

## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes April 10, 2021

**Directors Present:** Deborah Addy, Craig Baloga, George Covalle, Steve Gartland, Jim Laethem, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Melanie Most, Jane Mount, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wieczorek;

**Excused:** Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Kathy O'Connor, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Terry Wiggins;

**Guests and Members Present:** Michael Balan, Colleen Berger, Artie Bryson, Barbara Crown, John Dickson, Shelly Dickson, Roger Favrow, Sandy Favrow, Kurt Marchwinski, Cindy Pilato, George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:30 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The March 2021 meeting minutes were presented. **David Martin made the motion to approve the March 2021 meeting minutes, Dennis Szymanski seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

### Executive Committee Reports

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the March 2021 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for March 31, 2021 was \$27,983.86, with total cash on hand being \$96,501.07. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

**Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the March 2021 treasurer's reports, Lois Whipple seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Margaret Marchwinski reported that membership renewals have been coming in, and several new membership applications are being received as well. The social media team has been actively publishing reminders and it seems to have provided a positive response to sending renewals in a timely manner. Additionally, advertisers are beginning to send in their ads for The Delta News.

**Communications:** There were no communications received this month.

**Browne's Field:** Dennis Szymanski mentioned that the flag at Browne's Field will need to be replaced. Craig Baloga stated that there is one that is folded up in the barn and that may be suitable for use instead of purchasing a new one. Dennis will look into this and follow up. The area around the pump (where work has recently taken place) needs to be graded and seeded once the ground firms up, and sand bags need to be put back in place because the water is nearly ready to crest and there is risk of backfilling the pump area. The lawn tractor at the field also needs to have an oil change, lube, filter, blade sharpening, and tune-up. Jan Zboril will be doing this for less than what was quoted by a company that was used previously. Additionally, the lawn care contract has been received and that needs to be

renewed. Brian Sears will be repairing the drainage pipe that feeds to the pond which accidentally got damaged. There are several branches from adjacent trees that are falling over the fence line that need to be cleared up. It was suggested to possibly use a company to clean it up since it will be a lot of work and some of the trees are dead, but also to maybe take advantage of Island Cleanup days and burn a lot of what's already there instead of having it hauled away. Dennis Szymanski suggested to keep the portable toilet on the mainland at least until the ferry is consistently running two ferries. Also, due to the nicer weather, it was suggested to open up the second unit on the Island since the one that's open seems to fill up quickly. Although there are two units on the Island, only one is being paid for at the moment. There are several potholes in the driveway, and the potholes will need to be filled in. This will need to be scheduled for some time after Island Cleanup days. Dennis will get in contact with S&L to schedule the work. Usually the Association acquires millings from MDOT paving the roads, but there will not be any asphalt jobs taking place on the Island this year.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple had nothing to report at this time.

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson:** Supervisor Bryson reported that St. Clair County is currently at 27% positive COVID-19 tests. The St. Clair County Health Department has been very efficient with appointments and providing the shots to residents. Any lines that you may see are for walk-ups so don't be discouraged if you see a line when you show up for your appointment. Appointments are recommended to ensure availability and for scheduling second shots (if applicable).

A \$45,000 grant was received to rehab the bike path that goes from north Algonac to Cottrellville. Clay Township is also getting ready to apply for another grant for bike kiosks/signage along the path for the Bridge to Bay bicycle project, which would include parts of Harsen's Island. Supervisor Bryson would like permission from the HISCFA to place a kiosk/sign at Browne's Field. This would alert users where to go and what to see and how to properly follow the intended route(s). The Association agreed that would be acceptable.

In addition to the already-scheduled Island Cleanup Days during the first weekend in June, Supervisor Bryson requested confirmation that the first weekend in October would also be available to host a second Island Cleanup weekend. Rosemary Wieczorek confirmed that there were no rentals at that time, and the Association agreed to lock in that date for the Township in order to host the event.

In the February HISCFA meeting, it was discussed about the Association obtaining wire garbage bins to be made available for purchase for Island residents. Supervisor Bryson followed up on this topic after he emailed Harold Stieber, and it was determined that Harold has not yet been in touch with the contact so it's not ready to announce to the public yet. Essentially the HISCFA is going to be the go-between. Melanie Most requested adequate information be made available in order to publish updates and contact information on social media and the HISCFA website. The HISCFA will not be profiting from the sale of these bins, but rather doing it as a courtesy to residents that would like/need them.

Supervisor Bryson mentioned that design/engineering of the new kayak launch/nature park is underway and an official quote will be provided soon. Supervisor Bryson is also working on getting a quote for the work needed for a new water main required on the mainland which would also add a second feed to the Island. The plan is to complete this work a year from now, but he wants to get it "shovel-ready" in case money comes in from the government that needs to be spent before it is allocated elsewhere. Due to having a second feed available, it will provide a loop instead of leaving it as a dead end on the Island. Water quality will get better for Islanders and water pressure will also increase.

There is currently a sewer interceptor problem on the mainland, which includes some weak spots that need lining which is estimated to cost around \$3.5M. This interceptor goes across St. John's Marsh all the way to Algonac, and

in order to complete all the necessary upgrades along the entire interceptor is going to cost around \$16M. Back in the January HISCFA meeting, Supervisor Bryson brought up the possibility of upgrading the infrastructure along the 26 Mile Road corridor. To that effect, any light industrial businesses that are created along that corridor would ultimately need to use the Clay Township sewer interceptor (since it goes to our treatment facility) which is why the upgrades are so critical. There are some federal government earmarks going out that could pay for approximately 50-60% of that work. Supervisor Bryson is also speaking with the County to explain that it's a huge expense for Clay Township but the Township is not really the beneficiary of the project. The hope is that the County might be able to pick up around 40% of the cost, which would only leave up to 10% of Clay Township to cover.

Finally, Clay Township teamed up with No Limits Fishing Adventures, Inc. and they will be docked at the Pearl Beach fishing pier, and there will be charter boat rides to handicap persons twice per week initially. For more information on this topic, please read this news article: [https://www.voicenews.com/news/no-limits-fishing-adventures-plans-new-program-in-clay-township/article\\_e3edba40-7783-11eb-b4d9-f34e95a1eb21.html](https://www.voicenews.com/news/no-limits-fishing-adventures-plans-new-program-in-clay-township/article_e3edba40-7783-11eb-b4d9-f34e95a1eb21.html)

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose:** During the month of March, Chief Rose attended two meetings: the HISCFA meeting on Harsen's Island, and St. Clair County Chief's Association where general business was discussed. March was a very dry month due to little rain causing high conditions for grass fires. Fire departments in the northern part of the county were very busy responding to grass fires due to the dry conditions. The Clay Township Fire Department assisted Ira Township and Kimball Township on two large fires within their townships. FireRescue1 Academy training was implemented: each week firefighters will be issued a training assignment, which will be fire service or medical related, and they will have to complete that along with a practical if needed. Chief Rose spoke with Alumitech and our airboat is almost done. They are waiting for the Stinger Gear Box to come in, and there is a six-week backlog because it is machined not poured, so we are now looking at the middle to end of April to receive our new airboat. The new fire engines are still on track and they should be done with production by April 26, 2021 and we should receive them the first or second week of May. The plan is to put in Fire Boat #1 the first week of April and Fire Boat #2 is ready as soon as the weather gets warmer. The CTFD is having some issues with the roof at station#1 (on the mainland). It appears the old section of the station has a leak in the roof. Chief Rose notified the Supervisor and is waiting for a roof contractor to come in and look at the situation.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Browne's Field Restrooms / Fundraiser:* George Covalle reported that there are no updates to the designs at this moment. Jane Mount has been working on getting some grants for this project. Jane reported that the HISCFA has been approved to send in an official application to request funding from the Wilson Foundation. Craig Baloga suggested having a meeting in the next couple of weeks to finalize the details of the project in order to feed Jane the appropriate information that needs to go on the application.
- *Calendar of Events:* The HISCFA has been working with Clay Township to coordinate some events taking place on the Island. Cindy Pilato confirmed that she will be able to help coordinate Field Day this year, but several volunteers will be needed in order to facilitate this event. Harold Stieber confirmed that the licenses for the raffle and alcohol will need to be sent in within the next month. Discussion took place with respect to the prizes for 2021 Field Day. **Cindy Pilato made a motion to approve the proposed raffle prizes for 2021 Field Day in the amount of \$750 for first prize, \$400 for second prize, and a kayak not to exceed \$250; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.**
- *Water Station:* For the HISCFA membership, membership dues are currently at \$50 and a water card costs \$20 which is a refundable deposit. Currently only bulk water users are the ones who are footing the bill for the water station (by paying for usage), aside from any other donations specifically allocated to this benefit.

Craig Baloga suggested increasing the membership dues to help offset the water costs. Dennis Szymanski recommended increasing the bulk rate and not adjust the membership rate. It was decided that the membership dues will not be increased and bulk rates will be increased; actual bulk rate increase to be determined at a later date by the committee.

- *Walking Path (next steps)*: Craig Baloga reported that there will be a committee meeting in the coming weeks to discuss this project.
- *Car Show Update*: Craig Baloga reported that there has been a lot of activity happening with respect to receiving prizes and coordination/publicity on social media. Flyers have been made and they will be distributed soon. A lot of sponsors have been contacted and many have positively responded. Some HISCFA volunteers will be attending a Mt. Clemens car show and will be handing out flyers for the Island car show at that time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- *The Delta News*: The team is meeting today (after this meeting) to discuss the next steps for this project and committee assignments.
- *New Entrance Sign Design*: Craig Baloga presented a proposed sign to be replaced at the entrance of the field, and also a poster that can be placed in the locked announcement center on the pavilion. Rosemary Wieczorek suggested placing a copy of the field rental calendar in the announcement area to display the days it is rented out or available for rental.
- *Liquor Licenses*: Special licenses to serve alcohol will be needed for Field Day and the Fall Bonfire and Pig Roast events. **Dennis Szymanski made a motion for the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association's application for a special license to serve alcohol on the dates of August 7, 2021 and September 18, 2021; both events to take place at Browne's Field on Harsen's Island, Michigan. David Martin seconded. Ayes: 13. Nays: 0. Absent: 8.**

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ The MDOT Adopt-a-Highway event will take place next week on Saturday, April 17, 2021, meeting at St. Mark Church at 10:00am. Rosemary Wieczorek will get pizza and salad to be served at Browne's Field following this event for all who participate.
- ✓ Trunk-to-Trunk Sale will be held on June 19, 2021 from 9:00a-12:00pm. Melanie Most will update social media to announce this event.
- ✓ Water at the outside taps at the main water station and the Bates Cut station is estimated to be turned back on May 1, 2021. The water station committee will inform Melanie Most so she can update social media to alert members.

Next meeting will be Saturday, May 8, 2021 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn; Lois Whipple seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

[MelanieM@hiscfa.org](mailto:MelanieM@hiscfa.org)

APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (March 2021)

# Clay Township Fire & EMS

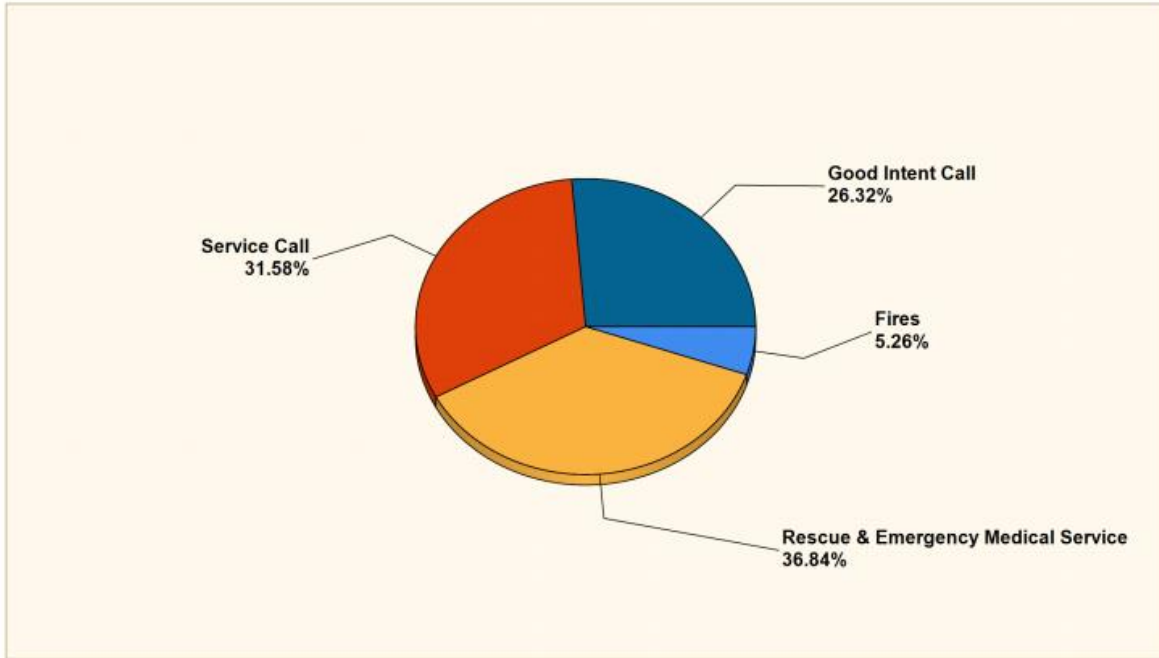
Clay Township, MI

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## Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 03/01/2021 | End Date: 03/31/2021



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	1	5.26%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	7	36.84%
Service Call	6	31.58%
Good Intent Call	5	26.32%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100%</b>

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1	5.26%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7	36.84%
540 - Animal problem, other	1	5.26%
561 - Unauthorized burning	1	5.26%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	4	21.05%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	5	26.32%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100%</b>