

APPROVED MINUTES  
Of the  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP OF GROSSE ILE**  
Monday, March 14, 2005

**THE MINUTES OF THIS ANNUAL MEETING ARE APPROVED AT THE NEXT  
ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON MARCH 27, 2006.**

Grosse Ile Township Hall – Merle Solomon Board Room- 9601 Groh Road

Present: Supervisor Kobiljak, Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Raithel, Trustees Pociask, Wojewodzc, Forrester, and Will, Township Manager Dale Reaume, Finance Director Ann Darzniek, Deputy Clerk Sharon Bennett.

Absent: None

Supervisor Kobiljak opened the Annual meeting at 6:45 p.m. approximately 50 residents and staff were in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by O'Connor, second by Wojewodzc, to Adopt Roberts Rules of Order as the Township Bylaws governing meeting conduct. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion by O'Connor, second by Forrester, to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2004 Annual Meeting as presented/amended. All aye. Motion carried.

**Introductions**

Supervisor Kobiljak introduced the fellow Board Members.

Township Manager Reaume introduced the fellow staff members that were present.

The Supervisor gave each Board Member the opportunity to report on the commissions and committees they serve on as Board Liaison.

Supervisor Kobiljak started with Trustee Pociask.

Trustee Pociask, liaison to the Community Recreation Commission, stated that this is a new commission but not new to serving the community and have joined together to become a very cohesive community centered organization. Mr. Pociask then asked the Commission Chairperson, Rubina Mustafa, to tell everyone what the commission has been doing. Mrs.

Mustafa explained that the program year began with the Recreation Commission and staff focusing on methods to improve the delivery of services to the public and provide a system for evaluating the overall product. To begin the process, the Commission spent a great deal of time working with the recreation staff on two major program areas. First, the Commission provided key support in reviewing and developing a new contract with Dance Grosse Ile for the provision of public dance lessons. Second, the Commission put their focus on the equestrian program at Centennial Farm.

Trustee Wojewodzc, liaison to the Fire Commission, introduced the Fire Chief Duncan Murdock, the Assistant Fire Chief Payette, and Fire Fighter/Administrative Assistant Wanda Ryan. Chief Murdock gave a brief overview of the fire department services during the 2004/2005 year, including upgrading of the EMS services. Chief Murdock thanked his staff and the Commission for all their hard work.

Trustee Wojewodzc, liaison to the Police Commission, introduced the Police Chief Bill Barron. Chief Barron reported that the department has been busy with over 22,000 calls for service and with additional training for officers and civilian dispatch throughout the year. The Chief thanked the Board and Police Commission for their continued support.

Treasurer Raithel, liaison to the Planning Commission, introduced the Planning Commission and thanked everyone for their hard work, especially the NAS (Navel Air Station Memorial).

Clerk O'Connor, liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals, spoke about how planning and zoning have always been a passion. Mrs. O'Connor then introduced the members and thanked them for their services. Mrs. O'Connor also introduced the members of the Board of Canvassers and thanked them for sticking through to the bitter end of each election and verifying vote totals. Mrs. O'Connor then thanked the 50 or more election inspectors who turn out for the 1-4 elections per year.

Trustee Will, liaison to the Department of Public Services, introduced the commission members and thanked them and the township staff for their hard work and dedication.

Trustee Will, liaison to the Airport Commission, introduced the commission and thanked them for their efforts. Trustee Will and Supervisor Kobiljak presented a certificate of appreciation and a hat to Bob Harris, who is leaving the commission after 15 years of service.

Trustee Forrester, liaison to the Cable Commission, commented on what a pleasure it was to serve and work with this group of volunteers and thanked them for their technical know how and service.

Treasurer Raithel thanked the Island Beautification Committee for their dedication to keep Grosse Ile looking clean and beautiful.

Supervisor Kobiljak introduced Cliff St. Pierre, Chairman of the Greenways/Open Space Committee, and the committee members. Mr. St. Pierre thanked the members of the committee for their time and effort.

### **Supervisor's State of the Township Report**

Supervisor Kobiljak stated that nothing has changed since former Supervisor Doug Jones reported last year. Mr. Kobiljak feels we still have all the same issues and some are improving and many have gotten worse. Mr. Kobiljak stated that he and the board are committed to providing the most services for the tax dollar and he challenged anyone to top Grosse Ile as a great community. Mr. Kobiljak thanked the staff and managers for their incredible efforts.

Mr. Rooney and Joann Perma, Trenton Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, presented a Michigan Recreation and Park Community Service Award to the Nature and Land Conservancy. The award was presented for their efforts and success in protecting and stewarding Grosse Ile's diverse natural resources. Mrs. Perma also recognized the group for providing educational opportunities and for their dedicated work which will have a positive impact on the welfare of human beings in the future.

### **Clerk's Report**

Clerk O'Connor stated that the Clerk's department has many diverse duties. Some of those duties include keeping all official Township documents and the Elected Clerk is responsible for verifying and signing most official Township documents. The Deputy Clerk is responsible for attending and recording the minutes at the Township Board Meetings and publishing them. The office is also responsible for maintaining records of all meetings of the Township Board, keeping all records of Commission meetings, all bids, summons, lawsuits, legal documents, ordinances, applications and official documents are forwarded to this office for processing and filing. The Clerk's office is also an official Passport Acceptance Agency and they are responsible for conducting the elections on Grosse Ile. Clerk O'Connor thanked her staff which includes Deputy Clerk Sharon Bennett, part time election worker Gayle Haeger, and part time election worker Bryan Friel. Clerk O'Connor also thanked Barb Thornley, assistant to the Township Manager, for her work on Commissions and records and also thanked the Finance Director and her staff.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Raithel acknowledged that since being elected in November, he thought he knew how the township worked, but he was wrong. Treasurer Raithel thanked Ann Darzniek and Carol Knopp, who has served as Deputy Treasurer and done a wonderful job and taught him a lot about the Treasurer's Office and got him through his first tax collection. Mr. Raithel informed the public that Carol will be stepping down as Deputy Treasurer and a new one will be named later. Mr. Raithel also announced that investments are rising slightly.

Supervisor Kobiljak asked Trustees Will and Pociask to acknowledge those members of the Roads and Recreation who have stepped down in the past year.

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

Township Manager Reaume proclaimed that work is challenging, fun, frustrating, agonizing, exciting, interesting, and he loves to hate it. No two days are alike and what more could anyone ask for. Mr. Reaume stated that the past year has been filled with numerous challenges. These challenges include the necessary theme of fiscal responsibility, the continuation of the sanitary sewer project, maintenance issues with the Grosse Ile Parkway Bridge, and the condemnation case of the Grosse Ile Toll Bridge, labor negotiations, and staff reorganization. Mr. Reaume concluded by thanking the board and the staff and announcing that he is looking forward to next year.

### **Public Comment**

1. Ray Ledbetter, 25457 Meridian, announced that he is a 37-year resident and is proud to live here. He appreciates the efforts of this group but is a frustrated taxpayer. Not that residents don't get their money's worth, but that millage money is not always expended as intended and not diverted. Economize in all budgeting processes. Mr. Ledbetter then asked how much has been spent on Open Space and Open Space maintenance? *The information was not readily available and Mr. Ledbetter was advised to contact the Finance Director.* Mr. Ledbetter then asked how much has been spent on the bridge acquisition? *Supervisor Kobiljak responded that approximately \$300,000 has been spent to date.* Mr. Ledbetter then asked one final question, how much has been spent on road maintenance? *Once again, Mr. Ledbetter was informed that that information was not readily available and Mr. Ledbetter was advised to contact the Finance Director.*

By unanimous consent the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Ute O'Connor, Township Clerk