

APPROVED MINUTES  
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
December 12, 2005  
Grosse Ile Township Hall – Merle Solomon Board Room  
9601 Groh Road

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Township Supervisor Kobiljak.

Present: Supervisor Kobiljak, Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Raithel, Trustees Wojewodzic, Will, Forrester, Pociask.

Absent: None

Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Comment on Non- Agenda Items:**

1. Al Anderson, Swan Island, AOPA Representative, provided a status update on negotiations with the Ford Yacht Club indicating that there has been no recent contact or discussions. *Township Manager Reaume stated further progress on negotiations is awaiting the completion of appraisals and appraisal review which is expected to be completed sometime in January.*
2. Phil Kennedy, Swan Island, informed the Board that the mitigation of the trees continues to be a safety issue and requested the Board do whatever possible to speed up the process. *Township Manager Reaume explained that the Township cannot go on private land without consent; however, will continue working toward getting the necessary appraisals as soon as possible.*
3. David Moxlow, inquired why it is taking so long to obtain an updated appraisal, and stated that January 1<sup>st</sup> is not soon enough.
4. Woody Clark, Parke Lane, asked if residents were going to be getting their Winter Tax Bills and whether we use Diebold voting machines for elections. *Treasurer Raithel said he would be discussing the tax bills during the Treasurer's Report. Clerk O'Connor responded that we no longer use Diebold voting equipment.*

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:**

Motion Raithel, second Wojewodzic to move Action Item # 9 to the beginning of the Agenda. All aye. Motion carried.

Motion Raithel, second Pociask, to accept the agenda as amended. All aye. Motion carried.

Final Agenda

**CONSENT AGENDA 05- 112:**

1. Minutes of November 14, 2005 Board Meeting
2. Cash Requirements List dated November 28, 2005
3. Cash Requirements List dated December 12, 2005

**CONSENT AGENDA 05- 112 (Continued):**

4. Purchase Order Summary dated November 28, 2005
5. Purchase Order Summary dated December 12, 2005
6. Approval to Pay Bills through January 23, 2006

**Clerk's Report**

1. Approve Appointment of Township Board of Election Canvassers Members

**Treasurer's Report**

1. Investment Report – October, 2005

**Supervisor's Report**

1. Wayne County Free Bridge Update
2. DDA (Downtown Development Authority) Update

**Township Manager's Report**

1. January Meeting Schedule
2. Holiday Hours

**ACTION ITEMS**

*Action Item # 9 was moved forward to the beginning of the Agenda for public convenience*

9. Reorganization of Airport Commission Structure, Chapter 67, Article II, G.I. Municipal Code
  - 1 a) Public Service Commission Resignation
  - b) Public Service Commission Resignation
  - 2 a) Board of Review Appointment
  - b) Board of Review Appointment
  3. Resolution to Adopt 2006 Budget for 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court
  4. Set 2006 Staff Holiday Schedule
  5. Approval of Grosse Ile Recreation Master Plan 2005-2010
  6. 2006 Senior Alliance Funding
  7. Riverview Landfill Addendum #4 for Solid Waste Disposal Services
  8. Synagro Contract Renewal for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

**Discussion Items**

**Extended Public Comment**

**Adjourn**

Regular Meeting

*The following items will be adopted without discussion; however, at the request of any Board Member or Citizen, items may be removed for Board discussion or explanation.*

**Consent Agenda # 05-112:**

Motion Wojewodzic, second Forrester, to approve Consent Agenda # 05-112 as presented.  
All aye.

1. Minutes of November 14, 2005 Board Meeting
2. Cash Requirements List dated November 28, 2005
3. Cash Requirements List dated December 12, 2005
4. Purchase Order Summary dated November 28, 2005
5. Purchase Order Summary dated December 12, 2005
6. Authorization to Pay Bills through January 23, 2006

Clerk's Report:

1. **05-113** Motion O'Connor, second Pociask, To approve the appointment of Michelle Babcock and the re-appointment of Board of Canvassers Chairperson Timothy O'Donnell, to the Grosse Ile Township Board of Election Canvassers for the term of office from December 31, 2005 to December 30, 2009. All aye. Motion carried. *Clerk O'Connor recognized and thanked Mr. Ferd Feig, who is stepping down from serving on the Board of Canvassers since 2001.*

Treasurer's Report:

1. Treasurer Raithel announced that Winter Tax Bills have been delayed in the printing and mailing process for approximately one week and will be arriving in the mail shortly; also, that 2006 Pet Tags are now available at a discounted rate through January 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Investment Report through October 31, 2005 showed investments totaling \$13,874,255.03 earning an average of 3.60 % and total interest of \$40,230.82.

Supervisor's Report

1. Supervisor Kobiljak announce that Grosse Ile will push for a Fall, 2006 construction start on the refurbishing of the County Bridge now that funding for the project has been approved.
2. The Downtown Development Authority will start meeting in earnest in January, 2006 after a substantial lapse. There are some openings on the Authority at this time and new applications are being accepted by the Clerk's Office.

Township Manager's Report

1. Township Manager Reaume announced that there would be only one Board Meeting in January, which will be held on January 23, 2006. He also provided a list of Holiday Closings and Business Hours and reminded residents that they may use the drop box located on the circular drive at township hall for any tax or utility payments being made by check.

**ACTION ITEMS**

9. **05-114** Motion Raithel, second Will, to adopt the following Resolution to Create an Airport Commerce Park Commission; Create an Airport Advisory Committee; and Eliminate the Airport Commission and, Further; to adopt an Ordinance to Rescind Chapter 67, Commissions, Article II of the Grosse Ile Township Municipal Code and an Ordinance to Replace Chapter 67, Commissions, Article II of the Grosse Ile Municipal Code. In addition, to Adopt an Ordinance to Create Chapter 68, “Committees” Article I, Airport Advisory Committee; of the Grosse Ile Township Municipal Code. *Roll Call Vote.* Yes: Wojewodzic, Will, Forrester, Pociask, O’Connor, Raithel, Kobiljak. No: None  
Resolution and Ordinances Adopted.

WHEREAS, the Grosse Ile Township Commerce Park is an aging facility in need of infrastructure improvements and fiscal stability; and,

WHEREAS, the need to attract a more diverse tenant and business base at the Commerce Park exists; and,

WHEREAS, the need to develop a strategic business plan in order to sustain the long term revenue requirements of the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport exists; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 133 of the Michigan Aeronautics Code the Township of Grosse Ile may do one or more of the following: (a) vest the authority of airport operations in and officer, board, or body of a political subdivision; (b) employ a regular airport manager; (c) adopt rules, regulations, and ordinances for the management and use of any properties under its control; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of an Airport Commerce Park Commission will allow for a specialized focus on the business needs of the Commerce Park and Airport which in turn will provide a sound financial base for the Community and the continued long term operation of the Airport; and,

WHEREAS, the Airport needs are primarily aeronautical and aviation safety related; and,

WHEREAS, the creation of an Airport Advisory Committee will allow for a specialized focus in on aeronautical and aviation safety related matters by those that have direct knowledge in the field of aeronautics; and,

WHEREAS, the events surrounding the topic of Runway 4/22 and obstruction removal stressed the need for improved communication between the Township Staff, Commissions, and Board; and,

WHEREAS, the importance of a viable Commerce Park was discussed at a joint study session between the Township Board and the Airport Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the Airport Manager, under the direction of the Township Manager, is authorized to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Airport and Airport Commerce Park; and,

WHEREAS, the financial requirements of the Aviation expenditures relies considerably upon the Commerce Park Revenues by design and as evidenced by the financial history of these two cost centers; and,

WHEREAS, the future economic viability of the Airport depends upon the implementation of a comprehensive strategic approach that will create a Commerce Park which generates long-term fiscal stability for the Airport; and,

WHEREAS, a comprehensive strategic approach involves the restructuring of the Airport Commission by creating an Airport Commerce Park Commission and an Airport Advisory Committee; and,

THEREFORE,

- I. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts an Ordinance 05-10 Entitled “An Ordinance to Rescind Chapter 67, Commissions, Article II of the Grosse Ile Township Municipal Code” hereby eliminating the Airport Commission; and, to direct the Airport Commission, effective immediately, to cease its function; and to hereby thank the Airport Commission for its efforts and years of service.
- II. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts an Ordinance 05-11 entitled “ An Ordinance to Replace Chapter 67, Commissions, Article II of the Grosse Ile Township Municipal Code” hereby creating the Airport Commerce Park Commission; and, to advertise vacancies for the seats of this newly created Commission.
- III. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees hereby adopts an Ordinance 05-12 entitled “An Ordinance to Create An Airport Advisory Committee” hereby creating the Airport Advisory Committee; and, to advertise vacancies for the seats of this newly created Committee.

Effective: Upon Publication.

*Public Comment on Motion # 05-114:*

*1. Robert Shafer, Island Drive, The following communication received by e-mail was read into the record by Clerk O’Connor.*

Township Board Members,

According to the agenda for this meeting published in the Ile Camera, an item for action today is a change to the ordinance governing the administration of the Grosse Ile Airport and Commerce Park, and the future role of the Airport Commission. While it is understandable and appropriate that this should be an item of consideration and discussion, it is quite disturbing that this is listed as an action item.

This body deliberated a relatively simple matter of airport maintenance, clearing hazards from approach paths, for months. And that was after already having taken formal action on the subject. (Albeit, action taken perhaps without a full understanding of all of the ramifications of such action.)

Why then, does the board contemplate taking another much more significant action without first taking the time for thoughtful consideration and public discussion? Have no lessons been learned?

The present Airport Commission structure has served the citizens of Grosse Ile very well for over thirty years. Surely any proposed change to this long established structure should be worthy of public explanation, evaluation and discussion before any action is taken. As Mr. Raithel asked earlier, "Where is the debate?"

Presenting a significant change to our local governmental structure without providing an opportunity for the citizens to evaluate it and give our elected officials feedback, no matter what the merits of such a proposal, smacks of back room deals and hidden agendas. That is not the democratic way of open government that the citizens of Grosse Ile expect or deserve.

Have we learned nothing from the Waters Edge debacle? Why do we appear to be heading down a similar path again?

Action should be taken only after there has been an opportunity for thoughtful consideration of all of the facts and deliberative evaluation of the proposals. The citizens of Grosse Ile expect more from their elected Township Board members than "Vote first and ask questions later".

I respectfully request that the Township Board exercise the common sense to defer any action on any proposal concerning any change in the ordinances governing the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport until after these proposals have been explained to the public, and until after there has been an opportunity for public input and thorough consideration of the issues and alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Robert Shafer

2. *Brian Loftis, stated his belief that it is in the best interest of public debate to discuss this further and would like to see more specific details provided.*
3. *Carl Rigg, Parke Lane, stated he was the first tenant of the the Commerce Park and was forced to move from the facility due to the greediness of the township.*
4. *David Moxlow, Grosse Ile Parkway, thinks the proposal has great merit and that there is a need for "expeditious relief to the problems". He is also concerned about the probability of manufacturing coming to Grosse Ile without tax incentives due to the problems involved with the bridges and believes the Board needs to take more time to deliberate the issue.*
5. *Sean Freese, Elba Drive, believes the Commerce Park needs to consider accepting a wider array of tenants and doesn't agree with dissolving the current structure at this time.*
6. *Jim LaPointe, Lake St., suggests working with the current commission to implement changes instead of splitting them into two entities that might not communicate well and could complicate things further.*
7. *Al Anderson, Swan Island, stated he was apprehensive about this plan at first; but, is now supportive of making this work.*
8. *David Moxlow, wonders if the voters might support a Commerce Park Open Space Millage.*

**Continuation of Agenda Order as published:**

- 1a) **05- 115** Motion Will, second Pociask, to accept with regret the resignation of Gary Bailey from the Public Works Commission; and, **1b)** to accept with regret the resignation of Frank DeMare, Jr. from the Public Works Commission. All aye. Motion carried.
- 2 a) **05- 116** Motion O'Connor, second Raithel, to approve the appointment of Richard Nielsen to the Board of Review for the term of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006; and, **2b)** to approve the re-appointment of Shelley Schmidtke to the Board of Review for the term of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. All aye. Motion carried.
3. **05-117** Motion O'Connor, second Forrester, To approve the Resoution to adopt the 2006 Budget for the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court.  
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, 2006 through December 31, 2006. NOW THEREFORE, the Township of Grosse Ile hereby resolves that the budget be adopted as submitted.  
All aye. Resolution adopted.
4. **05-118** Motion O'Connor, second Raithel, Consistent withSection 19.8 of the Labor Contract, the following holidays will be observed in 2006. Veteran's Day falls on Saturday, the holiday will be observed on Friday, November 10; Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, the holiday will be observed on Tuesday, December 26; New Year's Eve falls on Sunday, the holiday will be observed on Tuesday, January 2, 2007.
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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Monday, January 16      | Martin Luther King Day  |
| Monday, February 20     | President's Day         |
| Friday, April 14        | Good Friday             |
| Monday, May 29          | Memorial Day            |
| Tuesday, July 4         | Independence Day        |
| Monday, September 4     | Labor Day               |
| Friday, November 10     | Veteran's Day Observed  |
| Thursday, November 23   | Thanksgiving Day        |
| Friday, November 24     | Day after Thanksgiving  |
| Monday, December 25     | Christmas Day           |
| Tuesday, December 26    | Christmas Eve Observed  |
| Monday, January 1, 2007 | New Year's Day          |
| Tuesday, January 2      | New Year's Eve Observed |
- All aye. Motion carried.
5. **05-119** Motion Pociask, second Wojewodzic, to adopt the Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan per the recommendation of the Township Community Recreation Commission. **WHEREAS**, development of adequate parks and recreation facilities requires a pro-active plan based on a combination of community input, analysis of existing conditions, analysis of the basic needs for current and future residents, parks and recreation planning expertise, as well as a prioritized improvements program and potential funding opportunities; and **WHEREAS**, the foundation of the plan is established with the Mission Statement, Goals, and Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the plan provides text, concept plans, and maps of detailed recommendations for park and recreation facilities, and recreation programming with a prioritized list of capital improvements for the next five years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grosse Ile Township Community Recreation Commission, Township Board and Township staff along with the assistance of LSL Planning, Incorporated, has prepared the Parks and Recreation Plan for Grosse Ile Township which includes all the above elements; and

**WHEREAS**, said plan meets the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, thereby making the Township eligible for State and Federal grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township followed a planning process that focused on public involvement, including a public workshop and focus group meetings with stakeholders and recreation providers for the purpose of soliciting community input on said plan; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing was held by the Community Recreation Commission on the final draft November 17, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Recreation Commission adopted a resolution to endorse and recommend adoption of said plan;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grosse Ile Township Board hereby adopts the Grosse Ile Township Parks and Recreation Plan, dated December, 2005.

All aye. Resolution adopted.

6. **05-120** Motion Pociask, second O'Connor, to approve funding for The Senior Alliance (TSA) in the amount of \$1,744.00 to include the Fiscal Year Match of \$872.00 and an assessment in the amount of \$872.00. All aye. Motion carried.
7. **05-121** Motion Will, second Pociask, to approve the Fourth Addendum to the Agreement for solid waste disposal services between Grosse Ile Township and The Riverview Land Preserve. Motion carried 6-0, Kobiljak abstaining due to business partner's representation of the City of Riverview.
8. **05-122** Motion Will, second Pociask, to approve the contract renewal between Synagro and Grosse Ile Township for Biosolids Management Services at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion Items: None

***Extended Public Comment:***

1. David Moxlow, wished the members of the Board an happy holiday and told them to each expect a gift of a "rubber stamp".
2. Brian Loftis, stated he was disappointed on the vote on Action Item # 9 and wanted to know just exactly what the board had voted on. He "respectfully requested the Board rescind the vote on that item and revisit it at a future meeting and asked that the Ordinance language be made public in the mean time.
3. Phil Kennedy, stated that the method used to adopt the ordinance amendments seems to violate the open discussion of a public forum and Open Meetings Act guidelines.

*Supervisor Kobiljak commented that “there is a process used that does not include closed meetings or smoke filled rooms”; which lends itself to consensus being achieved after individual research.*

*Clerk O’Connor commented that board packets are received on Friday prior to a board meeting for the board members to review, consider and ask questions of the staff and consultants, if necessary; before making their decision on the actions before them.*

Executive Session: None

Motion Raithel, second Pociask, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:45 p.m. All aye.

Meeting adjourned.

Ute O’Connor. Township Clerk