

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

**7:32 p.m. Call to Order**

**Present:** Supervisor Loftus, Treasurer Van Os, Trustees Frucci, Kantz, Johnson and Ranka.  
Clerk O'Connor arrived at 7:34 p.m.

**Absent:** None

Pledge of Allegiance

**Presentations:** Trustee Ranka and Police Chief Porcarelli introduced the most recent addition to the Grosse Ile Police Department, Officer Constantine (Dino) Siakantaris to the Board and the community. Officer Siakantaris hiring was approved at the August 24, 2009 board meeting with his first official day on the job being today. Officer Siakantaris comes to Grosse Ile after many years with the Trenton Police Department.

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Motion Van Os, second Ranka, to add Action Item # 11, Constitution Week Proclamation and Action Item # 12, Township Website to the agenda and to delete Action Item # 9, W. River Road Culvert design and engineering bids from the agenda

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

**CONSENT AGENDA 09-102:**

Motion Van Os, Second Johnson, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Approved 7-0

1. Minutes of August 24, 2009 Regular Meeting
2. Check Register dated September 11, 2009

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **09-103** Motion Ranka, Second Johnson, to approve and endorse the permit to place a handicapped in area sign at or near 21644 Knudsen on both North and Southbound Knudsen. Approved 7-0
2. **09-104** Motion Ranka, Second Johnson, to approve the hire of Clerk Dispatcher Marjorie Gape effective on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Approved 7-0
3. **09-105** Motion Van Os, Second Johnson, to approve the deposit of funds to the following institution: Comerica Bank. Approved 7-0
4. **09-106** Motion Van Os, Second Johnson, resolved by the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees that there be levied on the taxable value of said Township for the year 2009, winter billing, a tax of 9.2601 mills on the Taxable Value thereof; said value being \$654,521,389. Approved 7-0.
5. **09-107** Motion Ranka, 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 11 East Side Horace Grays Sub (parcel number 028-01-0011-001) and the West 50 feet of Lot 11 Horace Grays Sub (parcel number 028-01-0011-002) PC 552 L4 P39 WCR in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 and to split with the seller the 2009 property taxes (seller pay 2009 summer property taxes and Township to pay 2009 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. Approved 7-0  
*Public Comment:* E. Horvath, Hickory Island, asked if the property will leave the tax rolls.  
*Supervisor Loftus responded that it would be removed from the tax rolls.*

6. **09-108** Motion Frucci, Second Van Os, to accept with regret, the resignation of Shirley Roskopf from the Island Beautification Committee effective July 9, 2009. Approved (with regret) 7-0
7. **09-109** Motion O'Connor, Second Johnson, based on the recommendation of the Community Recreation Commission, the Grosse Ile Township Board authorizes LSL Planning to provide professional planning and design services for the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update for a total fee not to exceed \$24,000.00. With funding for the plan coming from the following accounts:

CDBG	Planning	08-09-20	6,000.00
CDBG	Planning	10-09-20	6,000.00
Centennial Farm	Reserve-Capital	2009-2010	6,000.00
Recreation Fund	Consultant	2010-2011	6,000.00

Approved 7-0

8. **09-110** Motion O'Connor, Second Van Os, as recommended by the Community Recreation Commission to award the marina seawall contract to Hurst Marine Contractors and Salvage, Inc. for 358 feet of seawall repair at the Water's Edge Marina at a cost of \$172,841.70 to be financed internally from the Marina Maintenance/Repair Account 5980-545-775.000 for a ten (10) year period, with the option for early payoff. The project will be financed through the Township Revolving Loan Fund for a ten (10) year period with an annual interest rate of 2%. Annual payments will be incorporated into the Marina budget in the amount of \$19,241.90. Approved 7-0  
*Community Recreation Director Rooney and Commission Chairperson Walt Kacher provided an overview of the project.*

*Trustee Kantz asked why the project is using cold rolled steel instead of the originally specified hot rolled steel. Mr. Kacher answered that cold rolled steel is more readily available and stockpiled which allows the contractor to offer a lower price than if using the hot rolled steel.*

Public Comment: 1. Ernie Horvath, Hickory Island, asked if the bid process includes a contingency for cost overruns. *Trustee Van Os responded that the bid is accepted as is.*

2. Bob Lang, voiced concern about the time frame for the project potentially impacting the availability of space for winter storage of boats. *Mr. Van Os suggested that as the boat lift operator, Mr. Lang should be included in pre-construction and construction meetings.* 3. Bob Wisher, expressed his appreciation for the Recreation Commission, Recreation staff and the way they have turned things around at the marina. 4. R. Janowski, asked if there were investment opportunities available to the public for the marina project. *Mr. Loftus stated that there are not.*

9. Deleted from Agenda

10. **09-111** Motion Van Os, second Johnson, to award base bid for cleaning and televising of up to 2,610 feet of the old 42-inch interceptor and repair of up to 1,000 feet of the old 42-inch interceptor based on unit price to Utility Services Authority, LLC (USA LLC), low bidder, in the amount of \$356,520.00; based upon the recommendation of the DPS Commission and the Charles E. Raines Company.

Board Questions/Comments: 1. Mr. Loftus asked when it was last cleaned and the age of the pipe. *Mr. Van Os replied that the pipe is 35 years old and has never been cleaned because it was in use.* 2. Mr. Ranka asked what material the pipe is made of and what type of repair will be done? *Mr. Van Os replied that it is a cast iron pipe which will be lined and sealed in place to create the repair.* 3. Mrs. Frucci asked if the 42 inch pipe is still needed since service has been diverted to the 48 inch line. *Mr. Van Os stated that the MDEQ mandates both are required.* Approved 7-0

Public Comment: 1. E. Horvath, Hickory Island, inquired if any infiltration was occurring at the intake? *Treasurer Van Os responded that there is no infiltration because of the amount of internal pressure in the lines.* 2. R. Janowski, asked where money will come from for any additional repairs. *Mr. Van Os stated it would come out of the sewer maintenance fund.* In addition, Mr. Janowski, questioned township water and sewer rates.

11. **09-112** Motion Kantz, second Van Os, **WHEREAS**, September 17, 2009 marks the two hundred and twenty-second anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and **WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and the anniversary of its creation; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a Proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through September 23, 2009 as Constitution Week:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Brian Loftus, Supervisor of the Township of Grosse Ile, do hereby proclaim September 17 through September 23, 2009 to be CONSTITUTION WEEK in the Township of Grosse Ile and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787.

Approved 7-0

12. **09-113** Motion Kantz, second by Johnson, to authorize the Supervisor to establish a website advisory committee that will advise and educate the Board on Municipal Website issues. The advisory committee will focus on, but will not be limited to, the following areas of investigation:

Lawful internet procedures and protocols.

Municipal Website standards, capabilities, expectations and management.

The ability of key township officials to update the website with emergency notifications or information that must be presented in a timely manner.

The mission of this committee is to provide the Board with the necessary information to make an educated decision on township website requirements, in order to provide the residents with a modern, cost effective communication and administrative tool.

The Advisory Committee shall consist of seven members; four at-large members from the community and the Cable Commission Liaison, Township Clerk and Township Supervisor. Members of the Committee will serve from the time of their appointment through March 31, 2010.

*Board Questions/Comments:* Board Members asked for clarification of the committee charges and membership requirements as well as time frame to bring their report to the board for approval. They also suggested some modifications to the original motion language. Both Clerk O'Connor and Trustee Frucci asked to be included as members of the committee. Approved 7-0

*Public Comment:* Supervisor Loftus asked Craig Pilkington, who has been an advisor to him on the subject of website development, to come to the podium to outline options available to modify the website.

1. E. Horvath, Hickory Island, suggested that the township avail itself of the information regarding what type of information the Clerk may include on the government website that is provided through HAL/State of Michigan.
2. R. Janowski, Groh Road, commented about cable station programming and regulations  
**\* Trustee Johnson called the Question, Mr. Van Os seconded the call, Supervisor Loftus called the vote on the calling of the question. The board voted 7-0 to approve calling of the question on Motion 09-113.**

#### **Clerk's Report**

1. Reminder to residents about the November 3, 2009 election for local school board members and a Wayne County millage renewal, Proposition O. Absentee ballot applications have been mailed to permanent absentee voters and are available in the Clerk's Office for voters who will be unable to vote at their precinct. The last date to register to vote for new residents or those previously not registered is October 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

1. Investment Report: As of today, 9/14/09, Grosse Ile Township has \$ 6,615,647.00 invested in Certificates of Deposit ranging from .30% to 1.15% with terms ranging from 30-90 days.

For the month of July the balance of the MBIA Class investment pool is \$4,395,777 which is earned investment interest of \$1,031.32 at a rate of .28%

\$1,279,345.00 is the amount in the sweep/investments accounts as of July 31, 2009 earning interest of \$313 at a rate of .11%

Today is the last day to pay 2009 summer tax payments without penalty. Postmarks up to the 14<sup>th</sup> of September will be accepted as timely. Drop box payments until 8:00 am tomorrow will also be processed as received on time. Today alone we processed \$1,500,000 in tax payments.

### **Supervisor's Report**

1. August 26<sup>th</sup> was the Board's first emergency response exercise which was a good training exercise and very educational and went very well.
2. September 12<sup>th</sup> was the Rotary Island Showcase which provided the opportunity for non-profit groups to provide information about their organizations to the community. It was a great day and great weather for finding out what community volunteers are doing for this township.
3. September 20<sup>th</sup>, the lighthouse Open House will be held following the approximately \$40,000 refurbishing of the exterior of the 103 year old Grosse Ile North Channel front-range lighthouse. The contractor on the project was Baird & Lowler who did an excellent job and the state inspectors were pleased with the project outcome which finished under budget and on time. It will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. there are 100 tickets available and there is a small admission fee.
4. September 26<sup>th</sup> will be the next Saturday Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
5. Supervisor Loftus reminded residents that Township Ordinance 285.3-3B regulates the storage of all recreational vehicles and trailers and will be enforced consistently for the benefit of everyone and to keep neighborhoods looking better year around. Under the Ordinance, recreational vehicles are not allowed to be stored in driveways or in front of homes.

### **Trustees Reports**

1. Trustee Kantz reported that the Duathlon was a very successful event. He also reported that he has been doing more research on the proposals regarding recreation, the marina and open space property. Meetings on the subject are ongoing with a scheduled walk through by a wetlands specialist at 10 a.m. on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
2. Trustee Johnson reports that October 4<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> is Fire Safety Week. The Fire Department will conduct their Annual Open House on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 p.m. Mr. Johnson added that he continuing to investigate property options between recreation and the commerce park in order to preserve 14.5 acres and utilize resources better.
3. Trustee Ranka asked for a board discussion item on the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda regarding property acquisitions or exchanges within the township. He also noted that the next Planning Commission Meeting is on September 21<sup>st</sup> if residents are interested in attending or watching on cable.
4. Trustee Frucci announced the publication of a children's book entitled, "A Visit to My Great-Great-Grandpa" written by Mrs. Frucci's eleven year old granddaughter Emily Frucci and illustrated by Southgate artist Nancy Pitel. Mrs. Frucci presented Finance Director Ann Darzniek with the autographed copy that she had ordered.

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

1. Community Recreation Manager Tim Rooney gave the Water's Edge update in Mr. Reaume's absence.
  - Golf is up by about 700 rounds from last season
  - Twilight golf has been really popular
  - Water's Edge is currently at the break even point
  - Facility usage has increased

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

1. Bob Lang, 3343 Fort St., Trenton, strongly opposed to the "Kantz-Johnson" proposals regarding the Water's Edge Marina.
2. Glen Bagnall, Meridian Road,, opposes the transfer of the marina to Airport Commission control.
3. George Marx, Barbara Lane, as an active member of the boating community, asked the board to listen to the marina tenants about Water's Edge.
4. Diane Mathias, is opposed to moving control of the marina to the Airport Commission.
5. Doug McCloud, Ferry Road, expressed concern about Airport Commission control of Water's Edge, he's pleased with things as they are currently.
6. Richard Allen, Church Road, commented that he's been at Water's Edge for 50 years and considers boating to be a recreational event and in opposed to the proposed changes in management.

7. Gary Jones, Macomb Street, asked who holds the key to the entire Water's Edge facility. Jones stated that he does not believe the Recreation Commission has any authority to sell off the marina. *Supervisor Loftus indicated that oversight is done by recreation. Clerk O'Connor added that the township owns Water's Edge, it's a public facility with access to all residents; however it is governed, overseen by the Community Recreation Commission which was created by merging the Water's Edge Commission with the Recreation Commission and is managed by Recreation Director and the recreation staff in conjunction with the Township Manager and Finance Director.*
8. Glen Bagnall, Meridian Road, asked if the recreation department handles the lease for Sharkey's. *It does not handle the lease.*
9. Brian Sharkey, commented that the safety at the marina needs to move forward no matter who runs it. Mr. Sharkey stated that the recreation department on Grosse Ile is dynamite.
10. Lynne Ryder, Blackmore, wants to see more discussion on the issue including residents and doesn't want the board to rush their decision.
11. Diane Mathias, stated her concern for a piece-meal approach to recreation and is afraid the community will lose valuable public access assets without marina revenue.
12. Craig Pilkington, Southpoint, has no opinion on Water's Edge, but noticed great commission engagement.
13. W. Clark, Parke Lane, thanked the police & fire departments for coming to his house twice on the same date to help him. Mr. Clark also asked about legal fees on the check register, Mrs. Darznick provided that information which is available from her office. Mr. Clark stated he is not in favor of money out of Open Space Fund for property that is already open space and asked about the availability of non-heated storage space.
14. R. Janowski, Groh Road, questioned who the township attorney is on the tollbridge lawsuit and made inquiries and comments about the lawsuit negotiations. *Supervisor Loftus and the Board indicated that this matter will not be discussed further at this time since it is confidential and under appeal.*

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Trustee Johnson, second Clerk O'Connor. Approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

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Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk