

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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COURT DECISION ON HIGH SCHOOL SITE

The probable settlement of a long standing controversy over the selection of a high school site in Grosse Pointe was reached last week, when Judge Dingeman set aside a temporary injunction restraining the Board of Education from condemning Lot 7 of the Jane L. Fisher farm.

On July 19, 1922, the electors of the school district passed a resolution, instructing the Board of Education to select a site for a high school. The Fisher site was recommended at this time and was definitely determined on by the Board, January 9, 1923. On January 25, 1923, this action was ratified by the electors.

The selection of the site was appealed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who, under the Rural Agricultural School Act, held the power to review the action of the local Board of Education. His decision setting aside the action of the Board of Education was given August 6, 1923. In place of the Fisher site the State Superintendent selected the Dwyer, Ryan and McGraw property.

An amendment to the Rural Agricultural School Act providing for a referendum upon decisions of the State Superintendent became effective August 29, 1923, twenty-three days after the State Superintendent of Public Instruction had given his decision. The electors of the district met August 29, 1923, and rescinded all action taken with respect to the selection of a high school site. The same action was taken by the Board of Education September 11, 1923.

On October 9, 1923, thirty-six electors petitioned the Board of Education to call a special meeting to consider a site for a high school. Such meeting held October 24, 1923, authorized the Board to select a site for a high school and intermedi-

ate school and recommended the site formerly selected. The Board of Education met November 20, 1923, and passed a resolution designating the same site that had been overruled by the State Superintendent.

A bill asking that the Board of Education be restrained from purchasing the Fisher site was filed May 31, 1924.

Following are excerpts from the Court's decision:

"The Superintendent of Public Instruction, acting upon the appeal under the section quoted (Act No. 97 of the Public Acts of 1921), set aside the action of the Board of Education in selecting the Fisher site, so-called, and designated as a proper site the land known as the Dwyer, Dyar, and McGraw property. Under the statute, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has the power, on appeal, to review the action of the local board and to confirm, set aside or amend its orders, but it is claimed that the authority to amend does not include the authority to select an entirely different site."

"I am of the opinion that the power to amend does not include the authority to designate an entirely different site. Insofar as the order of the Superintendent of Public Instruction attempts to do so, his order must be held void and of no effect."

"Plaintiffs contend that the action of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is final on the appeal and that in any event, that there has been no showing of any change in conditions since the order on appeal, and that any such change of conditions should be submitted to the Superintendent in an application for rehearing."

"There is no provision for rehearing. It does appear from the proof that while the Board of Education formerly had six sites under consideration, the choice has now

been narrowed to three. The number of registered voters has also increased."

"One of the objections of the Superintendent, that other sites are available at less money, is met by proof by defendants that the choice of sites has since been reduced from six to three. With this change in the situation, a different opinion might be rendered by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Fisher site may not now be exorbitant in price, under all circumstances."

"The decision of the Superintendent is undoubtedly final so far as the particular case before him is concerned. I do not think it should be said, however, that when the Superintendent has once rejected a site, that particular site is permanently barred. In a condemnation case, a verdict of no necessity would not forever foreclose that question. The power to select the site is reposed in the Board of Education. If the action of the Board of Education in selecting the site had been sustained on the appeal, the Board could later have rescinded its action, if in its discretion there were reasons for such rescission."

"All those interested concede the urgent necessity for a high school. With the exception of about ten, including the plaintiff in this case, those directly affected are united on the site that has been selected by the Board of Education."

"It is my conclusion that the action of the Board of Education in again selecting the site in question under the circumstances (there being no claim or proof of bad faith), is valid, and not barred by the previous decision of the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

A statement on the work of the Health District has been prepared by Dr. Warren and will appear in the January issue of the "Civic News."

Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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Printed once a month as the official publication of the Citizens Association of Grosse Pointe Township, under the authority of the following board of directors:

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A CORRECTION

The November issue of the Civic News carried a statement that plans were under way for the widening of Grosse Pointe Blvd. The paragraph was ambiguously worded and a few residents believed it referred to the widening of the Boulevard right of way by condemning additional land.

The plan referred to is for the widening of Grosse Pointe Boulevard pavement by paving a fifteen foot strip on the north side of the car tracks. The present right of way is sufficient to take care of this improvement.

FALL TAXES

Fall taxes for State, County, and Township purposes are now due.

The township treasurer has arranged the following schedule for the payment of taxes at the village municipal halls:

- December 15th to 31st, inclusive, Grosse Pointe Park.
January 5th, Grosse Pointe Shores.
January 6th, Grosse Pointe Farms.
January 7th, Grosse Pointe Township Hall.
January 8th to 10th, inclusive, Grosse Pointe Park.

From January 10th to March 10th, with the exception of Fridays, the township treasurer will receive taxes at the municipal hall, Grosse Pointe Park. On Fridays during this period, taxes can be paid at the County Building, Detroit.

A fee of one percent of the tax bill is added as a collection charge by the township treasurer. After January 10th, a penalty of three percent will be added.

The total amount of the tax to be collected during this period is \$632,000.

THE GROSSE POINTE HEALTH DISTRICT
Health District 1-A of Wayne County

Editor's Note. This is the second of a series of reports prepared by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research dealing with the political units within Grosse Pointe Township.

Description

This district was established October, 1917, in accordance with Public Act No. 130, approved by the State Legislature April 25, 1917. As indicated by the title, the Act authorizes the formation of health districts composed of contiguous townships and villages and provides for appointing a health board and defines its powers and duties. The health district is co-terminous with the four Grosse Pointe villages and embraces over five square miles, serving an estimated population of 9,750 (1924). In addition to the general health work of the district, the health work of the entire school district is carried on. Work in the schools, therefore, covers the entire township and prior to November, 1924, included portions of Gratiot township.

Organization

The Board of Health consists of four members, one member appointed by each village council for two years, and serving without compensation. The board at present is composed as follows:

- Mr. F. W. Hubbard, Pres., Grosse Pointe Village.
Dr. A. J. Newmann, Sec., Grosse Pointe Park.
Dr. F. C. Kidner, Treas., Grosse Pointe Farms.
Mr. J. H. French, Grosse Pointe Shores.

Dr. B. H. Warren is the health officer. Under his direction is a staff of two full-time nurses, a dentist on part time schedule, an infant specialist, and a tuberculosis specialist. The latter's services are furnished by the Tuberculosis Society of Wayne County.

Activities

- The work in general covers:
1. Inspection, examination, and corrective measures for the children in public schools.
2. Dental, baby, tuberculosis and tonsil clinic.
3. Control of communicable disease.
4. Maternity instruction and infant welfare.
5. Sanitation and water testing.

Each of these activities is treated more fully later in this report.

The Budget

The budget and financial program for the ensuing year is submitted by the Board of Health to the village boards of trustees at the October meetings of the trustees. After the budget has been approved by each of the village councils, the amount to be raised is levied as the "health tax" against property values within the villages as appearing on the township assessment rolls. Only property within the villages of the health district proper is so taxed. The tax is collected in December along with township and county taxes and is held in "the general fund of Health District 1-A."

The fiscal year is the same as the calendar year. The total amounts allowed in the budget and the per capita figures for each year since the district was organized, are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Year, Total Budget, Per Capita Share. Rows for years 1918 to 1925.

The budgets by items as allowed for 1923, 1924 and 1925 follow:

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1923, 1924, 1925. Rows for Salaries, Office, Laboratory, Printing and Stationery, Contingent, Transportation, School dental supplies, Insurance, Miscellaneous, and Total.

The item under the head of "contingent" is placed in the budget to take care of any extraordinary expense that might be occasioned through the outbreak of an epidemic and accounts for a balance that has existed at the close of the fiscal year.

In addition to the amounts appearing in the budget for 1925, the health district will receive twelve hundred dollars from the township

treasury. This amount is to cover general health supervision and sanitary inspection carried on in the township outside of the health district's boundaries. In the past this work has been done without remuneration.

Disbursements are made under warrant signed by the Secretary and Treasurer and countersigned by the President. An annual audit of funds is made by the Union Trust Company and a financial statement published.

1. School Children

The staff of the health district serves the public and parochial schools and the work appears excellent both in plan and execution.

All school children are given a general examination twice a year, including dental and throat examinations, and corrective measures are suggested. In cases where treatment is needed and the expense of treatment by a private physician cannot be borne by the individual, such expense is paid from the township poor fund. Medical treatment is not given by the health district staff.

A monthly weight record of school children is kept as an index of their health condition. Underweight children are given a thorough examination for tuberculosis symptoms. Such examinations have disclosed tuberculosis cases at a time when they could be treated to best advantage.

All two day public school absences are reported to the health officer and a public health nurse calls at the home to investigate. This is effective in insuring early treatment of diseases and preventing contagion.

By far the greatest work of the health district staff is with children of school and pre-school age. The health officer estimates that ninety per cent of their work is with these groups. The policy of using every means of detecting disease in its earliest stages and of education in correct health habits is recognized and carried on in the school work.

Work in the schools is, of course, necessary for the welfare and protection of the children living in the health district but many of the school children served live outside the health district. While this work must be continued it is evident that either the costs should be appor-

tioned or that the boundaries of the Health District should be extended to include all of the school district. While it is claimed that these costs are proportioned by having the health officer of the district, also the health officer of the township and by the township poor commissioner paying for special medical services given to township school children unable to bear the expense, this is only a partial equalization because the villages of the health district pay also the preponderant part of the township taxes.

2. Health Clinics, Number Held and Attendance, 1923

	Jan. 1, to Nov. 1, 1924	
	1923	1, 1924
Dental	84	523
Infant welfare	45	421
Tuberculosis	15	150
Tonsil	5	19
Total	149	1,113
	142	1,353

The work in these clinics, except the dental, is largely diagnostic.

3. Communicable Diseases

The health officer enforces the requirements of the state law relative to communicable diseases. Resident doctors co-operate by reporting cases and the local police co-operate in enforcing quarantine provisions. Vaccination and fumigation are carried out under the health officer's direction.

4. Maternity Instruction and Infant Welfare

This work consists of pre-natal instruction and care of the mother and infant after confinement. The Cottage Hospital under the direction of The Neighborhood Club, serves as an emergency hospital for the district. Its operating deficit is cared for by the Community Union. The capacity now is twenty beds and an enlargement is planned.

5. Sanitation, Water Testing, etc.

The abatement of nuisances is covered by ordinance in the sanitary code of the different villages and is enforced through the local police. Sewer connections are required.

The water for Grosse Pointe Park is supplied by Detroit. The other villages are supplied from the pumping station in Grosse Pointe Farms. Water from this latter source is analyzed daily and the necessary amount of chlorine to be added to make the water safe for any use is specified. The health officer

has recommended that a filtration plant should be installed but no definite plans have been made. The water requires rather heavy chlorination to make it safe. As a temporary precaution the health officer has recommended that an auxiliary chlorination outfit be bought to use in case of a breakdown of the unit now in service.

Milk is supplied by the creameries serving Detroit and testing and inspection are left to the Detroit authorities. According to the statement of the health officer, all food purveyors, including restaurants, are inspected regularly to enforce compliance with the pure food laws.

Health Hazards

There are no piggeries, dumps, or stables which constitute a nuisance. Mosquito and insect control is not attempted, as they are not deemed of importance as a health menace. Black Marsh Ditch, the health officer says, is not a positive health menace and no contagion has ever been traced directly to it. However, it is commonly believed in the community that typhoid fever cases follow dredging operations in the ditch. Five such cases are said to have occurred in 1920.

The lake front is posted near the numerous sewer outlets as unsafe for bathing, and the health officer believes that the whole lake front within one hundred feet of the shore is unsafe. While there has been practically no typhoid in the last three years, fever and swollen glands are said to occur at low water periods.

Records

A card index case record file is kept and the required reports of contagious disease are made to the state health board. In general records are available for all of the work performed by the District. However, it is believed that records may be made more available by being assembled in chart form. Such chart records would show the incidence of contagious disease by season, location, and age for each year and establish norms for bases of comparison.

The following tables, compiled for this report, summarize the incidence of disease statistics.

Table I indicates the seasonal change for communicable disease from November 1, 1923, to October 31, 1924.

RECORD OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES GROSSE POINTE HEALTH DISTRICT 1-A
From November 1, 1923, to October 31, 1924

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Measles	1	..	11	19	34	60	17	11	..	..	..	..	153
Scarlet Fever	1	3	1	6	5	2	14	17	3	..	..	2	54
Small Pox .....	..	4	..	9	..	..	5	3	..	..	..	..	21
Chicken Pox	4	6	8	9	8	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	45
Whooping Cough ..	21	13	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	40
Diphtheria	1	1	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	1	3	3	14
Typhoid Fever .....	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	1	..	2	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Scabies .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	5
Mumps .....	..	..	..	..	4	4	..	8	1	..	..	..	17
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Septic Meningitis..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total.....	29	28	28	45	56	79	43	41	4	2	3	5	363

Table II compares the case rate, from 1919 to 1923 inclusive. The per thousand population, for communicable diseases in Grosse Pointe Township and the City of Detroit population figures used in calculating the Grosse Pointe rates are based upon the school census.

TABLE II
Case Rates for Communicable Disease per 1,000 Population, Grosse Pointe Township and City of Detroit

Cause	1919		1920		1921		1922		1923						
	G. P. Twp. No.	Rate	Det. No.	Rate	G. P. Twp. No.	Rate	Det. No.	Rate	G. P. Twp. No.	Rate	Det. No.	Rate			
Small Pox.....	0	0	.27	0	0	1.11	5	.75	.90	0	0	.09	4	.47	.24
Chicken Pox.....	15	2.76	6.81	10	1.65	8.43	13	1.96	2.47	21	2.83	1.87	27	3.19	2.10
Diphtheria.....	20	3.69	3.88	19	3.13	4.38	9	1.37	4.97	22	2.97	2.92	14	1.65	2.31
Scarlet Fever.....	6	1.10	2.98	20	3.80	3.58	44	6.66	3.32	16	2.16	3.10	35	4.14	3.06
Tuberculosis.....	7	1.29	2.35	1	.16	2.16	12	1.81	2.39	10	1.35	2.60	19	2.24	2.27
Typhoid Fever.....	0	0	.28	5	.82	.20	3	.45	.42	0	0	.21	0	0	.13
Measles.....	16	2.95	2.48	32	5.28	3.05	13	1.96	1.57	79	10.67	6.80	23	2.72	1.37
Whooping Cough....	1	.18	.97	0	0	2.74	10	1.51	2.86	28	3.78	2.60	55	6.50	2.61
Mumps.....	1	.18	1.10	0	0	2.45	3	.45	1.52	0	0	.32	23	2.72	.72
Total.....	.66	12.16	20.92	87	14.34	28.10	112	16.92	20.42	176	23.76	20.51	200	23.63	18.71

It should be borne in mind that the increase in the Grosse Pointe case rate is largely or wholly due to more complete reporting by physicians and probably does not indicate an actual increase of disease.

Conclusion

The work of the Health District is being carried out along the lines

of modern public health practice, both in the control and prevention of contagion and in the education in good health habits. Special emphasis is given to the work with school and pre-school children, as is indicated by the health officer's estimates that ninety percent of the work is with these groups.

The following suggestions are deemed pertinent:

1. The boundaries of the health district should be extended to include the entire township. If this be effected the health board might well be increased to five members, the fifth member to be selected at large from the township. The health tax should be spread on property of the entire township rather than solely on the four villages so that the costs of the health service would be properly apportioned.

2. That the budget item "contingent" be discontinued and a separate contingent fund be set up to be drawn on only in cases of an epidemic or other emergency. Amounts drawn from the fund would be cared for by an item in the next year's budget.

3. That the content of Black Marsh Ditch be tested to determine whether or not it constitutes a health menace.

4. That consolidated records in chart form be kept from year to year as a guide to the health condition of the district.

5. That in connection with the annual financial audit the health district publish an annual statement of work performed, so as to give the public a detailed account of the services rendered.

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GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

"Effective popular government cannot result unless the public intelligently criticises and helps officials change undesirable conditions."

—The Citizen and the Government.

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