ile Camera article outlining the information will be made available to anyone who requests it.*
3. Inquiry regarding gunshots heard at the airport: *Deer reduction is in progress on airport property only. The township is mandated by the state and the FAA to reduce the hazards on the runways for safety purposes. If the township doesn't cull the herd, the state and FAA will come in to do it and charge the township for the service.*
4. Regarding the status of the \$900,000.00 payment to the Bridge Company: *There has been no further word from the Grosse Ile Bridge Company and the check has not been cashed to date.*
5. Regarding the bidding for Meridian/Parkway Sewer Project inquiry: *the work on this project was an extension of the scope of an existing project. The state has eliminated the bidding requirement limits. The DPS Commission recommended extending the existing project which eliminated the additional three to five thousand dollar cost of re-bidding the project.*

This concludes the Supervisor's answers to the questions posed by a resident at a previous meeting.

2. Supervisor Loftus reported on a Local Officials Round-Table Session held by Governor Granholm during which the Governor indicated the need to increase state revenues by any means possible; including a one-cent increase to the state sales tax or going to a graduated income tax. The Governor indicated that without revenue increases there would certainly be cuts to police and fire department funding. Mr. Loftus reported that in his discussions about area fire departments with other local leaders, they were impressed by the township's management of fire department costs and the excellent response times provided.

3. A small portion of the island affected by two circuits experienced the recent power outage and DTE provided constant updates to the Supervisor's office during the event. The township is looking at some additional ways to notify residents of events like power outages and to keep them updated instantly on restoration efforts and other urgent matters, through the use of twitter.

Mr. Loftus thanked the Knudsen resident that took the initiative to direct drivers around a fallen power line before emergency personnel arrived on the scene.

Mr. Loftus noted that one of the areas impacted by the outage actually has underground utilities which are generally more resilient but more difficult to repair.

4. Island Glow: Supervisor Loftus reported that Island Glow was a "great event" and everyone had a good time and the merchants that were open had a good evening. Also, a reminder to children to drop off their letters to Santa in the big red mailbox at Macomb Commons and for residents to try to shop Macomb Street whenever possible.
5. Mr. Loftus reminded residents that township offices will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Treasurer's Office drop box is available at the driveway for tax and water bill payments.
6. Trustee Frucci asked the Supervisor what time of day the deer herd culling takes place. Mr. Loftus indicated that it occurs during daylight hours.

### **Township Manager's Report**

Nothing further to report

### **Discussion Item:**

1. Recommendations of the Website Advisory Committee to remove any/all listings of and links of "for-profit", "private" and/or "commercial" businesses and entities from the grosseile.com website.

Supervisor Loftus explained that at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Website Advisory Committee a motion was made by Mr. Pilkington and second by Ms. Park, to recommend to the township board to remove any listings and/or links to "for profit", "private", or "commercial" entities from the township municipal websites. Further, to add a policy to include listings and/or links of "community oriented", "non-profit", or "municipal organizations" upon application to and approval of the township board or its designee. This action is requested in order to mitigate liability concerns about a municipal website providing equitable and fair access to its promotional capabilities, while allowing access to community oriented, non-profit, and municipal organizations.

Supervisor Loftus, Clerk O'Connor and Trustee Frucci each gave their reports on the Advisory Committee discussions and their concerns and comments, including research and legal opinions received from the Township Attorney and the Michigan Townships Association legal support department. Additional questions were received from the other board members.

Website Manager Ted Fournier provided a report on his research of township websites throughout the state which indicated that a good portion of them do include business listings and/or business links.

Supervisor Loftus suggested that the Opportunity Grosse Ile group provide a presentation at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting to inform the community of their marketing plan for Grosse Ile.

The Board agreed with the supervisor's suggestion for the presentation and to continue the discussion at a later date.

**Public Comment:** *Three minute time limit per speaker*

1. W. Clark, Parke Lane, inquired about legal fees on the check register, thanked the fire department for transporting him to the hospital recently, asked about the status of enforcement of recreational vehicles parked in front and side yards and asked Trustee Johnson about rumors he heard regarding the Grosse Ile Country Club going public. *Trustee Johnson replied that there has been no discussion of "going public"*. Mr. Clark also asked about township water costs and rates and suggested that pedestrians carry a safety light when out walking after dusk.
2. Maureen Budny, Burning Bush Road, asked about the timeline of the Safe Routes to School project and urged the Board to reconsider their stance on the project.
3. Jack Delphy, Loma Circle, asked about the \$100,000 engineering costs for the Safe Routes project. Mr. Delphy also commented on a pot hole on Church Road that he reported to Mr. Sedlock who then contacted Wayne County Roads which resulted in the repair being done within two days.
4. Gary Jones, Macomb Street, recited an original poem about the retirement of six township employees.

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk