



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes June 11, 2016

Directors Present: Todd Brady, Barbara Crown, Donna Halacoglu, Mike Hilla, Art Koster, Jim Laethem, Nancy LaMastus, Mary Ann McLane, Melanie Most, Denne Osgood, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wiczorek;

Excused: Susan Bryson, Pat Feighan, Jerry Freeman, Carol Johanson, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Lois Whipple;

Guests and Members Present: Pete Artman, Michael Balan, Nancy Boulton, Artie Bryson, Dave Carruthers, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Daryl DuPage, Steve Gartland, Mike Harry, Donna Krispin, Dan LaMastus, Doreen Miller, Jane Mount, Ken Roth, Ruth Roth, Sue Sampier, Joanne Shirkey, Stephanie Spencer, Jerry Thiel, Cindy Valentine, Ron Wludyka, Chris Wludyka.

Denne Osgood brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall at 9:01 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The May meeting minutes were presented. **Mary Ann McLane made the motion to approve the May meeting minutes, Leonard Verlinden seconded; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber was not present to report, but the balance in the checkbook for May 31, 2016 was \$44,451.88, with total cash on hand being \$67,240.31. One correction: stone for around the tennis court needs to be moved over to the driveway for the barn.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the May treasurer's reports; Mary Ann McLane seconded to approve; motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Donna Halacoglu stated that she has received 620 paid memberships to date, and adding the Old Club at 167 there are currently a total of 787 paid members. Donna is looking to retire from the position of Executive Secretary at some point, so if anyone is interested please speak with a director for information regarding the position.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Township Fire Chief Daryl DuPage / Township Clerk Cindy Valentine

The Clay Township Fire Department is responsible for 82 square miles of coverage (both land and waterways). Both stations (mainland and island) always have at least 2 people staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Firefighters are assigned to certain stations but may not be present at the station the entire time during their shift. Support is provided back and forth to each station depending on the calls that come in. Clay Township participates in automatic mutual aid with Algonac and Ira Township – all four stations get “toned out” at the same time so the stations can be



backfilled when a crew goes out so that all stations can receive continuous coverage. This is accomplished via radio communication.

The fire department airboat and the smaller boat stays on the island, and the two larger boats are stationed at the Pearl Beach Pier located behind Johnnie Lega's Restaurant & Tavern. Over the past six months (beginning of 2016 until now), the average response time (dispatch to arrival) for the mainland is 5:59, and 7:02 for the island. Distance to travel is the main reason for the slower response time on the island when compared to the mainland. For example, to drive from the end of Bruckner Island to the turnaround (near the Old Club), it takes 29 minutes while driving 10 mph over the speed limit. Another example is that it takes approximately 20 minutes to get to Gull Island from where the boat is parked behind Lega's. Average en-route time (dispatch received until vehicle is in motion) is 0:53 for the mainland, and 0:45 for the island. The national average response time for a rural area is 15 minutes.

The breakdowns in tax payments toward the township fire department are as follows: the island pays 30.85%, mainland 64.42%, 2.67% out islands, and 2.06% for Russell Island. When Clay Township received the grant to staff the stations, they held off on filling a 30-hour position (currently available) so that they can put a boat on the water for calls of that nature.

There are currently 7 full-time firefighters plus the fire chief Daryl DuPage. Typically there are two people at each station, excluding Chief DuPage. There are part-time paid-on call staff members, and they respond depending on the schedule. The grant allowed the township to put paid-on-call people on the schedule, and to keep both stations staffed 24/7. The grant is available now, but in 2018 this grant may possibly go away. If Clay Township was a transport agency, the township could keep that revenue that comes in. Over time, Clay Township has gone from being a medical first responder agency to a basic medical agency, and now classified as advanced life support. There has been a fight with the county for the township to allow transport, and the revenue being missed out on is approximately \$400,000. The grant covers about \$330,000.

Generally there are not back-to-back calls that come in where an overlap occurs and mutual aid is required. On average there are about 1300 calls per year. The paid on-call person fills in the gaps when an overlap does occur. The staff (including paramedics) can only work at the level that the truck is licensed. All trucks except the two tankers are licensed as medical trucks. Two of them are advanced life support, and there are 10 other vehicles. They are licensed as basic. Significant expenses for equipment (heart monitors, etc.) and expiring medications (i.e. drug boxes) do not justify licensing additional vehicles at a level higher than basic.

Regarding not seeing vehicles in the station: crews were previously switching out for shifts with the ambulance in the past (driving it from one station to the other). Now they are taking their own vehicles and are provided a ferry ticket. The doors are closed at the station regularly to keep the cottonwood out. Just because you don't see vehicles, doesn't mean no one is there.

The winter brings ice rescues and significantly fewer calls coming in from the island. A lot of maintenance goes on as soon as spring hits to get ready for the summer (boats, cleaning, etc.). Training days are typically once a week at 7pm or on the weekend doing dive training. A cost-recovery policy is in place for rescues: non-residents are charged, but for residents or family of residents (or neighboring communities within the mutual aid), the charge is generally waived. The insurance company is charged. Fire calls are charged directly to the resident because insurance covers the resident and the costs need to be recouped by the township. The anticipated cost-recovery for the coming year is approximately \$20,000, but from June 2015 – May 2016 a total of \$42,000 was recovered.

The medical board is made up of people from each hospital: River District Hospital, McLaren Port Huron, and Lake Huron Medical Center. Tri-Hospital EMS is owned by the three hospitals, and they don't want to lose the revenue by allowing Clay Township to transport because then the township can charge instead of them. There is an appeal



out there, but it has not yet been decided. Clay Township meets the criteria to become a transport agency, but has not been approved by the State of Michigan.

Depending on the type of emergency you're having, you (the patient) have the right to choose to which hospital you wish to be transported. If it's a priority, it is protocol to take you to the closest appropriate hospital.

An EMT is always staffed on the island, scheduled, no on-call, and about 60% of the time there is a paramedic on staff. The difference in training for an EMT is a 6 month course, and a paramedic receives training for 1.5 years. EMTs can perform CPR, check airways, check vitals, administer epinephrine, administer NARCAN, etc. A paramedic can pretty much do anything a nurse can do at a hospital (start IVs, administer medications, intubate, attach cardiac monitor, read heart rate, interpret heart rhythm, etc.). Clay Township has to have at least one paramedic on staff 24/7. If there are 2 paramedics on staff, one is on each station (mainland and island). If there is only one paramedic on staff, he will be on the mainland. If a call comes in from the island that requires a paramedic, he will travel to the island for that call. Full-timers (EMTs and paramedics) are on a scheduled rotation (part of the grant) and they have a set schedule of ON for 48 hours, OFF for 96 hours. Everyone else is scheduled according to their availability.

For our community, the millage rate is very low. When Clay Township and Harsens Island fire departments merged a few years ago, the millage for Harsens Island went from 1.75 to 1.125. The past two years the budget has been balanced, but only as a result of millage being raised back up to 1.65 to get the revenue back. The Clay Township fire department (including Harsens Island) now works off of only one budget, which was reduced from \$700,000 to about \$500,000 once the departments merged. Each township resident currently pays more in taxes for weekly garbage pickup than we do for fire department service.

Communications: The raffle tickets for Field Day will be sent out in the mail this month.

Government Affairs: Patrick Feighan was not present to report on this topic.

Browne's Field (upkeep and future development): Patrick Feighan was not present to report on this topic, but Dennis Szymanski provided the updates as follows:

- The baseball diamond has been resurfaced. 80% of it is groomed and time has been donated to finish the grooming.
- Power was run to the baseball backstop and concession area.
- Insect / pest control actions have been completed.
- Two loads of sand have been ordered for use on the volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and playscape areas.
- Five picnic tables have been moved out to their respective positions around the field along with the five barbecue grills ready for use.
- This coming Monday morning, Rosemary and Donna will be weeding and addressing the flower beds.

Browne's Field Rental: An upcoming rental is a wedding on July 30th. Volunteers are needed for setting up and closing down.

Advertising Sign: There are no updates at this time.

Delta News: The Delta News is currently at the printer and is 95% laid out. Pictures were taken for the cover of the Delta News with the feature story about the Krispin Drain.



Community Relations: Island Cleanup was extremely successful this year. One full container of tires, 3 boats, 6 roll-off dumpsters were taken, and the burn pile helped as well. The Trunk-to-Trunk Sale is scheduled for Saturday June 18th, 2016 with setup from 8-9am, and the sale goes from 9am-12pm.

Special Events: Jerry Thiel has assisted with organizing the Harsens Island Car Show which is scheduled to take place on July 16, 2016. For more information visit: <http://harsensislandcarshow.weebly.com/>. Additional donations have been received from O'Reilly Auto Parts including a couple of banners and 500 cup cozies to hand out, and Jerry has been passing out 500-600 flyers at other car shows. Word-of-mouth has proven that there has been an overwhelming response of interest in this event. Fifteen advanced entries have been received to date, but Jerry thinks most entrants will be a last minute decision. Barbara Crown has drafted a shirt to sell for profit at the car show.

Dennis Szymanski made a motion to approve up to \$300 to make t-shirts for the car show; Leonard Verlinden seconded; all in favor, motion carried.

501(c)(3) Committee Update: The restated Articles of Incorporation were approved by the State of Michigan and are now on file. Phase 1 is now complete, and Phase 2 is the filing of the IRS form 1023 which is currently in progress.

Trunk-to-Trunk: The first event will be on June 18th, 2016 from 9am-12pm, and the second event will be on August 13th, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Liquor Licenses for 2016 Events (car show, Field Day, bonfire)*: Harold Stieber is working on these licenses and liability insurance.
- *Water Station repairs*: Pat Feighan, Jim Laethem, and Dennis Szymanski are still evaluating plumbing needs, and Dennis is scheduling the roof repair for this week.
- *Field Day*: Baxter Insurance Agency is our first sponsor for Field Day, and they have provided \$750. We need to pay an additional \$350 for insurance (as second insured) for the vendors for Field Day.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nothing for new business at this time.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Shredding at Browne's Field today for free from 9am-12pm.
- ✓ Post Card show at the Harsens Island Historical Society museum today from 10-11 am.

Next meeting will be Saturday, July 9th, 2016 at 9:00am at the Harsens Island Lions Club.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn, and Leonard Verlinden seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary