

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

VOL. I

AUGUST, 1923

NUMBER 2

## SCHOOL ELECTION RESULTS

Chas. Paye and John Kerby, both trustees of last year's Board for Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, were returned to office at the annual school election held July 9. The voting on this day was light, about 330 votes being cast through-out the township.

The bond issues passed by considerable majority.

## PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL BONDS

The two bond issues approved by the voters at the July 9th election were for additions to the Hanstein and Cadieux Schools. The bonds for the Hanstein School amounting to \$115,000 make possible a much needed addition to the building. The committee on buildings appointed at the adjourned annual school meeting in July 1922, comprising W. Howie Muir, E. J. Hickey, C. H. Haberkorn, Jr., Hobart B. Hoyt and Joseph E. Beaufait, recommended to the Board in their report that the same architect who built the Hanstein school be engaged to draw up plans for the new addition.

The bonds for the amount of \$15,000 in the case of the Cadieux school are for the purchase of property and the construction of suitable playgrounds. The property is on Notre Dame avenue just to the rear and adjacent to the present school grounds. It is 200 feet on Notre Dame by 125 feet in depth.

Mention is made here of the definite purpose of the bond issue because several voters at the annual meeting said they were under the impression at the time of voting that the "addition" referred to in the bond proposal was an addition to the Cadieux school building. Nothing in the wording of the ballot suggested to the voter that the addition was one of land and not of building.

## ANNUAL SCHOOL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Rural School District I held at the Cadieux school July 9 was attended by 47 voters. Many of these were women who waited from 8 o'clock until the meeting commenced at 10 P. M. and remained until adjournment which was past midnight. The late hour of the meeting was due to the time consumed in tallying the votes of the election which ended at 8 o'clock.

The Secretary's report on the minutes was read and accepted, as was the report of the Treasurer. The annual budget, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, was considered and accepted. The President reappointed the same committees to assist the Board that were originated at the annual meeting last year, namely; Committee on School sites: D. M. Ferry, Jr., Dr. L. E. Maire, and H. P. Breitenbach; committee on buildings: W. Howie Muir, E. J. Hickey, C. H. Haberkorn, Jr. Hobart B. Hoyt and Joseph E. Beaufait; and on bonds, F. C. Shipman, Chas. B. Hull, and D. M. Ferry, Jr.

President Defer informed the meeting that T. E. Johnson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction had failed so far to give approval or disapproval of the high and intermediate school site selected by vote of the people on the Fisher road and the Boulevard. A motion was passed that Mr. Johnson be notified to inform the Board of his decision immediately or action would be taken against him.

A motion was carried that the Secretary of the Board be paid a salary of \$2500 a year and that he keep office hours as directed by the Board. The Treasurer's salary was set at \$1000 and that of the other Trustees at \$300. The meeting adjourned after midnight.

## BLACK MARSH DITCH

The chronic problem of the Black Marsh Ditch has returned once more. The Wayne County Drain Commission has petitioned the Probate Court for a committee appointment to investigate conditions preparatory to a bond issue on the Township for funds to dredge it to a considerable depth.

The "Creek" as it is commonly called, is some 30 to 40 feet wide and at present runs both north and south thru the center of the Township. It connects with Milk River at its north end and Fox Creek at the south end. Its depth varies according to the surface rainfall from nothing to several feet of rushing water. It is not spring fed at any point, and in the summer months its pools of isolated water scattered along the creek bed make it an objectionable mosquito breeder.

The Creek has very little beauty, excepting in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park where many artistic bridges give it minor scenic effect. In the other villages it is unsightly.

The natural watershed for this region is some 50 miles back from Lake St. Clair. The water accumulating in numerous ditches takes the form of a creek or river by the time it reaches the lake. These streams, such as the Clinton River, Connor's Creek, etc. run at right angles to the lake and take the shortest course. But in that area just to the rear of Grosse Pointe Township the natural watershed has been artificially changed. It has been shunted off by use of the Black Marsh Ditch to the north and south of the villages, thus preserving for the lake front property an unbroken shore line. All of the small streams have thus been drawn into the two outlets of Milk River and Fox Creek. It is very apparent that such an artificial stream as the Black Marsh

Ditch, running across the natural watershed instead of with it, would have no current of its own, because both ends of it are at the same level. Consequently the Ditch does not carry away the silt deposits that it receives and the result is that it must be dredged about every eight years.

There seems to be three alternative ways of handling this problem. They are to dredge, to replace the ditch with an underground sewer, or to wait until the ultimate development of the land it drains is determined.

Advocates of the dredging plan point out a possibility of getting the water to flow continuously from the lake at Milk River to the lake at Wind Mill Point.

The underground sewer would involve the greatest expense, but would provide a permanent solution. The Township of Grosse Pointe has no trunk sewer and the ditch bed, it is said, would make an ideal course for a large main sewer for the four villages. It runs approximately thru the center of the Township.

The policy of waiting has a very practical point to it. The rapid development along Gratiot Avenue and the Seven Mile Road may result in a trunk line sewer in this district. This would render the Black Marsh Ditch obsolete for such a development would do away with the surface drainage system. In this case the ditch could be filled up and the 30 acres or so of land it occupies could be reclaimed.

When one reviews the history of the many little streams that once flowed thru the environs of Detroit it seems very probable that eventually the Black Marsh Ditch and Fox Creek will go the way of the historical Bloody Run and other streams. However, such time may be too far distant.

It is an engineer's problem. However, it is a big and vital question and should be well considered and understood by the people. For this reason The Citizens Association plans to call a mass meeting of the voters at some suitable time this fall where the various phases of the matter can be presented and discussed.

## PAYMENT OF TAXES

The general village taxes for the fiscal year are due now. Each village permits a period of thirty days, after its Council has authorized the Treasurer to collect the tax, before a penalty is charged the payer. Usually the penalty is two per cent. per year. In the Village of Grosse Pointe Park the period without penalty is up August 11. In the Village of Grosse Pointe it is up August 15, and in the Farms and the Shores July 31. Sometimes a second extension of thirty days is granted.

## BERRY PROPERTY PURCHASE

At a recent election the people of Grosse Pointe Park voted on a proposition for the purchase of the property adjacent to the village hall now owned by John Berry. The price set upon the property at the time was \$50,000.

Since this election by the people the Council of the Village has decided to set aside their authorization of direct purchase and start condemnation proceedings. A condemnation jury, composed of citizens of the Village who are familiar with property values will be convened to decide upon the price to be paid. This is a step taken on the Council's own initiative to avoid responsibility for the price set at the time of the election.

According to law a jury can condemn only in a matter of public necessity, but the annexation of this property is said to be a necessity in that it would permit an exit drive for the fire truck on the Maryland avenue side and thus facilitate fire department service. It would also allow for the development of a small park surrounding the Hall and the State considers parks a public necessity. These and possibly other reasons would be brought before the jury to justify the condemnation proceedings.

The property has been a subject of much discussion in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. It has been before the people three times, and twice the vote was in favor of a purchase. Three years ago the people voted it down with the value set at \$36,000.

## ONE QUARTER MILLION IN SCHOOL BONDS

During the past three months the people of Grosse Pointe township have authorized issues of bonds to the aggregate amount of \$276,000. At a special election in the late spring a bond issue amounting to \$146,000 was approved for the purchase of a 6-acre school site on the north side of Kercheval avenue between Nottingham and Somerset Roads. At the annual election in July bonds were authorized for the Hanstein school addition of \$115,000 and the Cadieux school playgrounds addition of \$15,000.

The total of school bonds issued by the Township at the present time is \$474,000.

## SCHOOL BUDGET

The District School Board at the annual meeting presented a budget for \$200,000 to maintain and operate six schools in district 1 of Wayne County. The budget was approved. Following is a copy as printed for distribution by the Treasurer of the Board.

Budget for Rural Agricultural School District No. 1.

Principals and Teachers	\$ 76,000
Janitors	9,200
General Expense	33,000
Interest	38,900
Light and Power	2,200
Fuel	4,100
Telephone	700
Water	600
Transportation	4,500
Tuition	4,000
Janitor Supplies	1,800
Sinking Fund	25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

The Board explained at the time of submitting this budget that the figure of \$200,000 was exclusive of the primary fund which according to our school census will be slightly over \$20,000.

The budget for the fiscal year (1922-23) was also \$200,000 aside from the primary fund. The treasury shows a balance for last year's accounts which will be applied to the credit of this year's fund.

School districts may now build and furnish a home for the teachers employed in the district.

## OUR LOCAL OFFICERS

Following is the official list of Officers in the Township of Grosse Pointe as published and compiled by the Wayne County Clerk.

**Grosse Pointe Township Officers**  
 Supervisor Chas. A. Poupard  
 Clerk Chas. A. Paye  
 Treasurer Alfred J. Garska  
 Justice Arthur W. Vernier  
 Justice Frank Diegel  
 Justice John R. Kerby  
 Justice Robert Trombly

### Village Officers

**Grosse Pointe Park**  
 President George Defer  
 Clerk Waldo J. Berns  
 Treasurer Clyde C. Burgess  
 Assessor Edmond F. Poupard

**Grosse Pointe Village**  
 President Richard P. Connor  
 Clerk Norbert P. Neff  
 Treasurer Julius A. Stork  
 Assessor

Napoleon E. Desrocher

**Grosse Pointe Farms**  
 President Theodore Beaupre  
 Clerk John R. Kerby  
 Treasurer Walter A. Allard  
 Assessor Fred Champine, Jr.

**Grosse Pointe Shores**  
 President George Osius  
 Clerk William C. Roney  
 Treasurer A. H. Bennett  
 Assessor C. J. Chandler  
 Assessor H. B. Hoyt  
 Assessor Ford Ballantyne

School districts may issue bonds according to the Legislature of 1922 not to exceed 15% of the assessed valuation, and for a period not to exceed 30 years from date of issue.

The County Auditors have inaugurated a system whereby a citizen may go to the County Building and get information concerning the ownership of any property in Wayne County.

The census shows approximately 2000 children of school age in District No. 1 of Wayne County.

Joseph G. Standart has recently resigned from the Council of the Village of Grosse Pointe. Percival Dodge has been appointed his successor.

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION?

From time to time letters come to the Secretary of the Association asking for information about the organization and expressing a desire to join it. Because of the considerable interest shown the Directors have extended the time of charter membership and any citizen who wishes to file with the Secretary the application outlined in this issue will be duly enrolled as a charter member. When our application blanks were mailed our address list was incomplete; but, since then, the Association has compiled an accurate mailing list of all voters in the township and this issue should reach every one.

The objects of the Association briefly stated are "to seek to preserve the purity of elections, guard against the abuse of the elective franchise, to publish information regarding public affairs and to promote governmental efficiency within the Township of Grosse Pointe."

The Association holds its regular annual meeting about the middle of June of each year. Reports of officers and committees are submitted, motions and amendments entertained, and seven members elected to the Board of Directors at this meeting. At the first annual meeting held in the Cadeux School June 12, the following members were appointed to the Executive Board: H. P. Breitenbach, Wm. M. Mertz, Dr. L. E. Maire, J. L. Hickey, Oscar Webber, J. J. Crowley and C. A. Parcels.

The organization is designed to be non-partisan. No person on the Board can hold a public elective office within the Township. Membership is open to anyone twenty-one years of age or over.

When occasion demands there will be meetings of the membership at such times and places as may be determined by the Executive Board. A meeting of the membership shall be called at any time by the President upon petition of ten members of the League. This provision makes it possible for members of the Association to bring a subject up before a large percentage of the voters in a very short time.

Once each month a copy of "The Grosse Pointe Civic News" will be mailed to the home of each voter in the Township. The news contained in this paper will be of a civic character designed to give the voter information of value to him as a citizen. Our community like every other needs intelligent voters, but the voters need information that will aid them in forming intelligent opinions.

The "Civic News" will go to every voter in the Township whether or not a member of the Association. There will be no advertising in the paper and no subscription charge. The expense of printing and mailing will be met from the dues of the members. This is a good reason why each one should take it upon himself to join. The Association aims eventually to enroll the entire list of voters.

The life of the Association is already firmly assured, both from the standpoint of membership and finance, but the larger the membership the greater is the service the Association can render to the community.

The membership is divided into three classes, known as Active, Sustaining and Contributing. Active members pay dues of \$1.00 per year. The dues of the sustaining members are \$10.00 per year. The dues of the contributing members are in excess of \$10.00 per year.

The Secretary of the Association will be pleased to send out any special information about the organization. Address communications to Secretary Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, Grosse Pointe, Mich. Application blanks and dues should be sent either to the Secretary at the above address or to Joseph L. Hickey, Treasurer, 1275 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.

Mr. Bernard B. Vogt,  
696 Cadieux Rd.,  
Grosse Pte. Village, Mich.

1 c Paid  
Detroit, Michigan  
Permit No. 335

CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

APPLICATION BLANK

Date .....

I hereby apply for ..... membership in the  
CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP and agree to pay for  
such membership the sum of ..... dollars per year.

I subscribe to the purpose of the Association as expressed in the Constitution and  
By-Laws and agree to comply with all its rules and regulations.

“The object of this organization shall be to preserve the purity of  
elections, guard against the abuse of the elective franchise and to  
publish information regarding public affairs, and to promote  
governmental efficiency within the Township of Grosse Pointe.”

Active membership, \$1.00 per year, Sustaining membership, \$10.00 per year.

Contributing membership, \$ ..... (in excess of \$10.00) per year.

Signed .....

Home address .....

Mailing address .....

Phone .....