



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes February 11, 2017

Directors Present: Susan Bryson, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Pat Feighan, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Denne Osgood, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Rosemary Wiczorek, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Todd Brady, Jerry Freeman, Mike Hilla, Art Koster, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor, Leonard Verlinden;

Guests and Members Present: Darryl Binder, Pat Binder, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, George Covalle, Ken Cummings, William Donaldson, Barb Feldman, David Gmerek, Tom Hellstrom, John Horvath, Doris Jackson, Donna Krispin, Peggy Krispin, Harry Mikolowski, Jane Mount, Larry McDonald, Mike Olderman, Peggy Osgood, Jerry Ringe, Joanne Shirkey, Stephanie Spencer, Jim Stieber, Jerry Thiel, Penny Trabbic, Cindy Valentine, Bob Wasil, Linda Wasil, Bob Wishart.

Denne Osgood brought the meeting to order at the Lion's Hall at 9:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The November 2016 meeting minutes were presented. **Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the November 2016 meeting minutes, Dennis Szymanski seconded; motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the treasurer's reports for January 2017. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for January 31, 2017 was \$7,332.93, with total cash on hand being \$30,221.86. Specifically, a total of \$10,362.00 has been set aside for the purpose of the Browne's Field improvement fund, and other monies have been designated for other specific projects as well. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at stiebha@gmail.com.

Patrick Feighan made the motion to approve the January 2017 treasurer's report; Barbara Crown seconded to approve; motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle was introduced as the new Secretary beginning this calendar year.

Guest Speaker(s):

Artie Bryson (Clay Twp. Supervisor): Artie stated that Clay Township has recently hired a new Fire Chief. There were a total of five applicants for the position and a hiring committee was used to select George Rose. All of the candidates had great experience, but George's background and experience put him above all of the other candidates. George has lived in Clay Township all his life and he has several family members who also live in the township. He started his career as a fireman in Clay Township and remained in the township for a number of years, worked for about 6 years as a dispatcher for the Clay Township police department, and has worked at the Selfridge ANG airbase for the last 27 years as Chief of Operations overseeing 50 full-time employees and 8 dispatchers. He possesses many skills including community relations, crisis and emergency management, finance monitoring and forecasting, workforce planning, finance, payroll, and operations management. His certifications include hazardous materials awareness operations, incident commander, weapons of mass destruction, diver, operation ARFF, mobile water supply, ice rescue and trainer, and rapid intervention team.



George Rose (Clay Twp. Fire Chief): George was introduced by Artie and George stated that he wants to get to know more residents of the island. He has spent his life on the mainland mostly, but he has hunted some of the DNR sites on the island a few times. He stated that he would like to get to know more about the island in general as well as get to know the people so that he can learn what our needs are and assist in any way(s) he can.

Artie Bryson went on to say that right now the fire department is rated ALS (Advanced Life Support) as of about 2 years ago, and at that time it was a business decision as a way to make money for the Clay Township Fire Department. If Clay Township was able to transport patients to the hospital, the township could recoup the costs. At that time, it was estimated that the township would end up receiving around \$450,000 a year for transporting throughout the township. Clay Township received the Safer Grant for two years to employ seven full-time employees to give ALS a try, and essentially what happened was that Clay Township applied twice to get a transport license with the St. Clair County Medical Control Board, and twice it was denied. Transporting is what makes the money. Artie stated that the township appealed to the State Medical Control Board and also got denied there. The township board took it to the attorneys with the potential to take it to court and the attorneys responded that it would be a long, drawn-out battle (very expensive) and they were unsure that the township would even win the case. The township board decided not to proceed any further. The numbers that Tri-Hospital does collect out of Clay Township is only about \$250,000, so Clay Township would be losing money by attempting to be licensed to transport. For example, Ira Township went ALS about 7 or 8 years ago but after 2 or 3 years they got out of it because they were losing money on it.

The current condition is that Clay Township is ALS certified. The problem the fire department has is that there are about 30 people on the roster but only 10-12 are locals. A lot of the fire department staff has to drive 30-40 miles to come to work for the township to do a duty shift, and if there's a fire and they're at home, they just don't respond. George is going to help recruit more local talent to overcome this shortage of local help. With the current situation of Clay Township being ALS, the township is just reproducing a service that Tri-Hospital already gives the township for free. It doesn't cost the taxpayers or the township anything. In the case of the township being ALS, Clay Township is investing money to reproduce a service that Tri-Hospital currently provides.

Backing up for a minute, Artie stated that when he first got into office, he did not like the response time Tri-Hospital was providing Clay Township. After addressing this issue and Artie being very vocal about it, Tri-Hospital stepped up and reduced the response time on the island by about five minutes per call. Clay Township got into ALS as a business decision initially, and not because Tri-Hospital was doing a poor job. Overall, Clay Township cannot collect any money by being ALS. That being said, Clay Township is seriously looking at going back to being Basic Life Support (BLS) certified.

If Clay Township has an ALS unit on Harsen's Island (paramedic / EMT) and there's a fire, they cannot engage in the fire because it's against state law. Essentially they can go to the fire and just look at it and wait until the cavalry from the mainland can come over. They are there purely for medical reasons. Or, if there's a medical emergency someplace else, they would have to leave the fire and go attend to that. If we have an ALS unit on the island and there's not one on the mainland, and there is a medical emergency on the mainland and Tri-Hospital is not responding right away, per state law the island unit has to go to respond and continue to go to that emergency until Tri-Hospital responds or can get there.

A couple of weeks ago people were upset about why the ambulance was leaving the island just to have them turn right around and come back. Well, there was a problem on Flamingo and Tri-Hospital couldn't respond right away, and by the time the island unit got onto the ferry, Tri-Hospital did show up so the island unit got off the ferry and turned right around and came back. In that specific case, the island wouldn't have had any protection. That is one of the disadvantages of being ALS. If the township is BLS, the fire staff can fight fires and anyone can do anything (medical or otherwise).



When there's an incident and an ambulance arrives, everything being done to the patient in the first five to six minutes is BLS activities and nothing being done at that time is ALS. They stabilize the patient, get the vitals, etc. They don't perform anything ALS at all. By then, Tri-Hospital will be on the scene to transport. Being BLS, Clay Township will be able to transport to an ALS rig, even on the mainland. If there isn't an ALS unit readily available, Clay Township can put them in their own vehicle and take them to intercept the ALS rig. In the long run, even at the end of the island, it will save at least ten minutes getting to the hospital. Now, if there's something at the end of the island, we have to wait for Tri-Hospital to get there, load them up, and take them back. Artie asked everyone not to sell BLS short. There are many things that can be done through ALS that are also done through BLS. Artie asked Ken Cummings, CEO of Tri-Hospital to discuss some of these things.

Ken Cummings (Tri-Hospital EMS, a non-profit corporation): Ken stated that he was not here to talk anyone into or out of anything, that he was just here to highlight some of the differences between BLS and ALS and the various levels of care allowed by a fire first responder and an ambulance. Like it or not, medical response, whether done through a fire department, Tri-Hospital EMS, or as an individual, is regulated in the state of Michigan. What that means is that there is a statute (law) that exists that was passed by the legislature (signed by the governor) that stipulates what you have to adhere to when you provide that service to your community. It talks about everything from staffing, equipment, type of vehicle; it's a myriad of things that you have to adhere to. Contrasting that next to fire response, in the state of Michigan fire response is NOT regulated and there are no standards required by law that say you have to do anything a certain way, but there IS on the medical response side. There are many standards in the fire service that are created and followed by many fire departments all over the country, but by law there are not any statutes in Michigan that require certain things to be done at certain times in certain instances. On the medical side, there is.

The state of Michigan and the Michigan law recognizes four different levels of care that can be provided. Here in St. Clair County, three of these levels are recognized and those three levels are permitted to operate within the county. The fourth one that the state recognizes that the county does not recognize is called Limited Advanced Life Support which is a level of care between BLS and ALS, but the requirements for that particular level have gotten very stringent. Many agencies no longer license to that level so our county just doesn't recognize it (along with other counties across Michigan).

Of the three levels that are recognized in St. Clair County, the first level is a Medical First Responder which is where the personnel and agency are tied together. A licensed medical first responder in the state of Michigan cannot go out and practice his skill unless he does it in connection with a licensed agency. Both have to go hand-in-hand together; that's the law. As a medical first responder working for a medical first response licensed agency, he can go out and do CPR, administer oxygen, check blood glucose, carry and administer oral glucose on the vehicle, bandaging, splinting, vehicle extrication, etc.

The next level is called Basic Life Support (BLS) which is what Clay Township is looking at going back to in the near future. Basic Life Support does all of the things that the Medical First Responder level does, plus BLS individuals and agencies are allowed to do a couple of additional things beyond that. One of them is that BLS agencies can put in a supraglottic airway. Essentially, this level can insert a tube into your air passages but does not actually go directly into the trachea. This still allows them to open the airways and get air into your lungs without going into your trachea. BLS agencies also carry some medication, whereas just 10 years ago they were not allowed to carry any. One of these medications BLS agencies carry is a drug called Narcan which is used as an antidote for a drug or opioid overdose (i.e. heroin). It counteracts whatever drug is causing the overdose and acts as an antagonist against that opioid or drug that the person may have taken and it reverses the effects of that. Once it is given, it will assist the patient in breathing or cause the patient to begin breathing again because it causes the drug to be eliminated from the body. Another drug that is carried by BLS units is epinephrine to treat severe allergies such as



bee stings for people who are allergic or any other contaminant. BLS units can inject the patient with epinephrine who may be having some type of an allergic reaction which would require it.

The next level is Advanced Life Support (ALS). The ALS level carries roughly 25-30 different drugs and medications, some of which can be life-saving, but many of which are just stabilizing medications. Please don't fall under the impression that if it is an ALS unit it's going to save everyone's life. Not all of these medications can save lives. Most of the medications are there to just stabilize the patient to stop whatever is occurring from further advancing. These medications simply slow down what's happening to the individual. Also, ALS units have a cardiac monitor which allows the paramedic a view of the heart to look at the heart rhythms to determine might or might not be going on with the individual requiring care. Based on what the paramedic sees with the monitor, they can then select a medication that might help stabilize it or stop it or prevent it from furthering. Finally, ALS units can do a direct endotracheal tube which is an air-breathing tube that gets inserted directly into the trachea. This is the most direct form of airway that exists today.

One of the things that Artie touched on is that in almost every response that is done, the first few minutes of every call is really trying to figure out what is going on and why the paramedics are there. This is a BLS procedure. Paramedics don't immediately run into the home and start cramming drugs into you. If you're not breathing, paramedics start breathing for you, they start CPR on you, and they administer oxygen on you. These are all basic procedures that anyone would do, regardless of whether it was a BLS or ALS agency. The first thing to do is to properly assess the situation. The more advanced procedures don't even occur until the patient is moved to the ambulance and prepared for transport.

If you search ALS versus BLS on the internet, what you're going to find is that there is very little data where any of the studies suggest that the outcomes of illnesses have better outcomes when served with ALS over BLS. You will not find it because it doesn't exist. Artie passed out an article (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/study-finds-advanced-life-support-ambulances-linked-death/>) published in JAMA Internal Medicine which is one of the leading research groups out there in the medical field. What the article really talks about is the fact that when you administer advanced life support to people, you are often delaying transport because you're providing that care on the scene, whereas if you've provided basic life support (BLS), you get everything done and you get to the hospital faster. Some of it is true and some of it may not be true, but you have to take all of these articles with a grain of salt. The bottom line is that what the doctors (who did the research) are essentially saying is that the faster you get the patient to the hospital, the better for the patient.

The reason for favoring rapid transport is because paramedics in the field who don't have a lot of experience performing the advanced skills tend to take longer performing those skills. They're not as proficient at it. With medicine, you need to use the skill to be proficient at it. You need to experience it on a daily basis in order to be effective. Wouldn't you rather be treated by a doctor who does something every day versus one who only practices one day a week? There's a big difference there.

One of the things you need to consider when making this decision of choosing ALS or BLS is that you have to look at the number of times your (Clay Township) paramedics have performed these ALS skills in Clay Township – four times in two years! That's not very proficient. Ken stated that he is a licensed paramedic in the state of Michigan, but he has not practiced his skill because he sits in an office all day long. He has kept his license over the years and completed his continuing education, but he said, "You don't want to look up and see my face looking over top of you, because I don't practice it day in and day out. I sit in an office." That's a fact you need to consider: how well-trained are your personnel when they're not using their skill on a regular basis. If you're not intubating patients, administering medications, starting IVs on a regular basis... you lose that skill. Why can Tri-Hospital do it? They're doing 20,000 ambulance calls a year. Tri-Hospital's people rotate and they don't work exclusively at any one



station; they bounce around to all of the stations. These people are getting those calls and getting that experience on a regular basis and doing this for a living.

Clay Township has been having difficulty finding staff. If Clay Township chooses to stay at the ALS level, Clay Township will continue to have difficulty finding staff because there is a shortage of ALS-certified staff in the state of Michigan. Right now the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services EMS and Trauma Division has developed a task force in the state of Michigan to try to address how to resolve the paramedic staffing shortages that exists within the state. Many, many agencies have vacancies right now. Why is that? Maybe the pay is too low for the number of hours? People are not choosing to get into that occupation anymore, plus the training requirements are increasing significantly with various stages of testing. Today it takes about a year and a half to go to school and get the training to do the clinicals. Demands are very great on those individuals and not worth it to many (discouraging).

Questions/comments/discussion from the meeting attendees:

Meeting Attendee 1 (MA1): Would Tri-Hospital lose money if Clay Township received a transport license?

Ken: Absolutely, no question about it.

MA1: With this rural area, I think ALS is most important than anywhere else. I believe this study that I read is probably for a suburban area where you're close to the hospital and you're going to be at the hospital within minutes. It's going to be at least 30 minutes if you're close to the ferry to get to any hospital from here, and in my opinion ALS is made for an area like this on Harsens Island.

Ken: I guess the question that I would put to you then is why is it, in the last two years, your ALS fire department has only used it four times?

MA1: What do you mean by used it? Crack a drug box? Start IVs? What exactly do you mean by "used it?"

Ken: ALS procedures.

Artie: We've started four IVs in two years, since we've been ALS.

MA1: That's untrue. I've done more than four IVs myself.

Artie: None of them were life-saving events. An IV will not save a life.

MA1: It can if there's a trauma or severe blood loss.

Artie: We've never administered any life-saving drugs.

Ken: An IV is not going to save anybody's life. IV is simply a method to administer medication.

MA1: In the case of severe bleeding, it kind of helps slow the process.

Ken: It can, but it's not going to save anybody's life. You've been a paramedic; you know that's true.

MA1: On a typical day, how many ALS units do you have on the street? How many do you have that are BLS?



Ken: I have no BLS. We have no BLS trucks anywhere in our system.

MA1: If BLS is so great, why don't you? If you're saying BLS is the way to go, why don't you?

Ken: Because we work in conjunction with every fire department in the county, and they provide either the Medical First Response or the BLS service so we have no need for BLS. Every other municipality that we operate in, and we serve 28 out of the 32 municipalities here in St. Clair County and somewhere around 18 other fire departments, they all provide medical response whether at the Medical First Response level or the BLS level. None of the other agencies we work with provide Medical First Response at the ALS level.

Meeting Attendee (Bob Wishart): When you look at that point of view as far as health care, and you take that type of treatment in comparison to reaction time – from the time the 911 call goes in to the time you're at River District – that segment versus whether the guy is ALS or BLS, from what I'm hearing and from what I believe, reaction time is primary; much more important than ALS or BLS. My question would be, when you look at the numbers in order to benefit the community (any community), if the response time is diminished, right there: that's the benefit. Response time is the primary concern. I kind of think it would be a big benefit if in whatever way we could have that unit here on the island that can take me to River District. I know there are all kinds of stuff involved, but if you take that item versus ALS/BLS, response time is primary and that's what I'd like to see the township address.

Artie: I agree with you, and like I say, we can now transport to intervene with Tri-Hospital. If you're at the end of the island, [Clay Township F.D.] can pick you up, take you to the ferry – they don't have to come across and go down to you – transfer them to the ambulance, and then they're off to River District.

BW: They [C.T.F.D.] can't take them right to River District?

Artie: No.

BW: I know it. So there still is a link involved: the link is time.

Artie: Forty-five seconds.

Ken: Bob, if I could respond to one of your comments. I don't have an answer or a solution to the question or comment that you made, but what I can tell you is when you talk about time, if you want to provide a huge benefit to your citizens, everybody in this room needs to learn CPR. I'm going to tell you right now, that will save more lives than BLS vs. ALS because if you can provide and get CPR started on somebody in the home faster than a fireman or an ambulance can get there, that will save more lives than this debate by itself.

BW: The bottom line is that time is the big factor.

Ken: Sure it is. Absolutely. No question.

Meeting Attendee (George Covalle): Does the patient have a choice of which hospital they're transported to – to any county hospital?

Ken: Absolutely; any hospital. In the state of Michigan, and here in St. Clair County, you (the patient) have the preference of which facility you want to go to unless you are in a life-threatening, critical situation. Under that situation, state law says we must take you to the closest hospital. Just so you know, Tri-Hospital transports about



60% of the patients out of Clay Township either to McLaren Macomb or to Henry Ford Macomb, and the balance of them would go to River District.

Meeting Attendee (Susan Bryson): The first responders are going to be the ones that save your lives, whether the township is ALS or BLS. By the time they get on site and start performing everything and assessing everything, you're going to be down the road and on the ferry. The first responders are who you want to help.

Ken: You are absolutely correct. Again, I'm not here to talk you into or out of anything, but the tiered response that we have with a medical response regardless of which level it is, whether it is ALS or BLS, having the local fire department respond along with the ambulance is by far the best system out there and it will absolutely save lives. No question about it.

Meeting Attendee 2: And they can defibrillate, too?

Ken: And they can defibrillate. Every one of them has defibrillators.

Artie: There's one right behind you [on the wall at the Lions Hall].

Ken: And you have one right here!

Meeting Attendee 3: I want to know why we were turned down for transportation.

Artie: There were a couple different reasons. The medical control board looks at the county system as a whole, and if Clay Township had ALS transport here, it would diminish their ability to support an ambulance to a rural community like Capac or something like that. We'd have an issue of mutual aid, too. If we were ALS transport here in Clay Township, it would cost us around \$350,000. To fund an ambulance is about \$150,000 a year. If we had two calls at the same time, we would have no protection in the whole township. Tri-Hospital has 10 ambulances, and if they get a call, they backfill. Two Saturdays ago, Clay Township had four calls within a half hour. If two of those calls were on the island, we'd have been dead in the water on those last two calls. Clay Township wouldn't have been able to respond. Tri-Hospital was able to respond because they move their ambulances around the whole county and they move them north or south or wherever they have to. Clay Township wouldn't have those resources if we were ALS transport. Am I right, Ken?

Ken: You're absolutely correct.

Meeting Attendee 4 (MA4): I will say that experience is critical. If you're only doing something once or twice a year, I don't care what your certification is, you are not as qualified or as experienced as you should be.

Artie: Right. If you have a small box of tools, you really know how to use those tools well, versus if you have a big box of tools –

MA4: – and you use it once a month.

Artie: Right. I've thought about this a lot and have done lots of research and reading, and have talked to a bunch of people. I've talked to just about all of the officers in the fire department and asked them what they want to do, and



they all say BLS. That's our own fire department. They're not pounding the table saying "you're doing the wrong thing; we've got to stay ALS." They all think it is the right thing. We're not unprotected. We still have Tri-Hospital that's covering us and giving us that ALS service for free, as good as - if not better than - we can provide it ourselves. It would cost the township \$350,000 a year to reproduce a service that they already provide us at no cost. Originally the township spent \$8,000 on two heart monitors which we were told would get us through for years, and six or eight months later we were told they were out of date and we have to replace them. Then we just spent \$50,000 on a couple heart monitors - Ken's going to buy them off of us for what we paid for them. It is a business decision, and that's why we got into it and that's why I'm thinking we probably will be a board decision to go back to BLS. Tri-Hospital does an excellent job at protecting us.

Meeting Attendee 5 (MA5): Artie, going back to something you said earlier, I just want to make sure I got it right. If we're ALS and my house catches on fire -

Artie: Cannot engage.

MA5: - they've got to stand there and watch my house burn?

Artie: Yep. They cannot engage in a fire. They are paramedics, they are not firefighters. That's why I said we're improving our service on the island [by going back to BLS].

Ken: If I could say that just a little differently: What the Michigan law says is that once you're licensed, you must provide whatever care you're licensed at (whatever level you're licensed at) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the first call. If you get a house fire and you take that crew off the ambulance and put fire equipment on them and send them into the fire and you get an emergency... you just violated your license and will likely lose your license. You cannot take that truck out of service to do a different function. The fact that you've chosen to provide medical response through the fire department does not exempt you any more than it would exempt Tri-Hospital from taking their people and delivering pizzas on Saturday nights. I know that seems extreme, but we're not allowed to do that. Tri-Hospital cannot take those trucks out of service to perform a different function because it inconveniences them. You cannot do that in the state of Michigan.

Meeting Attendee 6: I have a son that is in Detroit that's taken medical runs. They have to have two sets of gear. If they're at a fire at a house fire, they have to take those clothes off and put clean clothes on before they can go on a medical run and vice versa.

Ken: The point I wanted to make was that they can go to the fire. There's no law that says they can't go to the fire. But if another emergency comes in elsewhere, they've got to be available to respond to that. You cannot take that vehicle out of service to fight fire or deliver pizzas (in an extreme example).

Artie: Could you imagine the next day on Nextdoor when there's a fire and the guys show up there and they're not putting the fire out... all the comments you'd see? But by law, that's how it works.

Patrick Feighan: What it comes down to is doing what's the best for cost. It cannot come as a sacrifice to safety. Safety has to be first. When you're going through your decisions as a board, if safety isn't the first priority, then the priorities are wrong.

(end of guest speakers / comments / discussion)



Communications: Neva stated that as of today, there are 11 paid entries for the car show this summer.

Government Affairs: Artie covered it pretty well already. Thank you all for coming.

Browne's Field (upkeep and future development): The addition on the pavilion kitchen was completed structurally; painting has yet to be finished. The addition houses chairs, tables, and other things required at the pavilion. There will also be a bulletin board which will display a calendar and contact information for the field. The red barn got a new structural roof with materials. Some new siding is required to complete the project and we hope to use it for events in the future. For pickleball, several different grants have been applied for and we unfortunately just found out we did not get approved for the grant.

Transportation: Patrick stated he has a meeting coming up with the county. If there is a sign missing or something else we might need regarding transportation, please let Patrick know so he can address it.

