



CANDIDATE MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

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Grosse Ile 2020 Trustee Candidate Mike Jurecki Responds to Township Supervisor Brian Loftus' Statements in the Grosse Ile Grand about His "Biggest Mistake"

Mr. Jurecki Explains Why Supervisor Loftus and Township Clerk Ute O'Connor Are Indisputably Wrong About Records Keeping for Township Meetings

Township Supervisor Brian Loftus made a number of false and misguided accusations in his response to the question in the July 15, 2020 Grosse Ile Grand article covering "Candidates for Supervisor" on his "Biggest Mistake" as Township Supervisor. In one point, he said, "Commissioner Jurecki told the Township Clerk [Ute O'Connor], the official statutorily responsible for maintaining records, that the commission meeting minutes were to be kept according to his wishes, and not state or township standards. This level of irresponsibility and arrogance led to their [Commissioner Bob Zelasko and myself] removal by 5-2 vote."

To provide context, it is true that I discussed with Clerk O'Connor the lack of detail and transparency that she desired in the minutes of the July 2019 Township Police Commission Meeting which I presided over as Acting Chairperson. My concern was that Township management had cancelled the 2018-19 winter deer cull -- following a full year (2018) when deer vehicle crashes were up over 80% -- primarily for concerns about workers' compensation insurance coverage issues. These worries were later determined to be unfounded according to State of Michigan authorities.

So, here we were in July of 2019, and these same workers' compensation insurance coverage issues still were not resolved and seriously threatened the viability of the 2019-20 winter deer cull. Township Trustee Carl Bloetscher, who is also the Township Board Liaison for the Township Police Commission, had many times committed to resolving this issue with Township Manager Dale Reaume starting back as early as February of 2019, and yet five months later no meaningful progress had been reported to the Township Police Commission. Members of the Township Police Commission and many residents were very concerned about his lack of progress.

I advised Clerk O'Connor that at a minimum this key fact should be recorded in the minutes for accountability purposes. It is true, as stated by Supervisor Loftus, that Clerk O'Connor, who is the Township "official statutorily responsible for maintaining records," strongly advised me that having the level of detail and transparency in Township meeting minutes similar to business minutes (which are also similar to non-

profit organization minutes) in the private sector was a violation of State and Township rules. Clerk O'Connor even offered that she would be willing to "teach a course" on the subject of how to write minutes for Township meetings.

What you need to know:

- According to the Township Code General Commission Guidelines, Chapter 67-1(A)(3), there is no maximum limit on the amount of information that can be included in a Township Commission's minutes; rather, there is only a minimum requirement as it states, "The minutes of each meeting shall, as a minimum, show the date, time, place, members present, members absent, any decisions made at a meeting open to the public and the purpose or purposes for which a closed session was held. The minutes shall include all roll call votes taken at the meeting."
- Page 15 of the State of Michigan's "Open Meetings Act Handbook" explains, "The OMA [Open Meetings Act] does not prohibit a public body from preparing a more detailed set of minutes if it chooses to do so." Thus, pursuant to both Local and State laws, Clerk O'Connor's assertion that there is a maximum legal limit on the amount of detail that can be included in the official minutes of a Township Commission meeting is demonstrably wrong.
- Clerk O'Connor may want to review the Township's other Commissions' minutes such as the Township Community Recreation Commission's minutes which often include significant details far beyond the Township's "minimum" requirements.

Of course, she might find it difficult to obtain the minutes of all Township Commissions because it appears that the minutes for many of the Township Commissions are no longer posted on the Township's web site contrary to the past practice of maintaining a multi-year online archive. Ironically, Clerk O'Connor has still not posted on the Township's web site the minutes for the July 2019 Township Police Commission Meeting about which she was so concerned.

- It would serve Clerk O'Connor well to carefully study Township ordinances and State law in order to avoid asserting false information during official Township meetings or in any "course" she may teach on this subject. Moreover, once she learns the material, she should offer the "course" on writing minutes to Supervisor Loftus as he obviously needs help.
- The Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team completely embraces key core values, two of which, are Integrity and Excellence.
- We believe key components of Integrity include honesty and transparency.
- We believe Excellence includes continuous improvement and accountability.
- If the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team is elected, you can rest assured that we will encourage the writing of minutes for Township meetings that are transparent, accurate and informative while holding all officials -- including Township Board Members -- accountable for their commitments and actions.

The real reason that Supervisor Loftus opposed the Township Police Commission having detailed meeting minutes is that documenting key facts, and holding Township officials accountable for their actions or lack of actions, did not serve his personal position well. And by the way, that is also the real reason Supervisor Loftus supported Trustee Carl Bloetscher's motion to have Bob Zelasko and me removed from the Township Police Commission.

This is a stark contrast with the values of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team that place the interests of citizens above those of politicians.

- See www.grosseille2020.com for more information about our values, priorities and positions on issues.

If anyone has questions about these facts, please contact me by e-mail at grosseile2020@gmail.com.

About the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team

During April of 2020, seven Island residents filed applications to run in the 2020 Republican Primary Election in August as a slate of candidates named Grosse Ile 2020 for all elected positions that comprise the Grosse Ile Township Board. The following Islanders are members of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team with the positions being sought: Jim Budny, Supervisor; David Nadeau, Treasurer; Mark Lane, Clerk; Joe Porcarelli, Trustee; Mike Jurecki, Trustee; Mark Mills, Trustee; and Jamison Yager, Trustee.

The mission of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team is to provide the citizens of Grosse Ile with honest, respectful and responsive local government that delivers outstanding services and enacts sound policies which support excellent quality of life in the most cost-effective manner. These candidates developed the Grosse Ile 2020 Campaign Platform to resolve problems with the operations of the current Township Board and increase the fiscal responsibility of Township government while creating new opportunities to improve the quality of life in the community. To learn more about the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team, view their web site at www.grosseile2020.com.

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