

GROSSE POINTE CIVIC NEWS

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OF GROSSE POINTE TOWNSHIP

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GLANCING BACK AT HIGH LIGHTS OF 1929

JANUARY

Black Marsh Ditch sewer under construction in Grosse Pointe Park.

Farms' \$425,000 sewer system nearing completion; Lochmoor's \$300,000 sewer system in operation.

Seventy-foot lake fill under way for widening Lake Shore Road to 120 feet through Shores from Weir Lane north to Macomb County.

George Osius asked to investigate need of contagious hospital for Grosse Pointe district.

\$750,000 bond issue for proposed beach-park defeated at special election in Park; condemnation suit for purchase of property withdrawn by Commission.

Architect engaged to design 17-room, 685-pupil elementary school unit (Gabriel Richard) in Farms to be ready in January, 1930.

FEBRUARY

School Board votes to hire George D. Strayer and N. L. Englehardt, nationally-known authorities of Columbia University, to make survey and recommendations in junior high problem at cost of \$3,000.

Stevens T. Mason School, 8-room unit, opened in Lochmoor with 102 pupils; capacity 320; cost \$265,000.

Clarence E. Brewer, commissioner of recreation in Detroit, recommends central recreation commission in Grosse Pointe to plan and administer a proper recreation program for the five villages, the same as the consolidated school board administers educational affairs.

MARCH

Farms' voters approve \$612,000 bond issue for sewer plans to close open ditch drain; Village voters approve \$360,000 bonds to close ditch. New modern fire department buildings put in use by Village and Park.

Wayne County Road Commission meets with Farms' councilmen on proposal of road commission to construct \$600,000 landscaped highway from Fisher Road to Weir Lane to replace present 18-foot Lake Shore

Road, if Farms will obtain 120-foot right-of-way for project—as was done in Shores.

Survey of school and public library needs submitted to Board of Education by Adam Strohm, Detroit librarian, with recommendation of three-year program of service extension to develop interest and reveal possibilities for ultimate standards and building requirements.

\$200,000 paving program started in Lochmoor.

APRIL

Complaints on condition of unfiltered water supply in Farms spurs study by council of plans to provide better water.

Board of Education receives survey by Messrs. Strayer and Englehardt recommending three junior-high-school system, immediate construction of the first unit of the westernmost school on a site at St. Paul and Audubon Avenues in Grosse Pointe Park, and immediate purchase of acreage in Farms and Lochmoor for future schools.

MAY

Board of Education adopts Strayer-Englehardt report on junior high schools.

Federal Court upholds Village's order of May 1, 1918, directing D. U. R. to tear up tracks and take down poles and wires from Cadieux to Fisher on Jefferson.

JUNE

Charles A. Parcels and John R. Watkins elected for three-year terms as school trustees. Voters approve \$120,000 bond issue for addition to Trombly School; library budget of \$15,585 approved.

Health Board resigns, due to change in state law, and township board assumes jurisdiction.

Ten-year program of school construction to meet needs of anticipated doubling in school population by 1940 presented to Board of Education by Dr. S. M. Brownell, superintendent.

(Concluded on Page 2, Col. 2)

POLICE RADIO STATION PLAN

Following several recent meetings of police and administrative officials of four Grosse Pointe villages on a plan for a central police radio station, a delegation of several representatives appeared before the township board January 9th with the request that the board provide for the financing of the project. On motion of Justice Walter Schweikart the board adopted a resolution authorizing the supervisor to appoint a committee to investigate the proposition, including the legal phases, and report at a later meeting.

Spokesmen for the delegation declared that inability to agree on the distribution of a total estimated cost of \$10,652, divided \$1,400 capital costs and \$9,252 annual operation and maintenance, led to the decision to ask the township board to make an appropriation to insure that the cost would be properly distributed.

LAKE SHORE ROAD PAVING

The Wayne County Road Commission has informed the Grosse Pointe Shores council that it intends to proceed this spring with the paving of Lake Shore Road on the new 120-foot right-of-way between Weir Lane and Macomb County line. The 70-foot fill in Lake St. Clair between Weir Lane and Vernier Road is completed. The development of the 120-foot road calls for two 27-foot strips of concrete for one-way traffic on either side of a landscaped center.