Browne's Field Rental: Rosemary stated the committee is still working on finalizing the rental agreement.

Delta News: Art Woodford is back in town so Barbara Crown is going to get with Art to discuss the upcoming year's publication.

Car Show: The date for the second annual car show is Saturday, July 15, 2017. Jerry Thiel stated that a mass email was sent out to all of the people who signed up for email reminders about the upcoming event, and he is asking for approval for stamps and mailing materials. Volunteers are going to be needed to assist with putting on this event because this year is looking promising to have even more attendees as well as cars for the show. Last year Jerry brought 18 of his own crew, and is looking for at least another dozen volunteers. The most important thing is that the weather cooperates! Jerry also needs some money for the DJ, but he is going to take all of these things up with the committee at their next meeting.

Field Day: The date for this event will be Saturday, August 5, 2017.

Bonfire and Pig Roast: The date for this event will be Saturday, September 16, 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Board opening:* There are currently two open positions on the board, and there are currently 16 members on the board. Patrick will post about the openings on Nextdoor.
- *Welcome Committee:* Barbara Crown stated she has acquired some things to stuff into the Welcome Bags, but requires assistance with stuffing the bags. Barbara will be asking other island businesses for the additional items for the bags. There have only been a few responses to outreach on Nextdoor.
- *Charge account procedure:* Harold Stieber has now obtained a letter signed by Denne Osgood to provide to Lumberjack to assign Harold as an authorized buyer for the association and this issue has now been resolved.
- *HISCF A Shirts purchase on hold:* Denne Osgood will be working with the committee for getting new shirts for board members.
- *Signboard:* Barbara stated that the Association is going to provide Norman a list of things to put on the sign so that he doesn't need to contact someone from the Association each month. A technology upgrade is required in the future at some point.



NEW BUSINESS

- *Scholarship Chair*: Due to Mary Ann McLane's passing, Susan Bryson stated she is stepping up to be the scholarship chair going forward. Susan would like to see if she could incorporate other scholarship chairs on the island to work on them together, as well as getting information from the school. There is a \$1,000 Orlo McLane scholarship as well as \$750 scholarships available from the Association. **Barbara Crown made a motion to change the name of the Orlo McLane scholarship to the Orlo and Mary Ann McLane Scholarship; Patrick Feighan seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *Mary Ann McLane Memorial*: There was discussion about how to proceed with either a donation or a memorial of some kind (perhaps a tree at Browne's Field). This topic will be discussed next month.
- *Conflict of Interest form*: Patrick Feighan has the forms and is coordinating getting the forms signed and collected and placed on file.
- *Computer project*: Todd Brady is purchasing a computer so that the Executive Secretary can have a computer to work on for the Association items. The basic unit was \$429 but still has to have software and anti-virus software placed onto it for an additional charge.
- *Website*: Harold Stieber stated that we are looking for a new website administrator going forward. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Doris Jackson asked everyone to let the island organizations know of any high school seniors who live on the island, to please provide their name(s) if they're potentially eligible for any of these scholarships.
- ✓ Artie Bryson wanted to thank Ken Cummings and Cindy Valentine for attending the meeting today. Tom Krueger has put in for his resignation as Treasurer, so Artie was asking if anyone would like to apply for that position. In a year in a half it will go to an election.
- ✓ David Bryson offered his sign for advertising community events.
- ✓ Dennis Szymanski commented about the Muskrat Dinner and has tickets for this event. It is on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at 7pm for a \$35 donation and it is all-you-can-eat-and-drink, for men only. Doors open at 6pm. There is one table left so please see Dennis for tickets.
- ✓ The annual letter has been proofread and will be going to the printer for a layout this week. A few people will be gathered together to stuff envelopes for mailing.
- ✓ Denne is asking for volunteers for any events. Volunteers are always needed and in short supply.

Next meeting will be Saturday, March 11th, 2017 at 9:30am at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Patrick Feighan made the motion to adjourn, and Barbara Crown seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary