

APPROVED MINUTES  
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
October 12, 2009  
Grosse Ile Township Hall ó Merle Solomon Boardroom 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
9601 Groh Road

7:07 p.m. Call to Order

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

7:08 p.m.: Motion Johnson, second Kantz, to Adjourn to Executive Session for toll bridge litigation settlement discussion. Motion carried 7-0. Present: Supervisor Loftus, Treasurer Van Os, Clerk O'Connor, Trustees Johnson, Frucci, Ranka and Kantz. Also present was Attorney Timothy Galligan, Township Manager Dale Reaume and Finance Director Ann Darzniek.

1) Closed session discussion regarding litigation/settlement of the toll bridge lawsuit case.

8:40 p.m.: Motion Johnson, second Kantz to adjourn Executive Session. Motion carried 7-0.

8:45 p.m.: Regular Meeting reconvened.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Presentations:** 2009 Audit Presentation by the Township Auditor and Finance Director Township Auditor, Tom Monteleone of Hungerford and Company and Township Finance Director Ann Darzniek provided an overview of the Financial Audit for year ended March 31, 2009. Mr. Monteleone reported that the audit was filed in a timely manner with the State of Michigan prior to the deadline in order to qualify for state aid.

Copies of the Financial Audit are available from the Finance Office.

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Motion Van Os, second Kantz to add Action Item 5, Website Committee Appointments to the agenda. Approved 7-0

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

**CONSENT AGENDA 09-117:**

1. Minutes of September 28, 2009 Regular Meeting
2. Check Register dated October 9, 2009

Trustee Kantz asked to remove the Minutes of September 28, 2009 from the Consent Agenda for revisions to the wording of several areas in the Discussion Item. Trustee Johnson agreed. The Board decided by a vote of 7-0 to remove the Minutes from this agenda and bring them back at the next meeting for consideration following revisions.

Motion Van Os, Second Johnson, to approve Consent Agenda as amended.  
Consent Agenda approved as amended. 7-0

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **09-118** Motion Van Os, Second Johnson, to accept the Township of Grosse Ile Financial Audit Report with Supplemental Information for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2009 as presented. Approved 7-0
2. **09-119** Motion Frucci, Second Johnson, to approve the hours between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2009 for the purpose of Halloween Trick or Treating in Grosse Ile Township. Approved 7-0

3. **09-120** Motion Kantz, Second Frucci, Whereas, the history and culture of our great nation have been significantly influenced by American Indians and indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, the contributions of American Indians have enhanced the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of America today, and

Whereas, their customs and traditions are respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the United States; and

Whereas, Native American Awareness Week began in 1976 and recognition was expanded by Congress and approved by President George Bush in August 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

Whereas, in honor of National American Indian Heritage Month, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational and historical activities have been planned;

Now THEREFORE, I, Brian Loftus, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Supervisor of the Township of Grosse Ile, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as the National American Indian Heritage Month in the Township of Grosse Ile and urge all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities. Proclamation Adopted 7-0

4. **09-121** Motion Johnson, Second Frucci, that the Township of Grosse Ile pay \$900,000.00 to the Grosse Ile Bridge Company (GIBC) as payment on the judgment in the toll bridge condemnation case # 03-32549-CC. Such payment will be internally borrowed from existing idle Open Space funds and repaid from the General Fund Account at 2% per year annually. Approved 7-0

Public Comment:

1. Cliff St. Pierre, regarding where funds will be obtained
  2. R. Janowski, questioned whether Open Space funds can be used for this purpose
  3. Cliff St. Pierre, clarified comments from previous meeting regarding approximately \$1.7 million in properties under consideration by Open Space for purchase at some point in the future.
5. **09-122** Motion O'Connor, second Frucci, to appoint the following people to the Grosse Ile Township Website Advisory committee for the term length October 12, 2009 to March 31, 2010: Jennifer Park, Greg Kish, John Walker Strain III, and Craig Pilkington and Junior Member Ursula O'Connor, with a meeting schedule to be prepared and posted at Township Hall and on the Township website. Approved 7-0

Clerk's Report

1. Clerk O'Connor provided a Powerpoint Presentation on the subject of Township Board Meetings which included information for the board and the community on Board Minutes procedures/rules, Minutes, audio & video retention rules/recommendations, recommended Minutes format versus verbatim Minutes and rights and privileges of public comment. The presentation also provided insight in the training and learning materials provided and available to board members.  
*This presentation is available on the Clerk's Page of the township website for review.*
2. Clerk O'Connor provided the following Election Information update:  
October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. is the last date to file as an write-in candidate for School Board  
Absentee Ballots are now available in the Clerk's Office. Voters who have applied for a ballot will be receiving them in the mail this week.  
Voters may request an absentee ballot until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Clerk's Office will be open on October 31<sup>st</sup> until 2:00 p.m. to distribute and accept absentee ballots.  
The Public Accuracy Test will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at township hall.  
The Grosse Ile Election Commission (Board Officers) held their mandatory pre-election meeting tonight in order to approve the appointment of election inspectors and election assistants to the Clerk and the Commission.

- Clerk O'Connor recognized Mrs. Ethel Yops for her longtime service to Community Recreation and reported that Mrs. Yops and her late husband Robert have been honored by the township with the naming of the Pavilion at the Centennial Farm in their honor. Mrs. Yops thanked the township and received a round of applause.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer Van Os reported that for the month of September Grosse Ile Township had \$ 6,615,647.15 invested in Certificates of Deposit ranging from .30% to 1.15% with terms ranging from 30-60 days.

For the month of September the balance of the MBIA Class investment pool is \$3,298,115.00, which is earned investment interest of \$1,431.36 at a rate of .27%

\$3,040,241.00 is the amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of August 31, 2009 earning interest of \$317 at a rate of .18 %

**Tax update:**

The 2009 summer tax payment due date was the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. Payments continue to be accepted at the township with penalty until February 29<sup>th</sup> 2010.

To date have collected \$12,142,318\* in property taxes. Distributions have been made timely to the County and the Schools.

State School	3,640,020
School Operating	519,739
School Hold Harmless	553,258
School Debt	1,330,586
School Sinking Fund	303,326
SSES	2,366,008
County Operation	3,426,636
	12,139,573

<b>Total Levy = 13,165,053</b>
<b>Total Collected = 12,136,572</b>
92% of total levy collected to date

**Trustees Reports**

- Trustee Frucci suggested a Board Study Session be scheduled to set goals and prioritize for the next three years. *Supervisor Loftus added that he would like to hold a session in December to review the board's accomplishments over the past year.*
- Trustee Kantz reported that the Airport Commerce Park has heated indoor storage available at competitive rates. Information is available by calling the airport office.
- Trustee Ranka had nothing to report at this time.
- Trustee Johnson reminded residents to remove any dead trees on their property to help avoid power outages from downed limbs on utility wires.

**Supervisor's Report**

- Supervisor Loftus noted that he has decided to work through the Board to review and improve the Water's Edge/Recreation complex rather than to designate a "Blue Ribbon Panel" as indicated in his recent newsletter.
- Mr. Loftus notified residents that the Yankee Air Force Museum will store several historic planes in Hangar I for the winter.
- The Supervisor provided a reminder that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Mr. Loftus reported that Pennsylvania Road at the railroad tracks will be close for repairs from October 19<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Updates are available at [www.wyandotte.net](http://www.wyandotte.net)

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

Township Manager Dale Reaume left the meeting early due to personal circumstances.

Finance Director Darzniek reported on his behalf that the combined Water Treatment Plant Study is still continuing and the township is pursuing an additional study of potential costs to construct and maintain a facility on its own. In addition, the township is soliciting companies to provide financial feasibility studies for construction and operation of a water treatment plant with the Trenton and Riverview and as a township facility only.

### **Public Comment:** *Three minute time limit per person*

1. Trustee Johnson asked if the Waterø Edge golf course is still open for play and when it is scheduled to close for the season.  
*Recreation Director Rooney indicated that it is scheduled to close on October 31<sup>st</sup>.  
Finance Director Darzniek reported that the golf course is at the "break even" point.*
2. Cliff St. Pierre, Burning Bush Road, reported that the Open Space/Greenways Committee øDump the Junk, Find a Treasureø event held over the weekend was successful and filled eight dumpsters.
3. Maria Jeffrey, Parke Lane, thanked the township and the county for the road repairs on Parke Lane and Manchester. Mrs. Jeffrey also inquired about the status of the Safe Routes to School project and whether it would be started before year end. *Supervisor Loftus reported that it is in the review process at the State level and then onto the bidding process. It is unlikely that it will begin during 2009.* Mrs. Jeffrey questioned the costs involved in providing a crossing guard at Meridian School. *Supervisor Loftus asked Chief Porcarelli to respond to the costs for the crossing guard. The Chief reported that the guard works one hour each school day at \$9.00 per hour and is paid out of the police budget.*
4. Bill Morreau, Knudsen, assured the board that the golf volunteers will continue to assist at the golf course throughout the fall and like to see the target opening date for 2010 be March 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Morreau expressed his appreciation for Tim Rooney.
5. Ron Janowski, Groh Road, expressed displeasure with the policies regarding public comment and the township board minutes process.
6. John Sabat, West River Road, commented on the deletion of the Minutes and also urged the Board to let the Recreation Department be a stand alone entity and continue under Tim Rooneyø guidance. *Clerk O'Connor clarified that the Minutes are only being deleted from tonight's meeting and will be brought before the board at the next meeting for approval.*
7. Craig Pilkington, Southpointe, asked that the Clerkø PowerPoint presentation be placed on the website and Grosse Ile Cable for accessibility by the public. Mr. Pilkington asked the board to re-access the retention policy regarding the Board of Trustee Meeting video recordings.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Van Os, second Johnson. Approved 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

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Ute OøConnor, Township Clerk