



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes November 14, 2020

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Harold Stieber, Jerry Thiel;

Excused: Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, Barbara Crown, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wiczorek;

Guests and Members Present: David Bryson, Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, Jane Mount, George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Jim Stieber.

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:01 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The October 2020 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the October 2020 meeting minutes, Jim Laethem seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the October 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for October 31, 2020 was \$27,570.03, with total cash on hand being \$87,852.36. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the October 2020 treasurer's reports, Jim Laethem seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: There was nothing to report this month.

Communications: There were no communications received this month.

Browne's Field: After reviewing the financials this month, Harold Stieber noted that the HISCFA spent a lot of money trying to lower the high water level at Browne's Field. The total expenditures were \$1,792 for the pump in March, \$275 for the concrete sump in May, and DeLude Construction completed the directional boring to put a tube from the pond to the ditch which cost around \$4,200. This brings the total to \$6,267 in outstanding expenditures. However, the job at the field has not yet been completed due to theft and other circumstances, and Harold indicated this needs to be finished prior to winter. **Harold Stieber made a motion to spend additional funds, not to exceed \$3,000 (to start), in order to complete the project; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** It is difficult to put a dollar amount on this project when it is unknown what it will take to complete it if it needs to be contracted out. Stakeholders for this project were not in attendance at this meeting but progress must be made and will do so outside of this Board meeting.

Additionally, Patrick Feighan donated some outdoor equipment from his property to Browne's Field for use there. Harold indicated he was going to do some asset security and take inventory of what is present and apply



stickers/labels for insurance purposes. There were also 17 boxes of paperback books left behind as well. Harold spoke to the Lioness' and they indicated that they may be able to sell them in their fundraising sale next spring, but it is not recommended to leave books exposed to extreme temperatures because of the risk of mold and mildew. Jane Mount indicated that she would be willing to see if they can be donated to the local prison, nursing home(s), or hospital(s).

Linda Schoonover indicated that her roommate is willing to volunteer her time to apply polyurethane coating to the picnic tables at Browne's Field this spring. Harold indicated we can discuss this in the coming months when the temperatures begin to rise again.

Harold also mentioned that he noticed the time on the clock on the digital sign is incorrect. Someone will need to contact Norman Rhodes to fix the time and also perhaps update the content.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga discussed how Michigan Governor Whitmer plans to revoke the Enbridge Oil Pipeline in the straits of Mackinac over safety violations and other concerns. An article in the Detroit Free Press can be seen here describing this topic: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/11/13/whitmer-revoke-enbridge-line-5-oil-pipeline-easement/6277027002/>. The water level is at about 576.5', which is a couple inches lower than where we were at this time last year. Hopefully this is the start of a long-term trend downward. COVID-19 cases are ticking up quite a bit in this area as well.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of October, Chief Rose attended two meetings, one for the HISCFA and one for the Fire Chief's Association for St. Clair County. Annual pump testing was conducted on Engine 1, Engine 2, Engine 4, Tango-3, and Water Tender 2 (WT-2) in October. All passed with flying colors. Engine 3, stationed on the Mainland, had some issues with the engine (either a cracked cylinder sleeve or bad head gasket because there is antifreeze in the middle cylinder on the passenger side) and will cost around \$40,000 to fix, not including the computer that needs to be replaced which was a known issue. The Township is in agreement with Chief Rose and they will peel off all of the equipment from it and the CTFD will be attempted to be sold as-is. This vehicle has 6,734 hours on it and also 82,854 miles. There are two new fire trucks intended to be delivered in the spring, but this has been pushed back to June or July. There are currently two engines kept on the Island, and three on the Mainland. Hose testing and a request for PPE expenditures were sent for approval to the Township. As a result of the hose testing, some lengths of hose had problems and were not able to be kept. If anyone would like hose for use at their seawalls or for bumpers (can't hold a lot of pressure), please contact Chief Rose for those limited pieces. Since the COVID-19 situation is escalating, latex gloves are becoming difficult to find. The Township provided authorization to purchase up to \$15,000 worth of PPE to be provided to the CTFD, CTPD, and other agencies in the Township. Chief Rose indicated that currently there are, to date, 13 cases of COVID-19 on the Island total (Mainland Clay Township up to 146 cases to date since March), but there is only one new, active case on the Island.

Guest Speaker, David Bryson (owner, Champion Auto Ferry): David indicated that he has been getting a lot of questions and comments over the last couple of months, so he decided to publicly report that there will NOT be a COVID-related price increase at the ferry at the beginning of next year. There will not be a price increase at the ferry. This information could not be communicated at the ferry on the digital sign because the sign is broken and can't be serviced due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed on the service company. Melanie Most asked when he thought the docks would be completed. David estimated that they are shooting for late spring or early summer 2021 for finishing the new docks on the mainland, depending on how the winter goes.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Wild Apricot (Membership Software)*: Deployment of the new website and full-time use of this service will commence on/around December 1, 2020. Christine Baloga is importing the membership into Wild Apricot and it can all be managed through there. The redirection of the website will be assisted by Todd Brady. Christine indicated that she would like to offer a focus group for the new, primary users.
- *Executive Secretary*: This position is still open as a result of Neva Covalle's resignation last month, and needs to be filled as soon as possible in order to for that training with Wild Apricot can take place.
- *New Directors Introductions*: Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, Jane Mount, and Terry Wiggins were introduced as HISCFA Board members. They have been provided a binder filled full of helpful information, including the bylaws for the Association.
- *Directors' Christmas Party*: Barbara Crown stated that she would offer the Sans Souci Landing again for use for the party, and the date would be Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm. However, due to the COVID-19 situation in Michigan and with active cases on the rise, the party will be cancelled this year.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Potential New Director*: Deborah Addy expressed interest in becoming a new Director. We are currently at 20 directors but our bylaws allow for 21 directors. **George Covalle made a motion to add Deborah Addy for a one-year term effective immediately; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor, motion carried.** The reason for the shorter term to start is to try to balance out the number of directors who serve each term so that the HISCFA wouldn't get short-handed all at one time should one or more directors not seek re-election.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ The Bates Cut water station was seasonally shut off as of October 31, 2020. After this point, anyone who needs access to water must purchase a card to use the main water station. Instructions to this effect are located on the door to the main water station and was also announced via social media.

Next meeting will be Saturday, January 9, 2021 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Jim Laethem seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 9:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (October)



Clay Township Fire & EMS

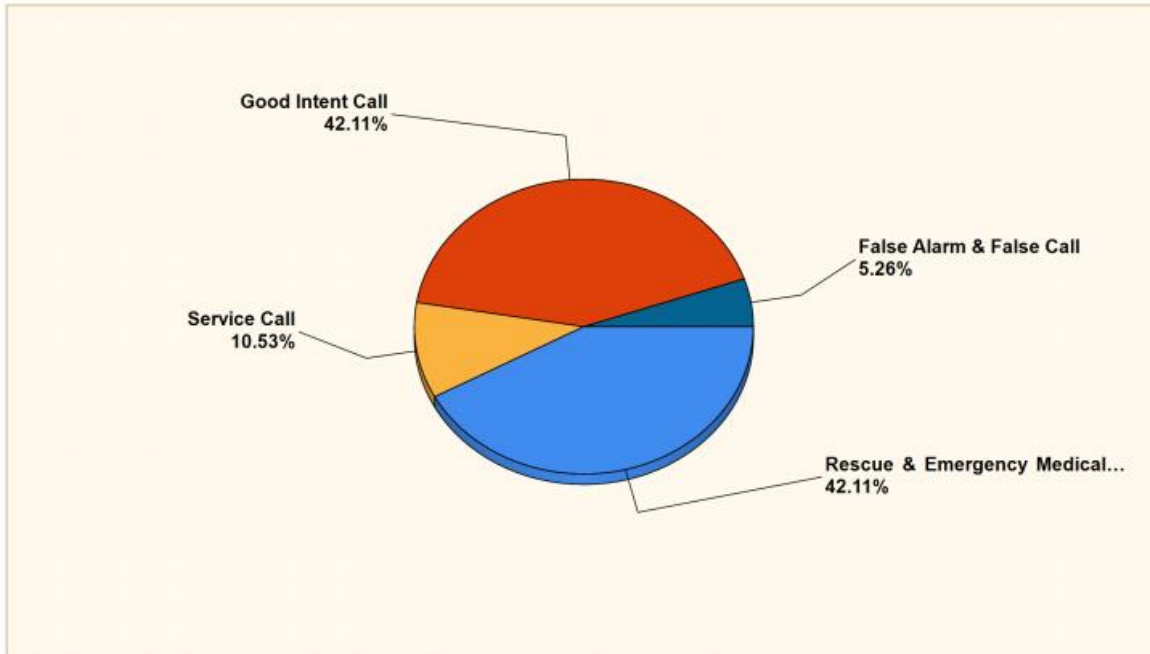
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 10/01/2020 | End Date: 10/31/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	8	42.11%
Service Call	2	10.53%
Good Intent Call	8	42.11%
False Alarm & False Call	1	5.26%
TOTAL	19	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	5.26%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	6	31.58%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	1	5.26%
561 - Unauthorized burning	1	5.26%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	5.26%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	5.26%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	6	31.58%
661 - EMS call, party transported by non-fire agency	1	5.26%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	5.26%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	19	100%