

RESOLUTION 2007-5
Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge

WHEREAS, the Village of Grand Marais which is located in Burt Township, Alger County, Michigan has been engaged in a battle to Save Our Harbor of Refuge for the past 40 years, and

WHEREAS, Grand Marais Bay is the only Harbor of Refuge between Whitefish Point and Munising, Michigan, located along Lake Superior's notorious ninety mile "shipwreck coast", and is where the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sought to improve safe passage through the construction of two concrete walled piers and a breakwall of timbers and boulders to improve the safety of moored vessels inside the harbor in 1894, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was assigned the responsibility to maintain the harbor, did abandon its responsibility to maintain Grand Marais Bay's timber and boulder breakwall in 1943. Further, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the breakwall suffered severe damage through the diversion of natural currents resulting from construction of the piers, and due to neglect of maintenance, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress appropriated \$1.54 Million in the 2006 Fiscal Year to begin work on a new break wall, and the taxpayers of Burt Township approved a ¼ Mil in 1996 and have since continued to renew the Millage with a total collected in excess of \$124,000 to show support and encourage continued effort to restore the harbor break wall; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Burt owns and operates an established Marina on Grand Marais Bay, assists the National Park Service and US Coast Guard water rescue operations through use of the township marina, and provides safe harbor to recreational and commercial vessels alike, and

WHEREAS, the Burt Township Marina has become a liability requiring annual dredging to launch boats at a cost in excess of \$64,000 over the last 10 year period; and

WHEREAS, numerous vessels have sought refuge in Grand Marais Bay from storms on Lake Superior only to be battered against the Marina wall by excessive wave action now within the Harbor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Burt Township Board does hereby reaffirm our commitment to the community through continued efforts aimed toward the restoration of the breakwall for the community and transient boaters, alike.

Adopted on Motion by Lois Leavenworth, Seconded by L. Scott Wieting.

Roll Call Vote:

Lois Leavenworth, Trustee	<u> √ </u>	yes	<u> </u>	no
L. Scott Wieting, Trustee	<u> √ </u>	yes	<u> </u>	no
Marc Oglevie, Treasurer	<u> √ </u>	yes	<u> </u>	no
Kay L. Wampler, Clerk	<u> √ </u>	yes	<u> </u>	no
Jack Hubbard, Supervisor	<u> √ </u>	yes	<u> </u>	no

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF ALGER)

I, Kay L. Wampler, Clerk of the Township of Burt, Alger County, Michigan, certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution which was adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held on February 13, 2007.

Signed:

Dated:

Kay L, Wampler, Clerk