



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes January 13, 2024

Directors Present: Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, Gordon Couture, Margaret Marchwinski, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Jim Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Lois Whipple, Stacy Williams;

Excused: Craig Baloga, Fred Cardinali, David Martin, Steve Lawrence;

Unexcused: Jerry Freeman, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden;

Guests and Members Present: Maureen Boury, Roland Breaht, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Jacob Bryson, Toby Couture, Roger Favrow, Thomas French, Beth Forton, Carol Funke, Kathy Harrison, Ken Heuvelman, Jim Laethem, Kurt Marchwinski, Dan Neumann, George Rose, Rob Sattler, Julie Schatzberg, Denise Stieber, Skip Tornow, Sue Tornow, Jennifer Weaver, Mark Williams.

Lois Whipple brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:02 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The November 2023 meeting minutes were presented. **Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes, Jim Stieber seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the November and December 2023 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for December 31, 2023 was \$30,307.79 with total cash on hand being \$99,802.38. Harold mentioned that it is typical for HISCFA members to donate to other Island organizations (Reader's Cove, Lions, etc.) along with their HISCFA membership each year, and Harold routinely pays out donations to those organizations at the conclusion of each year. Also, prior to investing with the Community Foundation of St. Clair, HISCFA's money was only making approximately \$100/year in interest whereas now it is nearly \$10,000 in the positive with this investment, so it has proved very worthwhile. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

There was discussion about how to allocate monies from fundraisers: whether to allocate it towards the Browne's Field general fund, the improvement fund (e.g. walking path), or specifically to the restrooms fund. It was decided to investigate the intent of each of those fundraisers from those person(s) who spearheaded the event(s) on behalf of the HISCFA's benefit, and then report back to the Board at the next meeting as to where to allocate those monies.

Linda Schoonover made the motion to approve the November and December 2023 treasurer's reports, Jim Stieber seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Margaret Marchwinski reported that this time of year is very busy for the Executive Secretary, and she is looking for someone to help with these tasks immediately and ultimately take over this role. She has been busy working on turning over the membership list for this year, lease renewals for the Browne's Field Welcome



Signboard, and advertising in The Delta News. Carol Funke has come forward to take on the responsibility of maintaining the workload for the large Welcome Signboard (large advertising sign), and the HISCFA thanks Carol for stepping forward to take on that responsibility. Margaret reminded potential candidates for any of these vacant positions that she will happily walk anyone through the work that needs to be done as the Executive Secretary, when that person comes forward. The responsibility for Browne's Field Rentals is also still an outstanding item that needs to be covered. Stacy Williams graciously volunteered to join The Delta News committee beginning with the 2024 issue.

Communications: Margaret mentioned that she sent out Thank You notes to Kathy O'Connor and the Lioness Lions for their generous contributions recently. She has also received several remembrances for The Delta News and also potential news articles for the 2024 publication.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski stated that the replacement door has been picked up and is currently located inside the barn. The kitchen door can't be installed until the wall is repaired, but it can't be repaired until the issue with the contractor (mentioned last month) is resolved. Craig Baloga was not present at today's meeting to report on this issue. The cleanup from the mouse damage still has yet to be completed, so Margaret and Lois volunteered to visit the kitchen soon to check out what needs to be done. There is an extra portable toilet still located at Browne's Field and it needs to be removed. Margaret volunteered to contact Dave Martin to request removal of this third unit which is not needed in the winter months. There is already one portable toilet located on the mainland at the ferry as a courtesy to visitors to the Island during the longer winter wait times at the ferry. Linda Schoonover mentioned that a Boy Scout project for an owl box will be arranged to be placed at the field sometime this year. Additionally, a Blessings Box will be placed on the field tomorrow (weather permitting) near the pole barn / parking lot area.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple mentioned that Paul Wargo posted a water update on social media recently, and she read that update aloud to meeting attendees. The forecasted water level for May 2024 is expected to be 6 inches lower than last year, and unless something dramatic happens, that trend will continue through the summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Walking Path Status:* Harold Stieber stated that the HISCFA contracted with PCE for the design and project specifications to be created in order to ultimately obtain a quotation for a walking path at Browne's Field. PCE also did the design for the Clay Township Park. They are in the process of finalizing the plans and Harold will report back once that is complete. In the meantime, there are copies of the tentative plans to be viewed in the Appendix of this document.
- *2023 Executive Board Ballots:* The 2024 Executive Board needs to be reelected, and Margaret Marchwinski read the results of the ballots that went out to the current directors. Steve Lawrence has agreed to step into the Vice President position, and Jennifer Weaver has agreed to step into the Treasurer position. Both individuals were added to the ballots that were voted on by the existing Board of Directors. The ballots received showed unanimous approval for these candidates. **Harold Stieber made a motion to accept Steve Lawrence as Vice President and Jennifer Weaver as Treasurer, both effective beginning January 2024; Linda Schoonover seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** If anyone is interested in joining the Executive Board as President or Executive Secretary, please ask any Director for additional information.



NEW BUSINESS

- *No new business*

Guest Speaker, Ken Heuvelman from Port Huron Odyssey House: Ken spoke to the group today about Odyssey house and about a Naloxone (a.k.a. Narcan) distribution house. Ken spoke to the group about possibly placing one of these boxes on Harsen's Island. In the last two years 4,000 kits have gone out in the St. Clair County area. These boxes are provided at almost every library branch in the county, plus city halls in Marysville, Port Huron, and throughout the county to create easy and open access to Naloxone. Some organizations keep outdoors, and some keep indoors, but regardless it can be placed somewhere that people can access it without the need to be faced with the stigma associated with its need. In our county, the 55+ population is the largest group that is seeing benefits from the availability of Naloxone. There is no cost associated with placing this box somewhere in our community, and they're possibly looking to place it at the Harsen's Island Fire Hall. The Naloxone medication is provided by the State of Michigan. This nasal-spray medication can mitigate any opiate overdose including those from drugs like tramadol, vicodin, and other controlled substances. It is safe to use on persons of all ages including pets. It is not necessary to have an immediate need to take the medication; it is possible to take one for future use. The shelf life is approximately three years. Chief Rose agreed to place this box at the Harsen's Island Fire Hall to be accessible for all at any time. Melanie Most will discuss with Chief Rose how to get this information out to the public via social media, in addition to being published in these meeting minutes.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson stated that the Coast Guard is suspending service to Clay Township out of the St. Clair Shores station, and will be responding instead out of their Belle Isle location from now on. Clay Township is hosting a meeting this coming Wednesday with the Coast Guard to hear their plan about how response to our area will be impacted. Clay Township will also be hosting a small business Town Hall event on January 29th from 10am-12pm. Supervisor Bryson also mentioned how he is tasking the State of Michigan to do more about phragmites on their property with the recently passed township resolution (included in November 2023 HISCFCA Meeting Minutes). He had a pretty positive meeting with the DNR about it recently, and hopefully it's going to work its way down from the head of the DNR (with whom the meeting took place) so they can put together a comprehensive plan to address the phragmites in places like St. John's Marsh, the State Park, and also places on the Island that will include spraying, controlled burning, cutting, etc. It was also discussed about the Township purchasing a Marsh Master to have a working relationship with the DNR since it is not permitted for them to own that type of equipment. Supervisor Bryson put in a request last week for funding for this activity, for which the DNR has already submitted letters of support. The bid packet for the Spark Grant for \$584k is currently with the DNR; this is to replace the playground equipment at the Clay Township Park. For the proposed (approved) county park going in next to the current state boat launch (across from Kroger), two houses were torn down to make way for the beach park, and the Township has received various grants of \$700k towards phase one of this project (total of phase one will be around \$1M) and will consist of a parking lot, a large pavilion, a trailhead, a handicap kayak launch, fishing dock, and more. St. Clair County is looking at a total investment of around \$4.5M for that park and it will be very nice once completed. Supervisor Bryson is still working on the wetland mitigation with EGLE for the wastewater treatment plant on the Island. Once this is done, the Township will also re-apply for the proposed nature park on the Island. Talking to the county road commission, they're looking to replace the seawalls on all the bridges along Bates Hwy. A lot of the approaches have broken seawall or tiebacks, caps, and whalers which need to be brought back in. The township's insurance company MML sent out a loss analysis person to assess the Clay Township Fire Department and the report came back perfect - kudos to Chief Rose



on a job well done. The Presidential Primary election will be on Tuesday, February 27th, with early in-person voting from 2/17 to 2/25. Absentee ballots are going out very shortly (as soon as they are received). Clay Days will be the weekend May 11th including an American Indian powwow. The Sans Souci Block Party will take place May 18th this year. Dates and musical acts are in the process of being selected for Music in the Park soon, so more to come on that as we get closer.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of November, Chief Rose attended one meeting: the St Clair Flats Association; he was not able to attend the St. Clair County Chiefs Association meeting due to working a duty shift.

Both fire boats have been pulled out for the season. Fire Boat#1 will be stored at the Algonac Harbor Club (inside), and Fire Boat#2 will be stored at station #2. If the fire department needs to respond to the outer islands, they have Fire Boat#2 and the Airboat. Both Grass trucks and UTV pumps have been winterized. The fire department removed three of the dry hydrants on South Channel due to being damaged. The Clay Township Fire Department (CTFD) is looking at a possible dry hydrant system to replace them. The CTFD wants to advise residents to make sure their batteries in their smoke alarms are replaced, along with their CO₂ detectors. They should also have their wood stoves and chimneys cleaned and inspected. The CTFD assisted in decorating and the lighting of the Christmas Tree in Downtown Sans Souci. They also helped the Pearl Beach Lions with their parade and lighting of the Christmas tree in the Clay Township Park. Fire Department Training; Fire Rescue 1 Academy Training for the month: 52 hours, Medical Training: 12 Hours, Department / Crew Training: 26.5 Hours.

During the month of December, Chief Rose attended one meeting with TRI-Hospital EMS where we discussed the American CME new training platform for medical training and CEU. Firefighter Higgins will be starting his Firefighter 1 & 2 class in January in Marysville. Fire Boat #1 has been stored at the Algonac Harbor Club for the winter. Tango#3 has been having some issues with its water pump for some time. Fire Truck mechanic Jon Burby is assessing this unit. The CTFD started training with ESO which is their new reporting platform. Chief Rose hopes to have everyone up and running by the end of January 2024. Chief Rose arranged for Fleet Mod from Coopersville, MI stop by and look at Engine#4 and give the CTFD a quote on refurbishing the vehicle. They would add some pull-out trays and panels along with some shore power plug-in to charge some of the equipment, update the lighting on the vehicle to LED, and repaint it. It would be like a new truck once that work is completed. Fire Department Training; Fire Rescue 1 Academy Training for the month: 18 hours, Medical Training: 13 Hours, Department / Crew Training: 30 Hours.

Chief Rose wanted to clarify about a comment that was made at the last board meeting: there was a comment made about the fire department's inability to respond to structure fires on the out-islands. That information is inaccurate. There is a boat: it's a 28-foot CR and has a 1,250 gallon pump with fire hose, air packs, and fire equipment to battle a fire on an out-island. Chief Rose indicated that if something larger is needed, he can also put a fire truck on a ferry and get that driven out there.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Lois Whipple mentioned that Melanie Most currently receives a wage of \$75 per month for all of her duties that she has taken on for the HISCFA including Recording Secretary, social media posts, website updates,



and keeping up with the many activities that require follow-through for communication amongst the Executive Directors. Lois would like to see Melanie's wage increased and solicited feedback from the meeting attendees with respect to a new figure. Stacy Williams mentioned that at least the cost of a book of ferry tickets is justifiable given the quick turnaround time for all Melanie's communications, and because of all of the ways Melanie is accessible at nearly any time during the day/evening/night right from her phone. Dennis Szymanski suggested doubling the current wage, and mentioned that Melanie does an awesome job, and if anyone ever has a question, she always answers promptly. **Linda Schoonover made a motion to increase the Recording Secretary monthly payment to \$200 effective January 1, 2024; Gordy Couture seconded. All in favor, motion carried.**

- ✓ Melanie Most asked whether there was any follow-up about the dog leashing signs that are supposed to be posted at Browne's Field (discussed in November 2023 meeting). Dennis Szymanski indicated that he thought David Martin was addressing this. Margaret agreed to mention this to David when she called him about another issue.
- ✓ Melanie Most asked if there was a timeline established for removing the current playground equipment at the Township park on the mainland, so the HISCFA could be prepared to install that at Browne's Field, but also to appropriately time the removal of the current equipment in preparation to receive the new equipment. Dennis Szymanski stated the way PCE has placed the walking path on Browne's Field will accommodate a greater area to accept the larger playground equipment that the HISCFA plans to receive from the Township.
- ✓ Gordon Couture mentioned that he would like to volunteer to be a thorn in the DNR's side to improve the status of the public boat ramp near Brown's Bar (the Snooks launch). He would like to report back to the HISCFA when this activity picks up as the weather gets warmer and he is able to make contact with the DNR about this.
- ✓ Linda Schoonover requested a Vendor Application for 2024's Field Day event so that the form can be made available to potential vendors. Stacy Williams requested the form to be made available as a fillable PDF format instead of requiring applications to be handwritten. Lois Whipple indicated she will work on getting it updated, and will work with Stacy to update the format of the form.

Next meeting will be Saturday, February 10, 2024 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn; Jim Stieber seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (November 2023, December 2023)

PCE Preliminary Site Layout for Browne's Field proposed walking path



Clay Township Fire & EMS

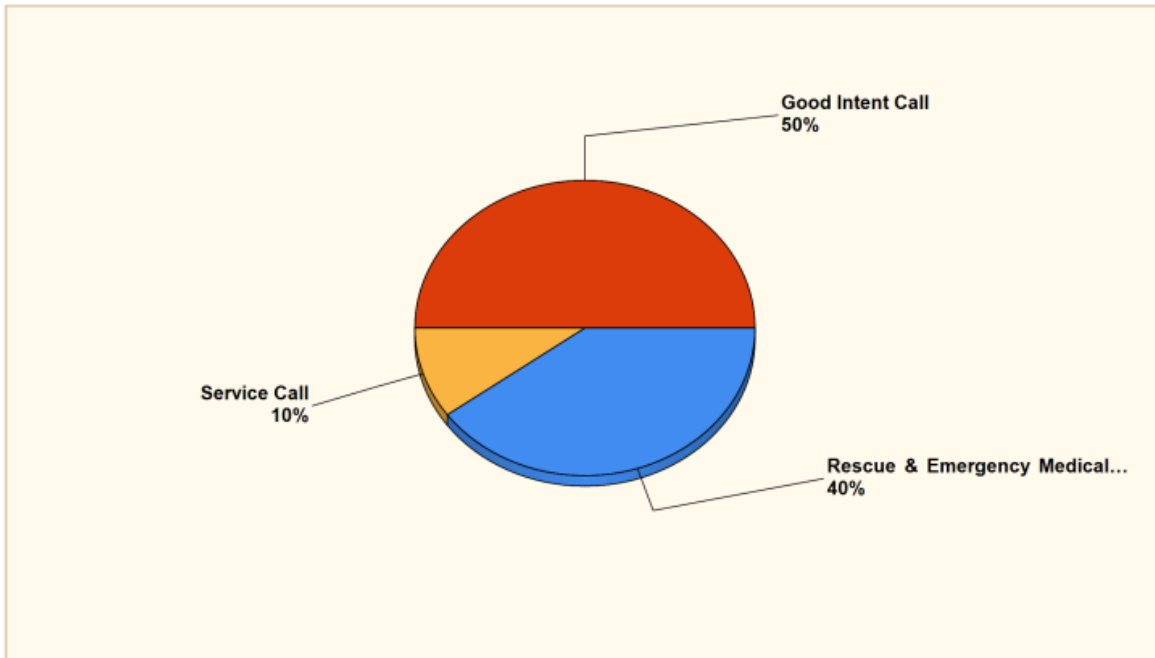
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 11/01/2023 | End Date: 11/30/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	8	40%
Service Call	2	10%
Good Intent Call	10	50%
TOTAL	20	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2	10%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	6	30%
554 - Assist invalid	1	5%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	5%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	1	5%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	9	45%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	20	100%



Clay Township Fire & EMS

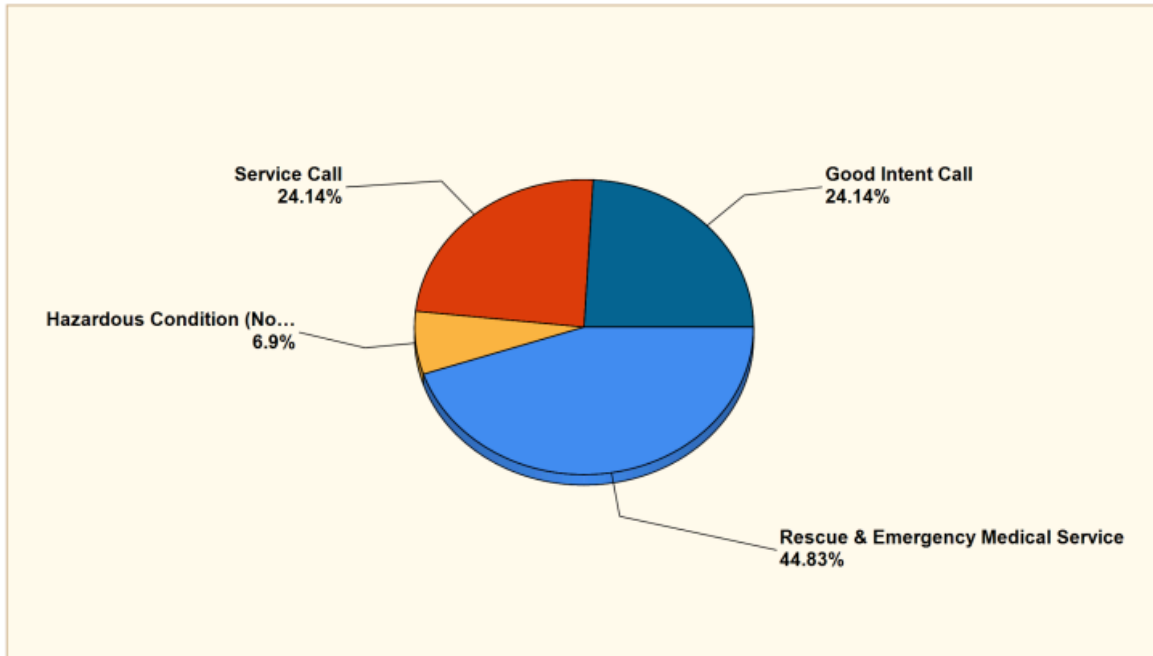
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 12/01/2023 | End Date: 12/31/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	13	44.83%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	6.9%
Service Call	7	24.14%
Good Intent Call	7	24.14%
TOTAL	29	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	2	6.9%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	10	34.48%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	1	3.45%
444 - Power line down	2	6.9%
553 - Public service	1	3.45%
554 - Assist invalid	2	6.9%
561 - Unauthorized burning	1	3.45%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	3	10.34%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	7	24.14%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	29	100%



PRELIMINARY SITE LAYOUT



CLIENT: HAROLD STEINER, JR.
ADDRESS: HANCOCK ISLAND, MA 02543
CITY/STATE/ZIP: HANCOCK ISLAND, MA 02543
OWNER: HANCOCK ISLAND

Project Control Engineering, Inc.
 Engineers Surveys Consultants

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JOB NUMBER: 23-186	DESIGN BY: J. GAMBLE	CHECK BY: J. MONTE
DATE: 12-15-2023	ISSUANCE BY: 23-186 TPO	SHEET No.: 1 OF 1
REVISIONS:		