

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Association
Minutes
(Special Meeting with BWTA Prior to Directors Meeting)
March 9, 2013

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Susan Bryson, Barb Crown, Carol Johanson, Jim Laethem, Nancy LaMastus, David Martin, Mary Ann McLane, Denne Osgood, Cindy Pilato, Jeannie Rhodes, Dennis Szymanski, Kathy Schweikart.

Directors Absent/Excused: Patrick Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Otto Jensen, Art Koster, Leonard Verlinden, Don Verslype. Lois Whipple.

Members or Guests: Kathy Brady, Norman Rhodes, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Jim Wilson. A quorum: 13 of 21 Directors were present.

Jim Laethem brought the meeting to order in the Lions Den at 8:39 am., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Jim Wilson from Blue Water Transit Authority spoke regarding their possible involvement in over seeing of operations for the Champion Ferry System. They are a state authority eligible to receive funding of up to fifty percent for operating costs to go towards the Harsens Island Ferry Service, including, but not limited to discretionary Capital Grants. BWTA will not get involved unless all interested parties ask it of them. Champion Auto Ferry would still own the Ferry System. The MPSC would no longer hold jurisdiction. Champion Auto Ferry would no longer have interest in fares. This would thereafter be according to BWTA. Capital repairs and costs were discussed. BWTA would hold shares of the capital repairs. BWTA would be required to hold a public hearing for any future ferry rate increases. A contract including Federal Guidelines would be drawn up between Champion Auto Ferry and Blue Water Transit Authority. A thirty to fifty year contract would need to be approved by MDOT. Approval deadline is in April 4, 2013

Questions were asked by the HISCFA Board of Directors.

Motion was made by Cindy Pilato to go forward with the letter requesting BWTA to get involved. Barb Crown requested that all HISCFA members be notified if it is decided to be in the best interest of the Harsens Island residents. Motion tabled.

Motion was made by Jim Laethem "The Harsens Island St Clair Flats Assoc. having reviewed all the pertinent documents and in discussion with the BWTA management feel that the proposed ferry operating agreement is in the best interest of our membership. Dave Martin seconded. Voted: 9 Yea, 2 Nay, 2 Abstained. **Motion Passed.**

Barb Crown motioned to adjourn at 11:15 am. Cindy Pilato seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Brady
Recording Secretary
April 2, 2013