

# GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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Number 11

## TOWNSHIP SURVEY TO BE MADE

Since publication of the last issue of Grosse Pointe Civic News carrying a story of the increased cost of township government during the past year, the Citizens' Association has requested that a survey of the township government be made by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research. It is expected that the study and accompanying report will be completed within the next sixty days and that it will give taxpayers of Grosse Pointe further information about the present operation of the township.

The Citizens' Association's request that the study be made came as the result of its recent analysis of the last financial statement of the township which brought to light the fact that expenditures of the township had greatly increased during the past year while legally required deposits to the sinking fund had been totally disregarded. This condition pointed to the advisability of a critical and expert study of township affairs.

A thorough review will doubtless be made by the Bureau of the duties performed by township officers and the methods followed in carrying on township work. Recommendation for the improvement of the township government will be included as will suggestions leading to more efficient and economical administration.

Three years ago the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research made a study of the business administration of the School Board that resulted in several improvements, including preparation of a detailed budget and a better accounting system. The study of the township government, it is hoped, will be responsible for improvements equal to those resulting from the Bureau's school study.

The report in its entirety will be printed in the Grosse Pointe Civic News as soon as completed, in order that all residents of the township may be familiar with its findings and recommendations.

## SCHOOL ELECTION JUNE 13TH

The annual school election set for the second Monday in June, or June 13, by the electors at the annual meeting last year places several matters of importance before the voters for their decision. In addition to electing two trustees for three-year terms, electors will be called upon to pass judgment on four bond issues totaling \$500,000.

The trustees whose terms expire this year are: Mr. Julius Peter and Mr. Charles Poupard. Both are expected to be candidates for re-election. Mr. Peter was appointed to the board several months ago to fill the unexpired term of Mr. E. J. Hickey, while Mr. Poupard has served on the Board since consolidation of the district five years ago. Other candidates may possibly present themselves prior to June 3rd, the last day for filing nominations.

The four bond issues to be voted on at the coming election are for the following purposes: \$100,000 for an addition to Defer School to relieve present overcrowded conditions in that building; \$85,000 to defray the expense of extra foundation work for the new high school building, and for landscaping the site; \$65,000 for an elementary school site on Vernier Road near Charlevoix Avenue; \$250,000 for the construction of the first unit of a modern building on this site.

Residents should note the requirements necessary to qualify as a

school elector. Persons who have resided in the township for at least three months prior to the election and who are citizens of the United States, 21 years of age and own property taxed for school purposes, may vote both on candidates for school trustee and on bond issues. Parents or legal guardians of children of school age (5 to 20 years), who also possess the qualification of citizenship, residence and age, can vote for school board candidates but are prohibited from voting on bond issues. Qualified voters who are not now registered may do so at the Board of Education offices, corner of Jefferson Avenue and Rivard Boulevard, on any day prior to election between the hours of 9 A. M. and 5 P. M. *New residents should note that separate registration is required for school and other elections in Grosse Pointe.*

In considering the progress made in school board affairs during the past three years, it is of interest to note the complete divorce of educational matters from local politics during this period. Prior to the school election July 14, 1924, each member of the board held at least one political office. One member was serving as President of Grosse Pointe Park; another as a member of the Council in that village; a third school trustee was township supervisor; another trustee was township clerk, and a member of the Board of Review in one of the villages. The fifth school trustee was a member of the Township Board of Review. The present school board is a direct contrast to this extreme dual holding of office for at the present time no member of the board holds any other public office.

The regular meeting date of the Grosse Pointe Park council has been changed from the first Tuesday to the first Friday of the month. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Citizens' Association of Grosse Pointe Township, marking the beginning of its fifth year of work, will be held at the Cadieux School, 399 St. Clair Avenue, on Wednesday evening, June 8th, at 8:00 o'clock.

Reports of officers, discussion of future plans, and other important matters of business will make this meeting one of interest to every member.

## 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:

H. P. Breitenbach, President.  
Wm. M. Mertz, Vice-President.  
Raymond K. Dykema, Secretary.  
Jos. L. Hickey, Treasurer.  
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C. A. Dean, Jr.

### NOW IS THE TIME!

During the next few weeks or until the June meetings of the several village councils, officials in the Grosse Pointe Villages will be engaged in compiling their budgets for the coming year. Taxes with which to finance the budget will be collected during July and August. Thus the tax each property owner will pay sixty days hence will depend directly upon the attitude of the council in reviewing and enacting the budget. If unnecessary items are included, taxes will be correspondingly high, while, if only items and amounts that are necessary for the efficient operation of the municipality are approved, the result will be reflected in a lower tax rate.

For this reason the period during which the budget is being considered is a particularly important one to every taxpayer, for each may, if he choose, review the budget and familiarize himself with the proposed work of the municipality. For example, if street cleaning, police protection or any of the many services performed by the village appears out of line with the needs of the community, budget-making time offers the logical opportunity to correct the condition.

Citizens through a review of the budget may gain more information about the services performed by the municipality and the relative cost of such services than is possible by the study of any other public document.

The budget gives opportunity to the public to review proposed expenditures item by item and to raise questions and make suggestions about any item prior to its being approved. When taxpayers learn that the financial plan of the municipality is reasonable and that public funds are not being wasted, they become convinced that they receive

a greater return from taxes than they do from any other expenditure. Those who question the cost of local government may become convinced that its cost is not excessive, or may, if excessive items are in the budget, raise objection to them.

If taxpayers will make an effort to review the budget before it is approved by the council, and inform officials of their opinions and if public officials will make an extra effort to place budget figures before the public, much will have been accomplished. The public being informed of proposed expenditures in advance, will be free to approve or oppose the items. Thus public officials will learn the taxpayers' point of view and may alter the budget while there is still time to make adjustments.

Those interested in knowing how the municipality expects to spend taxes during the coming year may profitably call at their village hall during the next two weeks and ask questions about the budget. The council should welcome such interest and make every effort to make all information available to the public. This can be accomplished by having extra copies of the budget prepared and by providing for public hearings prior to final approval of the items.

### THE DETROIT BUREAU OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH

Announcement in this issue that the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research will undertake a study of Grosse Pointe Township makes it desirable that a statement about the Bureau be given here in order that persons not now familiar with the organization may know something of its work.

The Detroit Bureau was founded in 1916 by a group of public-spirited citizens, including several Grosse Pointe residents, to increase the effectiveness of local government through cooperation with officials and by keeping citizens informed about public affairs. Its work is carried on by a staff of trained investigators who, at the request of city officials, study the needs of the city and make recommendations for improvement. The organization maintains an entirely non-partisan attitude in all its work. In place of "mud-slinging" based upon partial facts and rumors, the Bureau offers

constructive suggestions based upon a critical study of conditions. The long list of accomplishments with which the Bureau is credited during its eleven years of existence bears out its value as a non-partisan fact-finding agency. The high caliber of its trustees assures the Bureau's maintaining its present high standard.

The Detroit Bureau has on previous occasions made studies of the Grosse Pointe governments. In May, 1924, at the request of the Grosse Pointe Citizens' Association, the Bureau made a study of the business administration of the local school district, and more recently, at the request of the local school board and the City of Detroit, was called upon to determine the proportion of the Grosse Pointe School District sinking fund that was due Detroit on account of recent annexation of school territory to the city. A study of the School District sinking fund has just been completed. All of these studies resulted in a considerable saving to taxpayers of Grosse Pointe.

Grosse Pointe may congratulate itself upon the fact that the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research is to undertake a study of the township government. This study is particularly timely inasmuch as township expenditures have been steadily increasing during the past few years. Both taxpayers and officials may feel confident that the Bureau's study will give a true statement of present conditions in the township and that its recommendations if followed by township officials will be a big factor in improving another phase of our local government.

### SHORES ELECTS OFFICIALS

The annual election in the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores on Tuesday, May 17th, resulted in the unanimous re-election of former officials, who were the only candidates for the several village offices. Twenty-seven votes were cast for each of the following: President (one-year term)—George Osius. Clerk (one-year term)—William C. Roney. Trustees (two-year term)—Ford Ballantyne, Horbert B. Hoyt, John T. Hurley.

Mr. E. R. Grace was elected as trustee for one year to fill the unexpired term of William E. Roney, who recently resigned.

**GROSSE POINTE VILLAGE FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The audit of Grosse Pointe Village for the fiscal year ending February 28, 1927, compiled by Ernst & Ernst, and recently made public, offers to Grosse Pointe residents an example of intelligent and understandable financial reporting, in marked contrast to the report of Grosse Pointe Township, reviewed in last month's Civic News.

Before considering any of the figures set out in the report, the form in which the figures are presented should be mentioned. First, receipts or funds paid into the village treasury are set forth in a single statement, which shows the source of all funds received. This statement makes it possible to know at a glance the total funds received by the village, and the various sources of receipts. Second, expenditures are segregated by departments. The same classification by departments is shown in the audit that is followed in making up the budget, making possible direct comparison of the amounts appropriated and the amounts spent. Such uniform classification shows clearly whether expenditures were under or over the amounts set up in the budget. Third, under each department a uniform classification of items is followed, so that amounts for similar services in each department can be compared. Fourth, the form of report published by the village is standardized so that items for different years can easily be compared.

While Grosse Pointe Village is not the only municipality following an intelligent classification in reporting its financial transactions, it is cited here because it is the only village whose published report for an entire year is available at this time.

The fiscal report of Grosse Pointe Park for the first eight months' operation under a revised and much improved budget system was recently published by that village. Because the report does not cover the full fiscal period a review of its contents is not given here, but the report for the full year will be covered in Civic News after the end of the fiscal period, June 30. The clerk of Grosse Pointe Park states that copies of the present report are available and will be mailed to persons requesting them.

The following is a consolidation of Grosse Pointe Village's financial statement for the fiscal year just ended, and the report for the year 1925-26. A review of the figures clearly brings out the features of the reports mentioned above.

	1925-26	1926-27
Balance beginning of fiscal period..	\$ 35,104.98	\$ 12,700.35
<b>Receipts</b>		
Bonds Issued .....	\$107,956.00	\$ 56,251.84
Borrowed Money .....	53,750.00	50,000.00
Current Property Taxes.....	187,508.50	242,228.77
Delinquent Property Taxes .....	20,092.08	11,438.74
Current Special Assessment Taxes..	30,918.72	20,075.56
Delinquent Special Assessment Taxes	3,556.39	6,953.33
Water Department Receipts .....	21,053.49	24,738.01
Interest .....	4,545.30	6,150.49
Court Fines .....	1,461.90	1,253.25
Permits and Licenses .....	6,014.00	6,854.50
Accounts Receivable (County Treas.)	7,710.20	2,270.22
Miscellaneous .....	843.16	587.50
<b>Total Receipts .....</b>	<b>\$445,400.74</b>	<b>\$429,202.21</b>
<b>Total to be Accounted For.....</b>	<b>\$480,505.72</b>	<b>\$441,902.56</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Notes Payable for Borrowed Money..	\$ 53,750.00	\$ 50,000.00
Budget Expenditures .....	407,131.17	311,000.63

Charlevoix Paving .....		58,336.15
Refunds of Permits and Licenses...	5,340.47	5,938.33
Adjustments of Tax Roll.....	1,113.68	345.88
Court Fees .....	470.05	338.05

	\$467,805.37	\$426,009.04
Closing Balance, end of Fiscal Period..	\$ 12,700.35	\$ 15,893.52

**DISBURSEMENTS BY DEPARTMENTS**

**Administrative Department:**

Salaries .....	\$ 9,041.87	\$ 8,992.85
Committee Fees .....	495.00	495.00
Repairs to Buildings .....	128.82	17.79
Office Supplies .....	1,077.94	1,178.13
Light and Heat .....	360.51	200.86
Professional Services .....	1,000.00	953.16
Regular and Special Election .....	303.38	395.30
Compensation Insurance .....	1,008.37	3,663.45
Treasurer's Bond .....	300.00	300.00
Interest on Land Contracts.....	878.56	776.53
	1925-26	1926-27
Interest on Borrowing Money....	386.06	627.78
Advertising Notice on Annexation	151.10	.....
	\$ 15,131.61	\$ 17,600.85

**Police Department:**

Salaries .....	\$ 31,869.45	\$ 34,963.41
Supplies .....	853.61	1,481.35
Light and Heat .....	471.22	354.02
Equipment and Repairs .....	1,519.51	1,914.76
	\$ 34,713.79	\$ 38,713.54

**Fire Department:**

Salaries .....	\$ 26,524.64	\$ 29,588.82
Supplies .....	1,325.66	1,745.97
Light and Heat .....	776.23	346.35
Equipment and Repairs .....	172.21	1,052.27
Sundry .....	281.66	208.69
	\$ 29,080.40	\$ 32,942.10

**Public Works Department:**

Salaries and Wages .....	\$ 6,386.00	\$ 6,918.75
Supplies .....	3,095.31	3,122.32
Equipment and Repairs .....	56.09	126.40
Sundry .....	342.59	404.49
	\$ 9,879.99	\$ 10,571.96

**Disposal Plant:**

Salaries and Wages .....	\$ 3,694.17	\$ 3,389.36
Supplies .....	680.41	1,712.87
Light and Power .....	7,138.45	5,187.54
Truck Operation .....	113.29	63.14
	\$ 11,626.32	\$ 10,352.91
	1925-26	1926-27

**Highway Department:**

Salaries and Wages .....	\$ 30,323.79	\$ 32,768.88
Street Supplies .....	1,754.20	2,231.24
Park Supplies .....	287.06	727.50
Truck Operation and Repair.....	2,311.49	3,452.16
Disposal of Garbage to Detroit....	929.00	1,150.84
Street Lighting .....	10,917.22	17,066.70
Tools and Equipment .....	1,024.32	90.00
Sidewalks .....	2,730.40	416.72
Sundry .....	630.46	.....
	\$ 50,907.94	\$ 57,904.04

**Police and Fire Signal System:**

Salaries and Wages .....	\$ 5,469.96	\$ 3,425.40
Supplies and Expense .....	.....	2,129.94
Truck Operation and Repair.....	376.62	302.79
	\$ 5,846.58	\$ 5,858.13

**Yard and Garage Expense:**

Salaries .....	\$ .....	\$ 2,128.75
Supplies .....	.....	1,136.58
Light and Heat .....	.....	407.33
Grading and Shrubbery .....	.....	706.00
		\$ 4,378.66

(Continued on Page 4)

**Bond Interest and Sinking Fund:**

Interest on Bonds .....	\$ 36,759.18	\$ 41,935.95
Transfer to Sinking Fund.....	32,026.24	30,200.90
	\$ 68,785.42	\$ 72,136.85
Cost of Water Purchased .....	12,194.92	16,973.60
Miscellaneous Capital Improve- ments .....	168,963.30	43,567.99
Total Departmental and Capital Improvement Expenditures ...	\$407,131.17	\$311,000.63

Total figures of the report shows that expenditures decreased \$96,130.54 during the year. The amount spent for capital improvements, however, fell from \$168,963.30 to \$43,567.99, a decrease of \$125,395.31, while the operating expense of the several departments increased from \$238,167.87 to \$267,432.64, or \$29,264.77. Village officials point out that while the expenditures of nearly all departments increased, such

increases were due to extra work undertaken, due to the growth of the village. In no case was any increase out of line with the general increase of all the departments, the largest being from \$50,907.34 to \$57,904.04 in the highway department.

Total expenditures for the year were \$5,686.76 under the budget compiled in June, 1926, when appropriations were passed totaling \$316,684.39. The capital surplus consisting of water-mains, sewers, pavements, tools, equipment, etc., increased from \$475,409.40 to \$506,090.57.

The bonded debt of Grosse Pointe Village at the end of the fiscal period was \$877,643.00, against which had been accumulated a sinking fund of \$212,369.08. A recent study of the village sinking fund showed that at the present time the fund is slightly in excess of requirements.

**NEW BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY CENTER**

Ground was broken Monday afternoon, April 18th, for the new building of the Grosse Pointe Community Center, formerly the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club. The new building, which is to cost \$100,000, exclusive of its site, is being constructed on a large tract of approximately 8 acres which was donated to the Center by Mr. D. M. Ferry, Jr. Located in Grosse Pointe Village between St. Clair Avenue, Neff Street and Waterloo Avenue, the site offers exceptional advantages both in its location and size. In addition to space for the new building which will face on Waterloo Avenue, the site will provide for play yards for smaller children, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and a football gridiron.

The new building, designed by George W. Graves, is being con-

structed by the H. G. Christman Company, whose contract calls for completion of the work by September 15th.

The club house will be a two-story structure of common brick exterior and will provide in a liberal manner for the rapidly increasing community work of the center. Enlarged quarters are provided for all of the present activities carried on by the club in its present quarters as well as the addition of several rooms for further community work.

Central control of the entire building is possible from one focal point in the lobby on the ground floor. Flanking the lobby and central desk on the left are two social rooms for various club meetings adjoined by a kitchen. At the front on the opposite side of the lobby are offices for the director and staff

members, back of which is located the library. Across the rear of the building is a gymnasium 60 feet by 90 feet and two stories high. A stage flanked by dressing rooms extends across the east end of the gymnasium. Lockers, showers and dressing rooms are in the basement.

A large meeting room seating 300 people, a game room and a billiard room occupy the second floor. Space for the activities to be housed in these rooms is not provided in the Club's present quarters.

The new community building is truly a community-wide project. Funds that make it possible were obtained approximately a year ago as the result of a campaign in which residents of the entire township took part both as workers and supporters of the project.

Return Postage Guaranteed.

**CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**  
**GROSSE POINTE, MICH.**

<p>1½c Paid Detroit, Michigan Permit No. 335</p>
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Public officials are the employees of the whole community. They are elected or appointed to carry out enterprises affecting the well being of all.

Public Business No. 51.

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