

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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Number 1

SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTS BRADLEY AND PARCELLS; BOND ISSUES APPROVED

The annual school election on Monday, June 14th, resulted in the election of P. H. Bradley and Charles A. Parcels as trustees and the approval of two bond issues totaling \$1,675,000 for construction of the high school and the first unit of the Windmill Pointe elementary school. Total ballots cast for candidates this year were 855, compared with 939 ballots a year ago. Ballots cast on the question of voting bonds totaled 754. In the balloting for school trustees P. H. Bradley led the two other candidates by a large margin, receiving 621 votes, as compared with 488 votes cast for Charles A. Parcels and 415 votes for John R. Kerby.

P. H. Bradley led the ticket in precinct 2 (Grosse Pointe Park), and precinct 4 (Grosse Pointe Shores), and was within a few votes of leading the ticket in the other precincts.

Charles A. Parcels, the other successful candidate led in Grosse Pointe Village, was second in Grosse Pointe Shores and third in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The defeated candidate, John R. Kerby, narrowly led the field in Grosse Pointe Farms, where he has served as village clerk for a number of years, but was third in the other precincts.

Interest of the voters in a single candidate is shown by the fact that more than 20%, or one in five, of the persons voting marked their ballots for only one candidate.

On the question to issue \$1,400,000 for the construction and equipping of the high school and development of the athletic field 609 persons favored the issue, while 145 opposed it. Authority to issue \$275,000 bonds for construction of the Windmill Pointe Elementary unit was given by a vote of 590 to 145.

At the meeting of the school board held Thursday, June 17th, the

**ADJOURNED ANNUAL
MEETING OF SCHOOL
ELECTORS
MONDAY, JULY 26th
at 8:00 P. M.
Cadieux School
399 St. Claire Ave.**

new elected trustees were accepted by the board and the retiring members, John Kerby and Charles A. Paye, relinquished their offices. Charles A. Paye, who two years ago, while serving as a member of the board of trustees, also served as business manager, presented a petition to the board asking that he now be appointed to the office. After serving in the capacity of business manager for a year Mr. Paye resigned when the attorney general ruled that elected school officials could not receive additional compensation from the district. The school board took no action on the petition.

The newly organized board elected E. J. Hickey president, and Charles A. Parcels secretary. William G. Fitzpatrick, a resident of Grosse Pointe Shores was recently appointed attorney to succeed Howard H. Colby.

No business was transacted at the annual meeting directly following the election except to set the date of the adjourned annual meeting for Monday, July 26th. Adjournment to July 26th is necessary to allow an audit of the school board accounts after closing of their fiscal year, July 12th, and to give sufficient time for the preparation of the next year's budget. The adjourned meeting on Monday, July 26th, is of utmost importance and should be attended by all qualified electors interested in the public school system. The meeting will be called at 8:00 p. m.

Trombly School Plans Completed

Detailed drawings and specifications for the Robert Trombly School were reviewed at a meeting of the School Board July 14th and the architect was instructed to advertise for bids to be opened Wednesday evening, August 4th, at 8:00 p. m.

Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, the architects for the building, have developed a school of unusually pleasant design that is economically planned to serve the ultimate needs of the Windmill Pointe area. The work to date has been given the closest attention by the architects so that the plans have been completed in a minimum of time. The architects, appointed in May, began preliminary studies immediately, and in less than two weeks preliminary plans and sketches were presented to the school board and approved. Construction bids will be opened approximately sixty days after appointing the architects.

Work on the plans for the new high school is also progressing, but at a much slower rate, due to the greater amount of detail on the larger building and because a smaller staff is employed on the problem. The architect for this school, George J. Haas, was appointed by the school board in May, 1925. Preliminary plans presented by him five months later were seriously criticized and had to be completely redrawn. In order to insure a school of most modern design an expert in school planning was retained by the School Board to specify room requirements and arrangement in the revised plan. This report of the building's requirements was accepted by the School Board January 22nd, and on April 14th the architect's revised elevations were approved. According to the architect, final plans should be ready for the School Board in October of this year.

Crosse Pointe Civic News

Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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

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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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A MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT

Perhaps in no field of human endeavor does change or improvement in methods materialize so slowly as in the field of public administration. In general, municipalities continue to plod along under the handicap of inadequate methods that seriously impair the services performed for the public or result in greatly increased costs for such services. Only when conditions become unusually bad and methods obviously lax do the voters take action at the polls and install a new administration. The political machine that can successfully hold office is seldom concerned with improved municipal methods.

Recent improvements in Grosse Pointe Park, however, prove the exception. This village, which for a number of years has been planning its expenditures and reporting its financial transactions in a haphazard manner, has recently developed and installed a budget system that if conscientiously administered should prove a reliable source of information about financial affairs and be a guide to efficient administration of the village. A summary of the items included in Grosse Pointe Park's newly developed budget will be found on another page of this issue with the budgets of other Grosse Pointe Villages. A reprint of the document in its entirety is not possible in the limited space of "Civic News," but its principal features are mentioned below.

The budget is divided into departments which comprise the major divisions of the document. Each department is subdivided into the various services performed under its direction and these are further subdivided into items to be purchased,

such as labor, material, supplies, equipment, etc. A uniform classification is carried throughout the budget. Grouping of requirements of the departments under the several funds stipulated by state law is also part of the document.

The financial plan presented by Grosse Pointe Park this year is a decided step in advance and should make possible accurate recording and intelligent interpretation of the village financial transactions. While the budget as planned for the present year covers only expenditures to be made from tax money and thus does not include all funds to be spent by the village, it is a clear presentation of expenditures planned for operating and maintenance of the village departments and for interest and sinking fund charges. Compared with the inadequate procedure following in the past, it is a praiseworthy improvement.

The village has also installed a budget control system, which allows constant check of all appropriations. The new system will show the balances available in all items of the budget at all times. This information should establish the necessary control of purchases and keep expenditures within the limits of amounts appropriated. It will give officials and taxpayers current information about the village's financial affairs.

A year's operation under the new system probably will be required to demonstrate the value of changes already made. However, the system as developed appears excellent in plan and if made the basis of the next financial statement published by Grosse Pointe Park, should place before the taxpayers a clear statement of the cost of different services performed.

Grosse Pointe Park has made a good beginning. The officials who are responsible for fully developing the budget are to be congratulated on the accomplishments already made and should be encouraged to continue their efforts to further improve village administration.

The Grosse Pointe Farms municipal dock at Lakeshore Road and Moross Road has been completed and is open to residents of the village and their friends.

Village Taxes Due

Annual village taxes are now due and payable at the several village halls. Information relative to taxes and their collection in each village is given below:

Grosse Pointe Park will raise \$329,000 by taxes this year, or \$60,500 more than a year ago. The assessed valuation for the present year is \$28,604,278, giving a tax rate of \$11.53 per thousand dollars assessed value. In addition to an increased assessed valuation of \$4,152,662, the tax rate for the present year has been increased 53 cents over the rate of the previous year.

The tax roll in Grosse Pointe Village for the present year is \$260,075.40, as compared with \$208,499 a year ago. Assessed valuation has been increased from \$22,260,554 to \$22,615,253, and the tax rate per thousand assessed value from \$9.12 in 1925 to \$11.50 for the present year. The tax rate in 1924 was \$14.00 per thousand.

An increase of \$49,110.24 has been made in the tax roll of Grosse Pointe Farms, which has increased from \$236,828.87 to \$285,939.11. The assessed value has raised from \$15,886,050 to \$17,849,800, and the tax rate from \$15.00 to \$16.00 per thousand assessed value.

The tax rate in Grosse Pointe Shores has again been set at \$20.00 per thousand assessed value. This rate has remained the same for a number of years and is considerably higher than the other Grosse Pointe villages because of the low assessed values in Grosse Pointe Shores. The assessed value for the present year has been fixed at \$2,874,570, as compared with \$2,770,620 in 1925, and is computed at 20 per cent of the true value.

Each village collects taxes up to certain dates without penalty. Grosse Pointe Park taxes should be paid on or before August 7th to avoid the penalty of 1 per cent added after this date. In Grosse Pointe Village 2 per cent will be added to payments made after August 15th. The last date for payment in Grosse Pointe Farms without penalty is also August 15th, after which 1 per cent a month is added. Three per cent will be added to all taxes paid in Grosse Pointe Shores after August 15th.

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGES ADOPT ANNUAL BUDGETS

The annual budgets or estimates of expenditures to be made by the four Grosse Pointe Villages during the current year have occupied the attention of village trustees and other village officials during the past month. A reprint of the budgets as finally passed by each village is given here to indicate at least in a general way the various purposes for which public funds are to be spent.

A properly detailed budget is a complete financial program showing in terms of money the municipality's needs and the source of revenue to be used in meeting such needs. The budget should serve also as a means of publicity to give taxpayers information about their government and to enable them to determine the value of services rendered in the light of the estimated cost of such services.

It is with this latter purpose in mind that the Civic News lists below the budgets of the Grosse Pointe municipalities. No attempt is made to criticize amounts appropriated for various services. Remarks made with reference to the various budgets as passed deal only with questions of method and not with amounts appropriated or the necessity therefor.

GROSSE POINTE PARK

In the past, Grosse Pointe Park's statement of proposed expenditures contained only four items: general fund, highway fund, interest fund and sinking fund. The new budget covers in detail proposed expenditures from tax money. For the present fiscal year proposed expenditures total \$329,000, an increase of \$60,500 over last year.

1 General Administration	
A. Salaries	\$ 13,600.00
B. Administrative expense, stationery, office supplies, advertising and telephone.....	2,100.00
C. Building expense, heat, light, gas, laundry and janitor's supplies.....	2,200.00
D. Election expense, election and registration board salaries, printing ballots.....	500.00
E. Insurance and security bonds, fire, liability, and workmen's compensation insurance, clerk's and treasurer's security bonds.....	3,615.00
F. Sewage disposal; contract for disposal through Detroit sewers.....	1,500.00
G. Miscellaneous	900.00
H. Previous deficit; deficit of \$71,684.54 accumulated over eight years to be liquidated in three years	23,894.85
Total General Administration.....	\$ 48,359.85
2 Police and Fire	
A. Salaries: chief, \$3,600; two sergeants, \$2,700 each; 30 patrolmen at \$2,280 per year.....	\$ 77,400.00
B. Administration expense	150.00
C. Automotive equipment, new equipment, repairs, and operating expense.....	3,400.00
D. Equipment, general	1,150.00
E. Miscellaneous	200.00
Total Police and Fire.....	\$ 82,300.00
3 Electrical Department	
A. Salaries	\$ 6,600.00
B. Electric current; all purposes, street lights, municipal hall, etc.....	17,000.00
C. Street lighting maintenance, poles, lamps and repairs	6,400.00
D. Traffic signal maintenance.....	150.00
E. Automotive equipment	350.00
F. General equipment	50.00
G. Miscellaneous	100.00
Total Electrical Department.....	\$ 30,650.00

4 Water Department	
A. Salaries	\$ 7,300.00
B. Equipment: new meters, meter mains and fire hydrant repairs.....	4,300.00
C. Automotive equipment.....	350.00
D. Miscellaneous	100.00
Total Water Department.....	\$ 11,750.00
5 Public Works Department	
A. Salaries	\$ 7,200.00
B. Streets, repairs and cleaning.....	14,500.00
C. Alleys: repair labor, \$500; rubbish and ash collection, \$9,000; garbage collection, \$6,000; garbage disposal, \$5,200.....	20,700.00
D. Garbage building (\$24,000 debt to be liquidated in 20 years, \$1,200): heat, repairs, tools, etc.	2,800.00
E. Automotive equipment, new equipment, repairs and maintenance.....	6,300.00
F. Equipment, general	1,000.00
G. Material and supplies: sand, gravel and cement	6,000.00
H. Trees: spraying and trimming.....	1,500.00
I. Miscellaneous (includes additional labor)...	500.00
Total Public Works Department.....	\$ 60,500.00
6 Interest	\$ 70,138.21
7 Sinking Fund	25,201.58

Total Budget	\$328,899.64		
			Increase or Decrease*
Budget by Funds	1925-6	1926-7	
General Fund (Gen. Adm., Police, Fire, Electrical and Water Depts.	\$180,500.00	\$173,100.00	\$ 7,400.00
Highway Fund (Pub. Wks. Dept.)	40,000.00	60,500.00	20,500.00
Interest Fund	38,000.00	70,200.00	32,200.00
Sinking Fund	10,000.00	25,200.00	15,200.00
Total to be raised.....	\$268,500.00	\$329,000.00	\$ 60,500.00

GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE

Appropriations for the present year in Grosse Pointe Village total \$316,684.39, as compared with \$269,112.18 for 1925-1926. The increase is due to increases in all departments with the exception of administration and disposal plant. Included in the total is \$43,392.72 for capital expenditures to be paid from tax money. Requests for operation of the village departments totals \$273,291.67, an increase of \$16,630.02 over the previous year.

	Appropriations	Increase or
	1925-6	Decrease*
Budget Divisions		
Administration	\$ 19,745.00	\$ 17,570.00
Police	38,080.00	43,517.50
Fire	31,690.00	35,094.00
Public Works	9,840.00	12,440.00
Disposal Plant	18,210.00	13,595.00
Highway	58,061.74	62,039.00
Police and Fire Signal System	2,768.00	4,228.00
Storage Yard and Garage Expense		4,050.00
Interest and Sinking Fund.....	61,689.39	63,758.17
Water Costs	16,577.52	17,000.00
Total Operating Budget.....	\$256,661.65	\$273,291.67
Capital Expenditures		
Water Mains		17,582.76
Underground Wiring (Kercheval Ave.)		2,000.00
Highway Truck		800.00
Payment Land Contracts..		1,720.00
Street Widening (Kercheval)		11,500.00
Disposal Plant Pump.....		3,900.00
New Sheds in Storage Yard		2,000.00
Sanitary Sewers (Oliver Ave.)		1,500.00

St. Paul Street Opening.....	1,329.96	.....
New Signal Installations.....	1,160.00	.....
<hr/>		
Total Capital Expenditure..	\$ 38,208.52	\$ 43,392.72 \$ 5,184.20
Total Budget		
All Purposes	294,870.17	316,684.39 21,814.22

GROSSE POINTE FARMS

The budget for this village totals \$285,939.11 for the present year, as against \$233,828.07 for 1925, an increase of \$52,110.24. Capital expenditures to be made from taxes total \$55,774.80.

Grosse Pointe Farms budget divides the amount to be raised by the various funds into major items to be financed, but does not subdivide these amounts according to any standard classification. For example, \$70,000 is appropriated for fire and police departments, but no mention is made of the portions to be spent for department salaries, equipment, supplies, repairs, etc. The budget is not developed in sufficient detail to answer all requirements of modern procedure.

General Fund	Appropriations		Increase or Decrease*
	1925-6	1926-7	
Park	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 500.00
Street Lighting	14,500.00	17,500.00	3,000.00
Fire and Police	70,000.00	70,000.00	.....
Building Inspector	2,500.00	.....	*2,500.00
Miscellaneous	24,000.00	27,000.00	3,000.00
Kercheval Ave. Widening..	5,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00
Widening G. P. Blvd.....	10,000.00	.....	*10,000.00
Kerby and Mack Ave.....	7,459.03	.....	*7,459.03
Water Works Purchase....	17,288.83	.....	*17,288.83
Municipal Site Improvement	1,860.00	.....	*1,800.00
Beaupre Property .....	.....	7,074.88	7,074.88
Pier Improvement .....	.....	15,500.00	15,500.00
Pier Expense .....	.....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fire Truck .....	.....	9,000.00	9,000.00
Fisher Road Paving.....	.....	3,200.00	3,200.00
Fluitt Property .....	.....	4,000.00	4,000.00
Moross Road Sewer.....	.....	14,000.00	14,000.00
Hillcrest Road Storm Sewer	10,000.00	10,000.00
Garage	4,500.00	4,500.00
Overdraft	15,000.00	15,000.00
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Total General Fund.....	\$155,547.86	\$215,274.88	\$ 59,727.02

Highway Fund	Appropriations		Increase or Decrease*
	1925-6	1926-7	
Salaries and Labor.....	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Material for Roads.....	1,700.00	2,000.00	300.00
Road Oil	500.00	200.00	*300.00

Repairs and Miscellaneous.	8,000.00	9,000.00	1,000.00
Garbage Collection	4,000.00	4,000.00	.....
Sewer Constr. and Repair..	3,000.00	3,000.00	.....
Snow Removal	800.00	800.00	.....

Total Highway Fund....	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Interest and Sinking Fund	46,281.87	36,664.23	*11,686.78

Total Budget	\$233,828.87	\$285,939.11	\$ 52,110.24
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GROSSE POINTE SHORES

Grosse Pointe Shores develops each year a detailed budget of its needs for the ensuing fiscal period. The budget this year totals \$57,987.00, as compared with \$58,586.66 a year ago. While the budgets of the other villages have been increased, the budget for Grosse Pointe Shores has actually been reduced approximately six hundred dollars. The document is prepared by the president and finance committee, who set forth in detail an estimate of receipts as well as proposed expenditures:

	1925-6		1926-7		Increase or Decrease*
	1925-6	1926-7	1925-6	1926-7	
Lighting (Street, dock and Municipal Hall)	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 700.00
Salaries	24,900.00	25,400.00	24,900.00	25,400.00	500.00
Telephone	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	.....
Heating (Fuel)	1,800.00	1,200.00	1,800.00	1,200.00	*600.00
Repairs and Motorcycles....	2,950.00	3,250.00	2,950.00	3,250.00	300.00
General Maintenance of Superintendent's Car	650.00	500.00	650.00	500.00	*150.00
Legal Services	2,000.00	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,500.00	500.00
Water Supply (Service and Repairs)	600.00	250.00	600.00	250.00	*350.00
Miscellaneous	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	.....
Insurance	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	.....
Sinking Fund	4,766.66	4,767.00	4,766.66	4,767.00	.34
Interest on Bonds.....	6,670.00	6,670.00	6,670.00	6,670.00	.....
New Expenditures					
Two Motorcycles	750.00	750.00	750.00	750.00	.....
Water Department Deficit..	2,000.00	.....	2,000.00	.....	*2,000.00
Fire and Office Equipment.	500.00	500.00	500.00
Contingent	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
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Total Budget	\$ 58,586.66	\$ 57,987.00	\$ 58,586.66	\$ 57,987.00	\$ 599.66

Total Budget

Grosse Pointe Shores estimates receipts totaling \$65,991.40 to cover the proposed expenditures set down above. Of this amount \$9,000 is from various itemized sources, and \$56,991.40 is to be raised from taxes.

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CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
GROSSE POINTE, MICH.

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Detroit, Michigan
Permit No. 335

A municipal budget is the city's or village's wants for a given period reduced to terms of dollars and cents.