E STREET OPENING

The Lochmoor village commission has ordered its attorney and A. A. Lee, a real estate dealer, to proceed at once to obtain all dedications possible toward the 75-foot right-of-way which has been laid out by the village engineer for the opening of E Street from a point east of Lochmoor Boulevard to the village line at Weir Lane, a distance of approximately 3,600 feet.

Grosse Pointe Civic News
Grosse Pointe, Mich.

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LOCHMOOR JUNIOR HIGH SITE SIZE IS REDUCED

A motion, January 6th, by the Board of Education changed the designation of a 20-acre junior-senior high school site in Lochmoor west of Vernier Road at Fairway Drive to a 12-acre site at the same location for a junior high school only. This is one of the three sites for junior high schools for which the school board is negotiating with property owners preliminary to a bond issue election. The other two are 10 acres at Lothrop and Charlevoix in the Farms and 7 acres at St. Paul and Audubon in the Park.

ELECTION NOTES

Lochmoor will vote in March on a \$40,000 bond issue to buy a site and erect a new municipal building, it was decided by the Village Commission in December.

Grosse Pointe Park's primary election under its new charter comes on the second Monday in February with the dead-line for filing of candidates' petitions 15 days previous. The second Monday this year falls on February 10th, so that January 25th will be the last day for filing. Four offices are to be filled: president and three members of the village commission. Those whose terms expire are: President Alfred J. Garska, and Commissioners William P. Shoemaker, Samuel Bastian and Thomas McGilligan. Two candidates for each office are nominated at the primary for the election the second Monday in March.

Grosse Pointe Farms may be asked to vote on a large bond issue in March for a water pumping station, filtration plant and intake. The council is awaiting an engineering report on the matter.

(Concluded from Page 1, Col. 2)

Fred Sutter chosen president of Board of Education. Sites for three junior high schools formally designated as recommended in May report of Strayer-Englehardt.

JULY

Shores obtains Detroit water supply.

First contract let for paving Kercheval in Farms.

Ground broken for 600-seat Punch and Judy community theatre and store building at Fisher and Kercheval.

Grosse Pointe Yacht Club dedicated.

Villages begin annual tax collection to finance five budgets totaling \$1,609,885.11. Total bonded debt of villages, township and school district reaches 10¼ million dollars, a per capita of \$487.42 for 21,120 population in 10 square miles.

Township supervisor's salary increased from \$3,500 to \$4,500, though state law forbids salary change after election.

AUGUST

Richard School construction bids exceed architect's estimate of \$335,000 by \$90,000; rejected.

Summer attendance at Neighborhood Club and three supervised school ground recreation centers reported in excess of 50,000, more than five times the 1928 figure.

SEPTEMBER

Board of Education orders revision of Richard School plans to provide 480-pupil unit within bond issue of \$360,000.

Public school enrollment exceeds predictions by increasing 513 from 2,348 in September, 1928, to 2,681.

Immediate start ordered on Trombly School \$120,000 addition.

Wayne County Park Trustees asked to study location for park out

Mack Avenue between Seven and Eight-Mile Roads.

OCTOBER

Committee appointed by Board of Education to negotiate for options on property designated for three junior High schools.

Park branch of Grosse Pointe Public Library opened daily in basement of municipal building, 15115 Jefferson Ave.

NOVEMBER

Village rejects plan of D. U. R. to loan tracks for 90-day experiment of extension of D. S. R. street car service from downtown Detroit to Weir Lane.

School Board approves new architectural contract requiring architect to design building of specified capacity within 10% of definite sum.

Richard School construction begins on 580-pupil unit to be completed by September, 1930.

Voters in Village approve \$300,000 bond issue to eliminate flood menace and build pumping station at Neff and Charlevoix.

DECEMBER

Farms, Village, Shores and Park police officials study plans for a central radio station and radio-equipped scout cars similar to systems in Detroit and Highland Park.

Winter tax statements mailed to collect \$1,533,479.09 at rate of \$12.02 on assessed valuation of \$127,954,536 for schools, health and township purposes and township share of state, county and good roads taxes.

Achievement tests in public school reveal higher level of accomplishment by pupils than shown in similar tests in 1927. Teaching personnel study reveals that 45 per cent of present teachers have four or more years of training contrasted with 27.7 per cent three years ago.

TAX COLLECTION

The township treasurer in December mailed statements to taxpayers in Grosse Pointe Township of 1929-30 taxes levied at the rate of \$12.02,

	Rate per \$1,000 1928-9	Rate per \$1,000 1929-30	Amount 1928-9	Amount 1929-30	% of Whole 1928-9	% of Whole 1929-30
Township	.35	.35	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	.034	.029
Schools	4.37	4.59	546,503.29	587,161.31	.417	.381
Health	.16	.16	20,985.00	19,930.00	.015	.013
State	2.26	3.16	279,445.62	403,444.06	.216	.262
County	2.62	2.79	324,116.73	355,845.55	.250	.232
Good Roads	.72	.97	88,798.85	124,098.17	.068	.080
Totals	\$10.48	\$12.02	\$1,302,849.49	\$1,533,479.09		

After January 10th delinquent taxes have three per cent penalty added.

on \$127,954,536 assessed valuation. Last year the tax was \$10.48 on \$124,114,541. A comparison of last year's and this year's "winter" taxes follows:

Procedure Methods of the Township Officers

No. 4—Budget

The township operates on a very elementary form of budget. The law prescribes that the items to be raised by taxation by the township must be brought before the County Board of Supervisors at its fall meeting. This gives a lump sum budget but is misleading in that (1) no attempt is made to balance the expense with the revenue; (2) no details as to what comprise the sum asked is given; and (3) the balances or deficits brought forward are not shown.

Originally, the money to be raised by taxation was to be voted upon at the annual meeting of the township held in the spring, but during the course of years, these meetings were not attended in such numbers that they expressed the will of the township. Hence, the township board was authorized by law to authorize the money to be raised by taxation when the annual meeting did not act. This is now the situation in Grosse Pointe. The Board of Supervisors has a slight supervision in that it can pass upon the legality of the items composing the budget, but if they are in proper form, and passed according to the statutes, it has no power to change the estimates.

An act of 1919 allows the township board to vote a budget with limits of one-half of one per centum of the assessed valuation.

Borrowing Limit

In addition to the limitation of the statutes, the supervisor and the township clerk are permitted, when authorized by resolution of the township board, to borrow not to exceed \$12,500 in any one year, by issuing bonds or other notice of indebtedness.

The township budgets for 1927 and of 1930 as submitted to the Board of Supervisors are as follows:

	1927	1930
Sinking Fund	\$ 10,000	\$ 4,500.00
Interest on Bonds...	8,000	8,000.00
Poor Fund	10,000	12,000.00
Miscellaneous	8,000	18,500.00
Total Township		
Tax	\$ 36,000	\$ 43,000.00
Health District	20,985	19,930.00
School District	416,000	587,161.31
Total Township		
Levy	\$472,985	\$650,091.31

In addition to the \$36,000 raised by taxes in 1927, the contingent fund from the one per centum tax collection fee (abolished by the 1929 legislature) amounted to approximately \$10,000, which gave the township \$46,000 for 1927 exclusive of any balances carried over from the previous year.

To illustrate the modern tendencies in budget making, the estimates of expense for Grosse Pointe Township have been reconstructed, using as a basis the annual report of ex-

pense for the year ending March 31, 1927, and the annual report of the auditor. It is not to be taken as an accurate estimate of the costs of the township, such as could be prepared after considerable study of the account books and conferences with the various officials as to the plans for the new year. Rather it is an approximation of the expense, placed in a form which is more informative of essentials in judging the efficiency and economy of the administration, together with the justness of the tax rate. These estimates are as follows:

Tentative Budget—Grosse Pointe Township For Year Ending April 1, 1928

FIXED CHARGES:		
1. Interest on Bonds (Township's Share)		
(a) Highway Improvement, 4% Township Share, \$113,718.	\$4,548.72	
(b) Highway Improvement, 4½% Township Share, \$17,230.	775.35	
(c) Bridge Improvement, 4½% Township Share, \$17,230...	775.35	
2. Sinking Fund Charges		\$ 6,098.42
(a) Annual Charge to Retire Debt.....	\$2,642.01	
(b) Excess of Requirements to Reduce Deficit.....	7,357.99	
		10,000.00
Total Fixed Charges.....		\$16,098.42
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:		
1. Supervisor		
A Salaries		
Supervisor	\$2,500.00	
Clerk	2,500.00	
		\$5,000.00
B Stationery and Telephone.....	150.00	
C Printing and Advertising.....	20.00	
D Auto Expense	1,000.00	
G Other Expense		
1—Tax Refunds	1,000.00	
Total, Supervisor's Office.....		7,170.00
2. Treasurer		
A Salaries		
Treasurer	\$4,000.00	
A1 Salaries, Temporary		
Clerks	1,300.00	
		\$5,300
B Stationery and Telephone.....	300.00	
C Printing and Advertising.....	550.00	
E Personal Bonds	1,350.00	
L Capital Charge		
1—2 Autographic Registers.....	240.00	
Total, Treasurer		7,740.00
3. Clerk		
A2 Fees		
Clerk, 48 wks. at \$30.00 wk.....	\$1,440.00	
B Stationery and Telephone.....	100.00	
G Other Expense		
1—Expenses	300.00	
Total, Clerk		1,840.00
4. Elections		
A1 Salaries, Temporary		
Clerks Checking Registration Cards.....	\$ 100.00	
A2 Fees		
Election Officers	4,000.00	
		\$4,100.00
B Stationery and Telephone.....	150.00	
C Advertising and Printing.....	750.00	
G Other Expense		
1—Meals	\$ 25.00	
2—Booth Repairs	30.00	
		55.00
Total, Election Expense.....		5,055.00

(Concluded on Page 4)

(Concluded from Page 3)

5. Township Board		
A2 Fees		
Justices, 2 for 25 Meetings at \$5.....	\$ 250.00	
B Stationery and Telephone.....	50.00	
F Light and Heat.....	265.00	
G Other Expense		
1—Repairs to Hall.....	\$ 25.00	
2—Audit Twp. Accounts.....	300.00	
3—Legal Advice	250.00	
	<u>575.00</u>	
Total, Township Board.....		1,140.00
6. Board of Review		
A2 Fees		
3 Members at \$40.....		120.00
7. Poor Relief		
H Temporary Relief		10,000.00
8. Deficits		
1. Highway Fund	\$1,193.73	
2. Poor Fund	69.91	
		<u>1,263.64</u>
9. Contingencies		
10% of Total Budget.....		3,500.00
		<u>\$37,828.64</u>
Total Budget—Operation and Maintenance.....	\$37,828.64	
Total Budget—Fixed Charges.....	16,098.42	
		<u>\$53,927.06</u>
Grand Total Budget.....		\$53,927.06

REVENUES:

1. Balances		
(a) General Fund	\$29,505.17	
(b) Contingent Fund	8,552.97	
(c) Sinking Fund	4,180.56	
		<u>\$42,238.80</u>
2. Taxation		
(a) Sinking Fund	\$10,000.00	
(b) Interest Fund	8,000.00	
(c) Poor Fund	10,000.00	
(d) Miscellaneous	7,000.00*	
		<u>35,000.00</u>
3. Other Revenue		
(a) Interest, Bank Deposits.....	\$ 2,500.00	
(b) 1% Tax Collection Estimate.....	10,000.00†	
		<u>12,500.00</u>
Total Revenues		\$89,738.80

RECONCILIATION:

Total Revenues	\$89,738.80
Total Budget Estimates.....	53,927.06
	<u>\$35,811.74</u>

EXCESS of Requirements, to be Raised by Tax.....

*The 1927 budget shows this amount as \$8,000 but, at the tax rate used, apparently only \$35,000 was raised for township purposes.
 †Abolished by 1929 legislature.

This is not an actual operating budget, but closely approximates the various expense items as secured from the annual report. The purpose of a budget is primarily to see that each activity undertaken by a government unit is allowed sufficient money to carry out its work in an efficient yet not extravagant manner, and further, that sufficient money is supplied either from taxes or other revenues to finance the cost without a deficit.

Need of Bookkeeping

Not only does the budget in this manner keep the finances of the unit in a healthy condition, but the next step should be to provide that the disbursements be made according to the budget. This means bookkeeping and checking of warrants before payment. The reason it has not been necessary to go into this detail in the township budget, and yet not incur a deficit is that it has been possible in the past to accumulate rather sizable balances which are carried forward each year. Large balances are no longer considered evidence of careful financial administration, as modern budget methods make them unnecessary; but more important, they take money from the taxpayer which the township has no legal right to hold, and also are prone to produce extravagance. Not only is a budget procedure necessary to give the interested taxpayer information which is rightfully his, but to keep the tax rate to the lowest possible amount to meet all current operating costs.

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To inform the minds of the people and to follow their will is the chief duty of those placed at their head.

—Thomas Jefferson.

Mrs. B. Vogt,
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