

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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## ADJOURNED MEETING OF SCHOOL ELECTORS

The adjourned annual meeting of the School Electors of Rural Agricultural School District No. 1, Grosse Pointe Township, held at the Cadieux School Wednesday evening, July 15th, was attended by approximately 60 residents of the district. In addition to the routine business of reading the minutes of the annual and adjourned meeting of 1923, considerable discussion centering around the annual audit of the district and the budget for the ensuing year made this a meeting of more than usual interest and importance.

A consolidated statement of the audit prepared by Ernst and Ernst was distributed at the meeting. The various items were then reviewed by the Treasurer, several of them being discussed at length by the electors. Questions were raised regarding the transfer of \$1,000 from the Building Fund to the General Fund and of the payment of fees for the appraisal of school sites from the General Fund rather than from money raised by bond issue for the purpose of acquiring the site.

However, no recommendation to change these items were offered and the report was accepted as read.

Because of lack of space, a full discussion of the audit is not possible but a summary statement of receipts and disbursements is given elsewhere in this issue.

The budget for the coming year totaling \$430,008.90 was presented and explained by the Superintendent. Of this amount, \$96,340.74 is requested as a working balance which was explained as necessary due to the fact that approximately only 75% of the voted tax is collected during the fiscal period. Therefore, an additional amount to make the total collected during the year equal to the amount to be spent was requested.

Discussion of the requests with respect to teachers' salaries, the per pupil costs of the various activities and the requirements set aside for

## SCHOOLS OPEN SEPT. 9th

Grosse Pointe public schools will start the fall term Wednesday morning, September 9th, at which time all pupils are expected to report to their proper grades.

In as much as this is the only means used in notifying pupils of the opening of school, special notice should be taken of the date.

sinking fund and interest followed. Several persons spoke in favor of raising teachers' salaries to a par with those of Detroit and Highland Park and indicated their interest in maintaining the best teaching staff possible.

The total requests submitted by the Board were passed without alteration. A reprint of the budget with brief comments will be published in the next issue of the Civic News.

In the matter of salaries for School Trustees the meeting set the amount at one hundred dollars per year excepting in the case of the Treasurer who was voted one thousand dollars a year. This is the same schedule that has prevailed during the past year. A motion to fix the salary of the Secretary at twenty-five hundred dollars a year and to have him carry out the work now performed as business manager was introduced and precipitated considerable discussion as to the legality of a school board member serving as business manager. It was pointed out that the business manager had been appointed by the board and therefore the question of legality should be settled by the school board and not the electors. The electors therefore refused to sanction the motion, but disposed of it by adjourning.

Through traffic along Lake Shore Road is being detoured at Vernier Road due to the construction of a new bridge over Milk River and the re-locating of Lake Shore Drive at the upper end of Grosse Pointe Shores.

## IMPROVEMENT BONDS AUTHORIZED

All questions relative to the proposed bond issues were approved at the special election in Grosse Pointe Park July 13th.

The total amount involved in the several issues totaled half a million dollars, but in spite of the large amount, a very small vote was cast. All issues were approved by approximately a 10 to 1 majority. One hundred and twenty-two votes were cast, one of this number being void. The amount and purpose of each issue follows:

For the widening and improving of Mack Avenue, \$350,000. This figure is to cover the cost of condemnation and the village's share of pavement cost.

For the street lighting improvements on Kercheval Avenue, Mack Avenue, Cadieux, Trombly and Harcourt Roads, \$90,000. Changes in street lighting equipment on Jefferson Avenue also is planned to conform to the lighting equipment on other similar traffic streets.

For resurfacing of Edgemont, Yorkshire, and Bishop Road as far as St. Paul Avenue, \$40,000 was voted.

To extend the police and fire signal system, \$20,000 was approved.

Sale of the bonds voted was made July 16th to the Union Trust Company and Benjamin Dansard and Company. The joint bid of these firms offered a premium of \$6,120.00 for the combined issues bearing 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ % interest.

The improvement of Mack Avenue and certain portions of the lighting equipment were contracted for and installed prior to authorizing bonds. Work on the extension of police and fire signal system was awarded to F. L. Labadie on August 4th for \$10,759.70. Seven police alarm and four fire alarm stations will be added to the present system.

Direct telephone connections over private wires have been installed between the Police Departments of Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Village, Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit Police Headquarters.

## Grosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

P. O. Address, 316 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

H. P. Breitenbach, Consulting Editor.  
H. G. Fishack, Editor.

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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Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.

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### THE BUSINESS MANAGERSHIP

A review of the Citizens' Association action in questioning the legal right of a member of the School Board to serve the district in an additional salaried position and the events that have centered around submitting the question is set down here in order that persons in the community may be familiar with the situation.

The question of legality was raised by a member of the Citizens' Association, who requested the directors to investigate the matter. Accordingly, the following letter was addressed to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

June 12, 1925.

Mr. Thos. E. Johnson,  
Supt. of Public Instruction,  
Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

A member of our Association has asked me the following question, which I beg leave to submit to you:

Is it allowable for a member of a school board, in a district organized under the rural agricultural school act, to hold the salaried position to which he is appointed by the school board, of business manager for the board?

Your opinion on this question will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

H. P. Breitenbach

President

Citizens' Association of  
Grosse Pointe Township.

The following was received as a reply to the inquiry:

Lansing, June 13, 1925.

Mr. Harry P. Breitenbach,  
707 Kresge Building,  
Detroit, Michigan.

My dear Mr. Breitenbach:

A member of a board in a rural agricultural school district cannot serve as business manager and receive a salary. The law prohibits the school officers working for the district and receiving pay or being interested directly or indirectly in any contract of the district.

Very truly yours,

Signed: W. L. Coffey.

This correspondence was transmitted to the School Board for such action as it might deem proper, and a written opinion on the subject was requested by the School Board of its attorney. The opinion in a vague and indefinite manner, hinted that the statute which states that it shall be illegal for any member of the board to perform any labor except as provided in the act, might refer only to manual labor. No definite conclusion as to the present situation was given, but the suggestion that the electors at the annual meeting could vote the business manager a salary as secretary of the board was made.

This suggestion was put in the form of a motion at the adjourned meeting of the electors July 15th. The discussion on the motion developed the fact that the business manager for the present fiscal year had already been employed by the School Board and therefore the legality of the act was a matter to be decided by the School Board rather than by the electors. The electors refused to sanction the plan but dismissed the whole matter by approving a motion to adjourn sine die.

The opinion prepared by the school attorney was not read and since the attorney was not present at the meeting the electors did not have the advantage of hearing the district's legal advisor in the matter.

The Citizens' Association believes in and advocates a separate business department for Grosse Pointe Schools, to be distinct from the elected personnel of the School Board and not subject to the change in elected officials. Such a department, in charge of accounting, purchasing, and other administrative details not under the direction of the Superintendent, was suggested in the study of the administrative organization and management of the district prepared by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research in June, 1924.

To carry out successfully the operation of a business department the person in charge should be under direction of the School Board and not merely one of its members. This policy is directly in line with present tendencies in government to keep separate the legislative or policy-forming body and the administrative heads of departments.

The business transacted by the School District each year is rapidly increasing. It has developed from a few routine affairs that were formerly taken care of by the Secretary of the School Board and the Superintendent into a department requiring the services of the Business Manager and an assistant. During the next few years far greater growth may naturally be expected.

To place the business affairs of the district in charge of any person except a business manager devoting full time to the office would be detrimental to the best interests of the schools and in opposition to the accepted standards of modern government.

### STORM DAMAGES GROSSE POINTE PAVEMENTS

Grosse Pointe in common with Detroit and surrounding communities suffered considerable damage as the result of the heavy rain storm July 31st.

Jefferson Avenue in Grosse Pointe Village between Roosevelt Place and University Place was under several feet of water during the afternoon and evening. The woodblock pavement in this section buckled and was floated away. Damage to other sections of Jefferson Avenue in the village also resulted.

Trustees of the Village held a special meeting Saturday, August 1st, to consider plans for remedying the damage done. Temporary relaying of a section of the street was accomplished Saturday but plans for repaving Jefferson Avenue through the entire Village are being considered.

Another and more indirect result of the storm affects Grosse Pointe Park.

The Detroit council at its meeting August 4th adopted a resolution instructing the Commissioner of Public Works to investigate the possibility of cutting off the Village of Grosse Pointe Park from the Detroit sewer system. Basements and streets along East Jefferson were badly flooded during the recent rain storm, and it was with the view of preventing this condition that the resolution was passed.

Grosse Pointe Park has a contract with the City of Detroit which permits the Village to dispose of sewage through the Detroit system. According to Village officials, the contract which is not limited to any period, provides for an annual charge of \$1,500 a year for the privilege.

### GROSSE POINTE SHORES BUDGET

In an article on the budgets of the Grosse Pointe villages appearing in the July issue of the "Civic News," a statement was made that "no formal estimate or budget of proposed expenditures is compiled by Grosse Pointe Shores" and that funds for operating the village were raised in a lump sum based upon expenditures of the past year.

Officials of the village have called attention to the fact that a tentative budget is prepared by the president who submits it to the board of assessors for review. This board, composed of three members of the council, has the power to alter the requests as it sees fit. The budget is then approved by the village council who passes a resolution fixing the tax.

A copy of the budget was not on file at the village hall at the time the article was written but it has since been learned that any information regarding the figures may be obtained from the president or the board of assessors.

### VILLAGE TAX COLLECTIONS

The treasurers of the Grosse Pointe villages were busy during the month of July receiving village taxes. All the officers report that the percentage of the levy collected during the first month exceeded that of the same period in previous years.

The amounts collected up to August 1st and the total tax levy follows: Grosse Pointe Park collected approximately \$135,000, of \$268,500 levied; Grosse Pointe Village, \$58,099.53 of \$208,499.02; Grosse Pointe Farms approximately \$172,000 of \$242,435.87 levied; Grosse Pointe Shores, \$49,442 of \$55,412.40.

Penalties for late payment are made in the several villages according to the following schedule: Grosse Pointe Park, two percent added to payments after Sept. 7th; Grosse Pointe Village, two percent added after Aug. 15th; Grosse Pointe Farms, one percent after Aug. 15th, two percent after Sept. 1st, three percent after Oct. 1st; Grosse Pointe Shores, three percent added after Aug. 1st.

All village treasurers are anxious to have the tax rolls fully collected before they are delivered to the county treasurer about Oct 15th.

### GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE Smoke Ordinance

The Village of Grosse Pointe ordains in regard to the emission of dense smoke, as follows:

1. The emission of dense black or gray smoke from any smokestack or chimney used in connection with any boiler, furnace or fireplace in any locomotive, boat, house, building or other structure, for any purpose whatsoever, within the corporate limits of the Village of Grosse Pointe, shall be a public nuisance, per se.

2. No person, firm or corporation owning, operating, using or occupying any locomotive, boat, house, building or other structure within the corporate limits of the Village of Grosse Pointe shall cause or permit the emission of dense black or gray smoke from any smokestack or chimney used in connection with any boiler, furnace or fireplace in any such locomotive, boat, house, building or other structure.

3. Upon the complaint of any person that a public nuisance has been created or is being maintained as herein prohibited, the Village Council shall have power to abate such nuisance by injunction proceedings or other appropriate remedy and to prosecute the violator as herein defined.

4. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall, on conviction, be liable for each offense to a fine of not to exceed one hundred (\$100.00) dollars, and any individual, in default of payment thereof, may be imprisoned in the Wayne County jail until such fine is paid for a period of not to exceed ninety days.

### Traffic Ordinance

The Village of Grosse Pointe ordains in regard to the regulation of the use of the streets and public places by vehicles as follows:

1. This ordinance shall be considered as regulations of vehicles in addition to the ordinances of October 15, 1923, June 23, 1924, and all other ordinances of the Village on the same general subject matter.

2. No vehicle shall stop or remain standing:

- Opposite or along side of any other vehicle which may be parked or standing along the curb;
- So that either right wheel is more than six inches from the curb;
- Within fifteen feet in any direction from any fire hydrant or fire cistern;
- Within seventy-five feet in either direction along the curb from any building housing fire apparatus;
- In front of any driveway, crosswalk or street intersection;
- In any district which may be restricted by the Police Department by noticeable signs or by police officers.

3. The owner or driver (or both) of any vehicle violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not to exceed One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars, and for failure to pay such fine as may be imposed, may be imprisoned in the Wayne County jail for not to exceed ninety days.

### VILLAGE WATER SUPPLY

Residents of Grosse Pointe Village are now receiving water from the Detroit Pumping Station thru a connection made with the City mains on July 18th. Changing the source of supply from the Grosse Pointe Farms pumping station to that of Detroit has been considered for some time and was definitely planned for several months ago when extensive additions to the village mains were made.

Village officials state that in addition to receiving filtered water, an average pressure of forty pounds is being maintained throughout the Village. This is double the former pressure.

Connection with the Detroit supply is at Cadieux Road and Mack Avenue where a new twelve inch main carries the water to the distributing mains.

This new main and other additions complete the distributing system for the present area of the Village and by a system of cross connections assure all residents of a uniform and constant water supply.

It is expected that a second or emergency connection with the Detroit supply will be made by tapping the Grosse Pointe Park system at either Jefferson Avenue and Cadieux Road or at Kercheval Avenue and Cadieux Road. Grosse Pointe Village Council has petitioned for the privilege of connecting with Grosse Pointe Park on Jefferson Avenue, but due to the small main on the street and the heavy load already carried by it, has not been granted permission to do so to date.

Although an increase from 70 cents to 80 cents per thousand gallons has been made in the cost of water to the village, no charge has been made in the rate to the consumer, which is \$1.00 per thousand gallons. However, the discount of 10 percent for the prompt payment of bills has been discontinued and hereafter a penalty of 10 percent will be added to all bills not paid within thirty days.

It is expected that better pressure in Grosse Pointe Farms and Grosse Pointe Shores will result since the pumping station supplying them is carrying a lighter load.

**SCHOOL BOARD AUDIT**

Following is a brief review of the audit as presented by the Treasurer of the School District at the annual meeting. Space does not permit printing all the items. Those who desire further information may secure a copy of the audit at the School Board office.

**Summary of Audit of Rural Agricultural School District No. 1 for the fiscal year ending July 13, 1925.**

Cash on hand July 12, 1924:	
General Fund .....	\$112,847.00
Library Fund .....	5,263.95
Bldg. and Site Fund .....	201,167.89
Sinking Fund .....	34,659.56
<b>Total on hand 7-12-24.....</b>	<b>\$353,938.40</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	
General Fund .....	\$229,263.71
Library Fund .....	1,480.14
Bldg. and Site Fund .....	336,000.00
Sinking Fund .....	58,101.33
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$624,845.18</b>
<b>Total to be Accounted for....</b>	<b>\$978,783.58</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
General Fund .....	\$295,790.87
Library Fund .....	1,835.11
Bldg. and Site Fund .....	536,038.90
Sinking Fund .....	
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>\$833,664.88</b>
Cash on hand 7-13-25.....	\$145,118.70
The principal items of income for the year were: 1924 taxes, \$137,324.54; 1923 taxes, \$53,091.00; Primary School money, \$30,240.00; sale of bonds, \$336,000; interest on bank accounts, \$2,991.25; rents, \$2,681.41; and State Library money, \$1,480.14.	
Disbursements for the several funds follow:	
<b>Disbursements General Fund</b>	
Administration .....	\$ 11,636.66
Instruction .....	112,164.04

Operation of School Plans....	24,272.69
Maintenance of Plants.....	2,599.21
Fixed Charges .....	1,326.10
Interest on Bonds .....	43,997.50
Transfer to Sinking Fund....	48,533.29
Auxiliary Agencies .....	7,244.63
Appraisal Fees—Bldg. Sites...	1,478.00
Temp. Bldg.—Cadieux School.	5,446.14
Grounds—Cadieux School ....	3,446.49
New Equipment .....	33,225.40
Upkeep of Property not used for School Purposes .....	400.72
	<b>\$295,790.87</b>

<b>Disbursements Bldg. and Site Fund</b>	
Elementary School Site No. 2:	
Property Cost .....	\$172,941.06
Interest on Awards.....	2,640.49
Jury .....	\$500.00
Less: Refunded by .....	431.00
County .....	69.00
Attorney Fees .....	4,700.05
Advertising & Stationery...	93.57
	<b>\$180,806.17</b>

<b>Elementary School Dist. No. 3:</b>	
Property Cost .....	\$145,126.00
Interest on Awards.....	2,878.47
Attorney Fees .....	3,604.00
Advertising & Stationery...	93.42
	<b>\$151,701.89</b>

<b>High School Site:</b>	
Jury .....	\$500.00
Less: Refunded by .....	\$ 487.50
County .....	\$12.50
Attorney Fees .....	2,250.00
Advertising .....	46.65
	<b>\$161,954.83</b>

Building—Defer School .....	\$161,954.83
Building—Hanstein School ...	34,661.00
Transfer to General Fund—	
Money raised for Cadieux	
School Grounds .....	1,000.00
Transfer to Sinking Fund—	
Unexpended Balance—Defer	
School Site Monies.....	3,130.86
	<b>\$536,038.90</b>

<b>Total Bldg. &amp; Site Fund.....</b>	
<b>Disbursements Library Fund</b>	
Library Books .....	\$ 1,835.11
Total Library Fund.....	\$ 1,835.11
Total Disbursements .....	\$833,664.88

**BOULEVARD WIDENING COMPLETED**

Widening of Grosse Pointe Boulevard from Fisher Road to Weir Lane was completed recently and its entire length opened to traffic on August 1st.

The improvement, consisting of fifteen feet of pavement along the westerly side of the Boulevard, makes it sufficiently wide to take care of traffic for a number of years.

**ANNEXATIONS**

Petition for the annexation of another section of Grosse Pointe Township to Detroit has been filed with the Detroit Election Commission, and the question will be balloted on at the fall election.

The territory seeking to become a part of the City is north of Mack Avenue between Cadieux Road and the Seven Mile Road.

Annexations have been approved on almost every occasion, so that it may be expected that this territory will be admitted. Should the question carry, Hanstein School will become a part of the Detroit School system.

**FIREARMS MUST BE REGISTERED**

Attention of Grosse Pointe residents is called to the provision of a law passed by the last legislature which provides that all firearms under thirty inches in length must be registered with the village police. The burden of complying with this law which becomes effective this month rests with the individual owning such firearms. The matter should be attended to as quickly as possible by those affected.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

**CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

1 1/2c Paid  
Detroit, Michigan  
Permit No. 335

The success or failure of free government depends upon the success or failure of our public schools.

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