

APPROVED MINUTES  
GROSSE ILE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
April 28, 2003  
Grosse Ile Township Hall – Merle Solomon Board Room  
9601 Groh Road

Present: Supervisor Jones, Clerk O'Connor, Treasurer Kobiljak, Trustees Neal, Raithe, Will and Township Manager Reaume.

Absent: Trustee Wojewodziec

Supervisor Jones opened the regular meeting at 7:35p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Motion Kobiljak, second Neal, to add as Treasurer's # 2: Personal Property Tax update. All aye.

Motion Neal, second Kobiljak, to add Action Item # 5: Resolution for use of state trunk line Right-of-way for display of Islandfest Billboard. All aye.

Motion Neal, second Kobiljak, to add Action Item #6: Appointment of Airport Commissioner. All aye.

Motion by Neal, second Kobiljak, to accept the Agenda as amended.

Final Agenda

Public Comment

Clerk's Report

1. Approve Minutes of April 14, 2003
2. Approve Cash Requirements List dated April 28, 2003
3. Last date to Register to Vote for June 9th School and Township Elections
4. Absent voter ballot requests guidelines

Treasurer's Report

1. Approve Purchase Order Summary dated April 28, 2003
2. Personal Property Tax update

Supervisor's Report

1. West River Road

Township Manager's Report

1. Household Hazardous Waste Day
2. Mosquito Control

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Telecommunications Act
  - a) Resolution to Participate in Metro Act
  - b) Ordinance Amendment to Right-of-Way Ordinance
2. Drinking Water Week Proclamation
3. Approval to bid Centennial Farm improvements
  - a) Road paving
  - b) Drainage improvements
  - c) All weather turnout
4. Budget Adjustment for Encumbrance
5. Resolution for use of state trunk line right-of-way for display of IslandFest billboard
6. Appointment of Airport Commissioner

Discussion Items

Public Comment

\*\*\*\*\*

Public Comment

Woody Clark, 19620 Parke Lane - asked the Board “if voters approved a millage to purchase property with tax dollars, can voters have a say on ballot whether or not such property can be sold?”

*Supervisor Jones responded that “this is a technical issue, people can pay millage, but not vote on sale, advisory questions on a ballot are not allowed.” Mr. Jones continued, “we want to sell the properties in order to buy a very large property we’ve been working on for 2 years. Money from this sale will go toward buying other open space. There is not a person on this board willing to sell wooded township owned property.” “We are considering the sale of these properties but, we’re using the next 60 days to look at other alternatives.”*

Mr. Clark had a second question. He asked if the township had an ordinance governing “used car lots” on private properties. *Township Manager Dale Reaume outlined the township’s ordinance enforcement process stating that signed complaints take priority and are more easily enforced and prosecuted. All unsigned complaints are investigated by the Ordinance Enforcement Officer however, they are not given priority status and compliance is requested and often obtained through persistent follow up by the Enforcement Officer.*

Cliff St. Pierre, 8327 Burning Bush - Chairperson of the Open Space/Greenways Commission, spoke as a resident concerning the issue of the 2 lots “to be bid for sale,” at the township board meeting of April 14, 2003. He stated his perspective was to find ways to resolve funding issues by considering all other alternatives and to keep vacant wooded lots as they are. He suggested the “township team direct their energies in a timely manner to finding funds to acquire open space without resorting to selling property.”

Al Harmon, 8200 Bellevue - asked Supervisor Jones to clarify the “fine line” difference between open space and wooded lots.

*Supervisor Jones gave the technical definition of open space, and Treasurer Kobiljak added that open space is land purchased with tax dollars. Mr. Harmon then asked, “what will you sell off next, is my concern.” Mr. Jones responded “we are keeping our options open because the other project is very important. Mr. Harmon closed by saying that he opposes “sanctioning any other property sales.”*

Anna Meyer-Sigarto, 25471 6th Street - asked if it is the Township Board’s prerogative to sell these 2 lots, can it then be the board’s prerogative to sell the rest of the farm? “Adding more houses on 3rd Street would be detrimental to the neighborhood and defeats the purpose of open space.”

*Supervisor Jones responded by saying “the 3.5 acres are technically outside of the defined Centennial Farm property and are not governed by open space or the Centennial Farm designation and these lots are less valuable than the other property we are negotiating to purchase. Ms. Meyer-Sigarto closed by saying “these lots are more valuable to the residents there. Mr. Jones added that the board will not move in haste on this issue.*

Gary Jones, 7738 Macomb Street - asked the Township Board to clarify the differences or distinctions between open space and other township owned properties. He also noted that the community voted down additional open space millage in the November,2002 election, so we only have a limited amount of money to work with.and “You can’t buy the Corvette if you can only afford the Escort.”

On a second issue, Mr. Gary Jones asked which properties adjacent to Senior Housing were made available for sale to Save-On Drugstore. *Supervisor Doug Jones stated that he (Gary Jones) was mixing up issues, and had exceeded the two minute time limit for public comment.*

Mark Bresnahan, 8147 Bellevue - asked the Township Board about the proposed lot divisions of the parcel to be bid for sale. Pointing to a diagram of the proposed parcels A/B/C, he asked “what prevents you from putting a road into parcel A?”

*Township Manager Dale Reaume said that you would need at least 60 feet minimum to build a road. Supervisor Jones added that “ We the township own a lot of property but very few are able to be sold.” Mr. Bresnahan agreed with Mr. Gary Jones and added that he “ is confused. I really pushed for the township to buy Centennial Farm. I assumed that once bought, that would be it.” He asked why sell these 2 particular properties? After a further discussion of terminologies and technicalities by Supervisor Jones and Treasurer Kobiljak, Mr. Bresnahan closed by saying, “why sacrifice in my neighborhood? I guess my 2 minutes are up.”*

Clerk's Report

*Clerk O'Connor congratulated Grosse Ile Resident Robert Burns who was recently appointed the first Riverkeeper for the Detroit River watershed and thanked him for taking on such a mission.*

1. Motion O'Connor, second Will, to approve the Minutes of April 14, 2003 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.
2. Motion O'Connor, second Raithel, to approve the Cash Requirements (Warrant) List dated April 28, 2003. All aye. Motion carried.
3. Clerk O'Connor announced that the last date to register to vote in the Monday, June 9, 2003 School Board and Special Township Millage Renewal Election is at 5p.m. on Monday, May 12, 2003. Anyone turning 18 on or before election day is encouraged to register to vote at the Clerk's Office.
4. Clerk O'Connor presented Absent Voter Ballot request guidelines and noted that we are happy to send an Absent voter Ballot Application to anyone who requests one either in person, by phone, or by written note at any time. Ms. O'Connor also noted that the Clerk's Office is following changes to election procedures enacted by the Federal Help America Vote Act.

*Supervisor Jones noted that the Fire Operating Millage Renewal on the ballot is 100% of the fire department operating budget. Trustee Neal pointed out that both the Police and Fire Millage issues are renewals and not increases.*

*Clerk O'Connor mentioned having attended a public forum held recently in a neighboring downriver community regarding the importing of trash to our area landfills and informed residents that she has information packets available in the Clerk's Office regarding this issue.*

Treasurer's Report

1. Motion Kobiljak, second Neal, to approve the Purchase Order Summary dated April 28, 2003 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.
2. Treasurer Kobiljak reported that reminder letters had been sent out during February and March to those having delinquent Personal Property Taxes outstanding. Beginning in May, 2003 The Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer and Police Chief will begin making personal visits to those delinquent taxpayers who still have outstanding Personal Property Taxes due in order to collect approximately \$25,000.00 that remains unpaid. Contact the Treasurer's Office immediately to make payment arrangements.

Supervisor's Report

1. Supervisor Jones announced that work on the West River Road construction project is slated to begin early this summer and thanked County Commissioner Joseph Palamara who walked through the approval of the contract for this project.

Township Manager's Report

1. Manager Reaume announced Grosse Ile's participation in Household Hazardous Waste Day at Taylor Public Works, 25605 Northline at Beech Daly, on Saturday, May 10, 2003, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Clerk O'Connor encouraged residents to participate and reported there is no charge to Grosse Ile residents who participate.
2. Manager Reaume highlighted the availability of Wayne County's update and tips to prevent West Nile Virus and noted the Township's efforts at mosquito control and encouraged residents to follow a number of common sense measures to avoid contact with the virus.
3. Announcement of the upcoming retirement of the Building Official at the May 12, 2003, Township Board Meeting. The Building Official's position will become a part time contract position.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1a. **03-056** Motion Will, second Neal, to adopt the Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Resolution, with Cable Commission approval, to comply with the Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of-Way Oversight Act, Act No. 48 of PA of 2002, (Metro Act). Further, to earmark funds to be used for right of way permit reviews, and to create an escrow account for the funds.

Roll Call Vote- Yes: Jones, O'Connor, Kobiljak, Neal, Raithel, Will  
No: None - Absent: Wojewodzie

Motion Carried.

- 1b. **03-057** Motion Will, second O'Connor, to amend Chapter 258, Article II, of the Township Municipal Code by adopting an ordinance entitled The Metropolitan Extension Telecommunications Rights-of Way Oversight Act, (Metro Act), to regulate access to and ongoing use of public rights of way by telecommunication providers.

Roll Call Vote – Yes: O'Connor, Kobiljak, Neal, Raithel, Will, Jones  
No: None – Absent: Wojewodzie

Motion carried.

2. **03-058** Motion Raithel, second O'Connor, WHEREAS, water follows a natural cycle from Earth to air to Earth again; and WHEREAS, water is a basic and essential need of every living creature; and WHEREAS, our health, comfort, and standard of living depend upon an abundant supply of safe drinking water; and WHEREAS, the citizens of our State should have a safe and dependable supply of water, both now and in the future, and WHEREAS, we are calling upon each citizen to help protect our source waters from pollution, practicing water conservation, and getting involved in local water issues; NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that by virtue of the authority vested in us as the Township of Grosse Ile, Michigan Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim May 4-10, 2003 as Drinking Water Week. All aye. Motion carried.

- 3a. **03-059** Motion Will, second Neal, to direct the Township Engineer to solicit bids for the paving of the Centennial Farm entrance from Third Street to the Recreation Building. All aye. Motion carried.

*Clerk O'Connor noted, for the record, that the funds would be coming from the Township's*

*Road Improvement Fund.*

*Public Comment: Laura Maslar, 8165 Bellevue, noted that she was concerned about the paving of the road encouraging visitors to the Centennial Farm to “speed even more than they do now.” She was concerned for the safety of children and pedestrians. Board agreed and instructed the engineers to consider adding speed bumps, once inside the gate since the road is then a private road.*

- 3b. **03-060** Motion Will, second Raithel, to direct the Township Engineer to solicit bids for drainage improvements to mitigate the drainage problems adjacent to the north and east sides of the Recreation Building. All aye. Motion carried.

*Clerk O’Connor noted, for the record, that the funds for this project will come from the Drainage Maintenance Fund*

*Public Comment: Mark Bresnahan, 8147 Bellevue, asked if this would be a ditch.*

*Supervisor Jones responded that drainage would be improved with a closed pipe.*

- 3c. **03-061** Motion Will, second Raithel, to direct Township Engineer to solicit bids for the construction of an all weather turn-out area composed of sand at the Centennial Farm.

*Clerk O’Connor noted, for the record, that funds are to come from the Cell Tower (located at Playscape on Macomb Street) Revenues.*

*Public comment: Mark Bresnahan, 8147 Bellevue, asked “what is all weather turn-out? Is it for people?” Supervisor Jones responded that an all-weather turn-out is for horses, and would enable people to ride their horses outdoors in all kinds of weather.*

4. **03-062** Motion Will, second Kobiljak, to approve the following budget adjustment to the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Cable Budget for cable editing equipment from Prior Year Resources – General Fund Balance to 1010-849-986000 Equipment Purchase in the amount of \$9,613,00.

Budget Adjustment is as follows:

1010-000-00-699000 Prior Year Resources (\$9,613.00)

1010-849-00-986000 Equipment Purchase \$9,613.00

All aye. Motion carried.

5. **03-063** Motion Raithel, second Neal, to adopt the Resolution for use of State Trunkline Right of Way for Display of Islandfest Billboard dated April 24, 2003. All aye. Motion carried.

6. **03-064** Motion Neal; second Kobiljak, to appoint as Airport Commissioner Tom Burkhart for the term April 28, 2003 to March 31, 2005. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion Items: None

Extended Public Comment:

Woody Clark, 19620 Parke Lane - asked the Board when the water would be installed at the corner of Meridian and Parkway.

*Township Manager Reaume responded it would be installed sometime this spring.*

Extended Public Comment – continued:

*Grosse Ile Township Board of Trustees April 28, 2003*

Laura Maslar, 8165 Bellevue - stated that she would be surprised “if you’d get more than \$125,000 for both of the 2 lots discussed ‘for sale’ - a drop in the bucket for what you need.” She closed by saying that the Township needs to be open about intent of purchases “for investment.” She said “many of us feel fooled for voting to purchase Centennial Farm.” Ms. Maslar questioned whether the board would take prized family possessions that had been willed and entrusted to them and sell it for something brand new that looked good to them.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by unanimous consent.

---

Ute O’Connor, Township Clerk