

APPROVED MINUTES
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 13, 2010
Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2nd floor
9601 Groh Road

Call to Order by Supervisor Loftus at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Loftus, Treasurer Van Os, Trustees Frucci, Johnson, Kantz and Ranka.

Clerk O'Connor arrived at 7:35 p.m. Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to Agenda:

Motion Johnson, second Kantz, to delete Action Item #1, Winter Tax Levy from the Action Items and move it to Discussion Items. All aye.

Motion Loftus, second Kantz, to delete Action Item #6 from the Action Items and move it to Discussion Items. *Board discussion ensued regarding the propriety, necessity and potential problems of moving the item to discussion instead of leaving it as an action item where board discussion could still occur.*

Clerk O'Connor called for a roll call vote.

Yes: Loftus, Johnson, Kantz

No: O'Connor, Van Os, Frucci, Ranka

Motion failed.

Motion Loftus, second Ranka, to approve the agenda as amended. All aye.

CONSENT AGENDA 10-061:

1. Minutes of August 23, 2010 Regular Meeting
2. Check Register dated September 10, 2010

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

ACTION ITEMS:

1. *Deleted- moved to Discussion*
2. **10-062** Motion Loftus, second Johnson, Based on the recommendation of the Downtown Development Authority, the DDA requests the Township Board to enter into a purchase agreement for the purchase of the East 50 feet of Lot 12 East Side Horace Grays Sub (parcel number 028-01-0012-001) PC 552 L4 P39 WCR for \$35,000 and to split with the seller the 2010 property taxes (seller pay 2010 summer property taxes and Township to pay 2010 winter property taxes) and all applicable closing costs (i.e. recording fees, processing fees) and to further authorize the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk to represent the Township of Grosse Ile at closing. Funds to come from DDA Fund 2480-101-824000.

Motion carried 7-0.

Board Comment: Trustee Frucci asked about the timetable for the pocket park development. Supervisor Loftus stated that he hopes it will be ready for next summer.

Public Comment:

1. *Gary Jones asked about the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) budget.*
2. *R. Janowski, commented it will be nice to have a public park.*
3. *T. Malvesto, asked Clerk O'Connor to repeat the process for items to be placed on the agenda.*

3. **10-063** Motion O'Connor, second Johnson, to accept with regret the resignation of Sarah Gilroy from the Community Recreation Commission effective September 13, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.
Clerk O'Connor thanked Mrs. Gilroy for her volunteer service to Grosse Ile and wished her well on behalf of the Board.
4. **10-064** Motion O'Connor, second Johnson, to approve that the Board accept Municipal Credit Funds from SMART (Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation) in the amount of \$10,237 to operate the 2010-2011 Community Transportation Program. Motion carried 7-0.
Recreation Director Tim Rooney stated that this program provides transportation Monday through Friday between 12:30 and 5:00 p.m. to senior, handicapped and low income residents. Board Comment: Trustee Kantz asked if this is the most cost effective method of providing services and urged Mr. Rooney to work with the Finance Director to improve his accounting functions for the service. Clerk O'Connor pointed out that the vehicle used for transportation is a specialized vehicle with a motorized lift which may impact vehicle mileage. Public Comment: Greg Bochenek, Burning Bush, asked about the number of residents served by the SMART program. Mr. Rooney there have been approximately 500 riders including 160 handicapped riders. The vehicle is also used to deliver lunches daily to thirty residents under the senior lunch program which is funded separately.
5. **10-065** Motion Johnson, second Van Os, to accept with regret the resignation of Dr. Frank Mitek from the Fire Commission effective September 13, 2010 and to appoint Mr. Stu Keeler as Chairman to replace Dr. Mitek for the term September 13, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Motion carried 7-0. *Trustee Johnson and Chief Murdock thanked Dr. Mitek for his long-time service to the community on behalf of the Board.*
6. **10-066** Motion Van Os, second O'Connor, It is hereby resolved that the Grosse Ile Township Board directs the Township Attorney to file the necessary pleadings to ask the Michigan Tax Tribunal for a rehearing or reconsideration to vacate the Consent Judgment entered on August 30, 2010, Michigan Tax Tribunal Docket # 0349518, regarding the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club vs. Grosse Ile Township until the true cash value can be determined.
After Supervisor Loftus read a prepared statement, a lengthy discussion and debate was held by the Board. At issue were the Supervisor's responsibilities and the Board's responsibilities in settling claims against the township. Treasurer Van Os followed up with questions about the documentation and methods used by the Supervisor and Assessor in determining a true cash value of the property prior to reaching a settlement amount. Further discussion centered on the filing of the Consent Judgment without board authorization and without a new appraisal by a qualified golf course appraiser.
Public Comment:
 1. Michael Sullivan, Church Road, asked about the board's responsibilities and suggested that board members need to work together to resolve both the tax abatement for the country club and also become familiar with their rights and responsibilities. Mr. Sullivan suggested that Trustee Johnson not vote on the motion.
 2. Gary Jones, Macomb St., stated that core services, including police, will be hit the hardest with another general fund revenue loss and expressed concern that there will be additional cuts to services such as the police department.
 3. R. Janowski, Groh Road, asked questions regarding the property value reduction of the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club.
 4. Tom Malvesto, Berkshire Drive, asked who drafted the settlement, who created the document and how many applicants sought relief at the Board of Review and what would

- happen if a group of residents were to file a class action suit to seek tax relief based on their home values and would the township cut their taxes in order to save legal fees.*
5. *Craig Pilkington, Southpointe, agreed with the risk mitigation and Mr. Ranka's statements regarding the board's right to be involved in the decision. He suggested the board develop a process to determine these things.*
 6. *Paula Riley, Byromar resident and 8033 Macomb St. Business owner, suggested that Trustee Johnson recuse himself from voting on the matter and agreed that the township needs to obtain a fair assessment of the Country Club property.*
 7. *Dave Nadeau, Canterbury, commented that the Supervisor campaigned on a promise of transparency and communication although this deal was not done transparently.*
 8. *Jim Budny, Burning Bush, questioned if the Supervisor had the authority to make the deal without board consent and believes the public perception is that the board is not doing their job.*
 9. *Tom Malvesto, Berkshire Drive, asked if the township is recognized as an entity on appeal. Township Attorney William Look responded that the township is recognized as an entity on appeal.*
 10. *Trustee Frucci commented that she believes that the Country Club might have been over assessed in the past; but is uncomfortable with the methods used by the Supervisor to reach a settlement and with the Board not being included or considered in the process. Mrs. Frucci stated she believes it is important that a true assessment is obtained.*

Roll Call Vote.

Yes: O'Connor, Van Os, Frucci, Ranka

No: Kantz, Johnson, Loftus

Motion carried 4-3.

Additional Public Comment

1. Jennifer Coleman-Hesson, candidate for 33rd District Court Judge, addressed the board regarding the township ordinance governing the 21 day time frame prior to elections for displaying temporary political signs. Ms. Coleman-Hesson commented that although there are some legal opinions that believe that attaching a limited time frame to the display of political signage is unconstitutional; she has decided to abide by the guidelines of the township ordinance by waiting until October 12th, the 21st day before the election, to display her campaign signs.

Discussion Item: Winter Tax Levy

1. The Board asked to discuss whether to levy all of the Millages in their full amount on the 2010 Winter Tax billing.

Trustee Johnson stated that he would like to see a plan for open space before deciding how much of the millage to levy and would like to hear from the Fire Chief about needs for fire equipment at this time.

Trustee Frucci was asked to bring the issue to the Open Space Committee for their input and report back to the Board at the September 27th meeting.

The Board decided to take no further action until the September 27th board meeting.

Clerk's Report

Election Update:

1. Absentee ballots are expected from the printer by September 18th. Those voters on the Permanent Absentee Voter List or those who requested a General Election ballot during the Primary Election will begin receiving their ballots by mail during the week of September 20th.
2. Absentee ballots may be requested up until 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 30th and absentee voters may cast their ballot in the Clerk's Office during the day on Monday, November 1st.
Reminder: Under election law, a ballot may only be delivered into the hands of the registered voter to which it is assigned. Spouses and other family members may not pick up another voter's ballot.
3. The last date to register to vote is Monday, October 4th at 5 p.m.
4. The deadline for Write-In Candidates to file a Declaration of Intent form in order to be a write-in candidate for the November General Election is at 4 p.m. on Friday, October 22nd.

Treasurer's Report

1. Investment Report and Tax update:

For the month of July, Grosse Ile Township had \$ 1,536,720.71 invested in Certificates of Deposit ranging from .24% to .90 % with terms ranging from 60-90 days. Certificates of Deposits earned \$1,807.00 in interest for the month of July.

The July balance of the MBIA Class investment pool is \$3,553,154.00, which earned investment interest of \$639.00 at rate of .21%

The amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of July 2010 is \$6,126,148.00, earning interest of \$788.00 at a rate of .40%

Tuesday, September 14th is the due date for the 2010 summer tax bills. The treasurer's office will accept payments timely until 8:00 a.m. on September 15th. Please use our drop box for after-hours payments. Postmarks of September 14th or earlier will be accepted as timely.

Please note that the Credit Union, banks and Official Payments.com (internet payments) will not accept late payments. All payment of taxes after the due date must be paid at the township or by mail with penalty calculated at 1% per calendar month.

Applications are available until September 14, 2010 in the treasurer's office for summer tax deferments. Qualified taxpayers can apply for an extension of the due date of to February 14, 2011.

Trustees Reports

1. Trustee Johnson reported that there is a vacancy on the Fire Commission.
2. Trustee Frucci announced that the Island Beautification Commission is judging businesses for Beautification Awards. Mrs. Frucci also reported on a possible grant for signage at Parkway and W. Jefferson and thanked Tom Sinclair, the Kiwanis and the VFW for the new flagpole on Parkway and welcomed the Chinese exchange students to Grosse Ile.
3. Trustee Ranka reported that there are now two vacancies on the Planning Commission.
4. Trustee Kantz reported there is one opening on the Airport Commerce Park Commission.

Supervisor's Report

1. Supervisor Loftus reported that there will be a Fall Market and Islandwide Garage Sale held on Saturday, October 2nd. More information is available at township hall or by calling Carol Knopp at extension 210.
2. There was a flag raising ceremony at the new flagpole on Parkway at the West River Ramp on Saturday.
3. The Annual Lighthouse Tour was held on September 12th.

Township Manager's Report

1. The Veterans Gala was held on September 10th and was a great success thanks to all the planners, volunteers, vendors and the efforts of Tim Rooney and the Grosse Ile Fire Department. A wrap-up report will be provided at the next board meeting.

Public Comment:

1. W. Clark, Parke Lane, asked about the status of enforcement of recreational vehicles stored on residential property and if the township has a medical marijuana ordinance or policy.
Trustee Ranka responded that an ordinance is nearly completed for board review.
Mr. Clark reported a problem with his trash pickup on his regular and special pickup days.
2. R. Janowski, suggested the board look into a dangerous situation near the Meridian School driveway and the new sidewalk where a deep culvert was left exposed. He also asked the Board to look into the results of any recent inspections of the County Bridge.
3. C. Pilkington, Southpointe, announced that the Opportunity Grosse Ile Group has formed a film initiative to attract movie projects and register local sight locations with movie companies.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Kantz, second Van Os. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk