



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes March 14, 2020

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, Barbara Crown, Melanie Most, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel;

Excused: Susan Bryson, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, David Martin, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Leonard Verlinden, Rosemary Wiczorek, Lois Whipple;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Linda Wasil.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at 9:31 am. The pledge of allegiance was not recited due to the fact that this was a teleconference meeting and all meeting attendees were participating via phone.

The February 2020 meeting minutes were presented, with the note that there was some communication from Patrick Feighan regarding a motion that was passed and approved in June of 2012 in regards to the HITA. The email has been received and it will be discussed in future business regarding the newly-formed transportation authority.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the February 2020 meeting minutes, Jerry Thiel seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Barbara Crown presented the February 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Barbara reported that the balance in the checkbook for February 29, 2020 was \$10,391.76, with total cash on hand being \$70,373.04. Barbara noted that recently \$60,000 was transferred into an account held by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County which is being well-protected at this time. There are two outstanding uncashed checks that Barbara Crown will be following up on herself. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

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

Secretary Report: In Neva Covalle's absence at the meeting, Barbara Crown noted that the annual letter was sent out.

Communications: Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson sent a communication regarding the ABC portable toilet on the mainland side being billed to the Township. Since this is on private property, there's a disconnect as to who is responsible for paying for this service. Harold Stieber and Artie Bryson will be in contact regarding this matter.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski picked up the pump for Browne's Field last week, and will be making arrangements in the next week or two to dig a man hole to place the pump. DeLude Construction is on schedule to complete the underground work. Additionally, Patrick Feighan was in contact with Dennis to let him know where to pick up the special mulch should the HISCFA ever need more of it.

Government Affairs: On February 17, George Covalle, Artie Bryson, and Craig Baloga (including Michigan State Police and others) sat down with Senator Lauwers in his office. This was for a general overview meeting to discuss



the updates since the December 18th meeting where Senator Lauwers sat down with the Clay Township Board and residents. They went through all the takeaways that Senator Lauwers received from that meeting, and they had answers to all those takeaways and provided us a packet to answer the questions in writing. Additionally, they talked about high water preparedness and the status of how that's coming along with the daily fluctuations of the water levels. A lot of the planning is continually occurring and being updated as needed, and they also talked about the status of No Wake laws that are currently under review in the Senate. They also discussed the current condition and status of the ferry docks, and residents' concerns over how the situation is developing. It has been communicated that the first landing might be completed by mid- or late-April at this point. Overall it was a very productive meeting and it was a good relationship building experience to keep the dialogue open between all parties.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson wanted to thank everyone for their support on the recent House Bills. He stated that he testified in front of the Senate and overall it went pretty well, but as with everything, they have to meet in the middle somewhere. That's kind of what they did on these bills which forced Artie to take a slightly different approach. The EGLE committee stated that they could put in a 2-week temporary no-wake rule which can be renewed two times for up to a total 6 weeks. The other bill is a lot more cumbersome but it can be worked on immediately, and have that in place within the six weeks for the first bill. There are few drawbacks to both bills under both circumstances. After Supervisor Bryson testified last week, Artie and the head of the DNR discussed a few options, one of which would be a certain water level that would trigger a no-wake enactment and would stay in effect until a lower level would trigger it off. That way it would be a permanent rule and everyone would know the levels and when it would be enforced. In any case, there's still a lot of work to be done along with public hearings in order to get it in place. Supervisor Bryson has requested a recommendation from the Army Corps of Engineers about suggested levels for this potential rule.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose stated that the Clay Township Fire Department was supposed to attend Ice Rescue Training but that was cancelled due to poor ice conditions. Alternatively, Chief Rose sent one person to train-the-trainer so that is covered. He stated there is one person enrolled in ICS 300 and 400 which is scheduled in March and April of this year. Two personnel were lost in recent months due to other job opportunities for full-time employment in other locations. This Monday there are four new personnel coming on staff. There are handouts about COVID-19 that are available in the Appendix of this document.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Annual Membership Letter:* The letter was mailed two weeks ago so we should start receiving our dues soon. Barbara Crown hopes that everyone liked the new format this year. Barbara also noted that the HISCFA is looking at other avenues to mail everything out going forward to see if it is more cost-effective. Because the Island is a "manual" office, the bulk mailings will need to occur at a more technologically advanced office like the one in Algonac.
- *HITA Nominees:* Supervisor Bryson stated that the Island nominees and the other nominees were submitted and the Board selected the nominees. The next day, Supervisor Bryson sent everyone a communication to introduce everyone to one another. There was a meeting that was supposed to take place last night, but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation. It will be rescheduled in the near future.



NEW BUSINESS

- *Conflict of Interest Policy:* This will be put off until next meeting since Neva Covalle was not present to discuss this topic.
- *Denne's boat sale:* Back in 2017, the Association received a donated boat, which the HISCFA sold to an individual. The individual placed the boat in storage but defaulted on the storage payments. When the storage unit began researching the owner of the boat based on the title, it was determined that the individual never re-titled the boat to their name and it was still showing the HISCFA as the owner. Harold Stieber will be working to clear up this issue.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Barbara Crown stated that every spring, the HISCFA applies for a community grant. Barbara stated that she is planning on doing the same this year. The benefit of this would be the children's swing area at Browne's Field this year.
- ✓ Barbara Crown stated that she is working with Neva Covalle about being able to bulk mail the raffle tickets for events this year, and Neva Covalle confirmed that it will be possible with a disclaimer printed at the bottom of each ticket.
- ✓ Either April 25 or May 2 are potential dates for the official Adopt-a-Highway road cleanup. Stephanie Spencer's group is scheduled to clean up their portion of the roadway (Bates Cut to the turnaround) on April 18, which is not affiliated with the HISCFA's official Adopt-a-Highway event.
- ✓ Craig Baloga is hoping to keep regular meetings with Senator Lauwers to keep the momentum going and to keep a relationship with him to keep an open dialogue.

Next meeting will be on Saturday, April 11, 2020 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

COVID-19 Informational Handouts

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (January & February)



HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Keeping yourself and your family safe around respiratory illnesses



WASH YOUR HANDS

It's important. Most of us don't do it enough or aren't good at it. Scrub for 20 seconds. If you can't wash, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



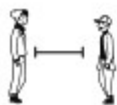
STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK

If you need medical care and think you may have been exposed to coronavirus, call your medical provider for instructions before going in.



KEEP GERMS OUT OF THE AIR

Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands. Or, use a tissue and throw it away.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Someone coughing? Move away – 6 feet or more.



DISINFECT SURFACES

Clean frequently-touched surfaces at home. Wash your hands after visiting public spaces.



ALWAYS BE READY

Risk of exposure remains low. But, start thinking about general, daily supplies – water and food staples or medications, for example. Visit www.ready.gov for suggestions.



MASKS

Masks are not a good prevention tool for healthy people. If you are sick, masks can help prevent the spread of germs. Health care workers or others caring for sick people should wear appropriately fitted masks (such as N95 respirators).



KEEP RISK IN PERSPECTIVE

Flu is actively circulating in St. Clair County. Novel coronavirus is not. Practice good prevention (handwashing, staying home if sick, etc.). Get a flu shot if you haven't.



RELIABLE INFORMATION

Make sure you're getting accurate information. Bookmark www.scchealth.co and follow the St. Clair County Health Department on social media.

   @scchdmi

SCCHD Informational hotline (810) 966-4163



www.scchealth.co | [f/scchdmi](https://www.facebook.com/scchdmi) | [@scchdmi](https://www.instagram.com/scchdmi)

Updated March 6, 2020
Information adapted from the St. Clair County Health Department



COVID 19

CORONA
VIRUS DISEASE

Is Your Household Ready For Pandemic Events? (COVID-19)

Healthy planning for a pandemic event

A pandemic occurs when a new virus that is different from seasonal viruses emerges and spreads quickly between people, causing illness worldwide. Most people will lack immunity to the pandemic virus. Pandemic viruses can be more severe, causing more deaths than seasonal strains. Because it is a new virus, a vaccine may not be available right away. A pandemic could therefore overwhelm normal operations in schools, workplaces, and other community settings.

Help slow the spread

When a new virus emerges, it can take up to 6 months before a pandemic vaccine is widely available. When a vaccine is not available, nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) are the best way to help slow the spread of flu. They include personal, community, and environmental actions. These actions are most effective when used together.

You play a key role in pandemic readiness. Safeguard your health and the health of your household members by making a pandemic event plan now.

Did you know that school dismissals may happen if a pandemic occurs?

A flu pandemic can last for several months. Public health officials may recommend community actions based on the severity of the pandemic that limit exposure, such as temporarily dismissing schools early in a pandemic. Dismissing schools can help slow the spread of disease before pandemic flu becomes widespread in the community. School authorities also may decide to dismiss schools if too many students or staff are absent. School dismissals and other NPI recommendations may be challenging to plan for and implement in your household. However, you may be asked to follow such recommendations for the safety and well-being for your household members.

Developing a household plan for pandemic flu will help ensure flu readiness. The details of your plan should be based on the needs and daily routine of your household, including alternative arrangements for child, elder, and pet care.

Be prepared for changes or closures of your child's school or child care or your workplace

- Learn about the emergency operations plan at your child's school or child care facility
- Plan alternative child care arrangements for children
- Learn about your employers emergency operations plan

Create a household emergency plan of action for pandemic events. These include:

- Talk with the people who need to be included in your plan
- Plan ways to care for those at greater risk for serious complications
- Get to know your neighbors
- Identify organizations in your community that can offer assistance
- Create an emergency contact list

Practice good personal health habits and plan for home-based actions to prevent spreading illnesses. You should:

- Practice and teach everyday preventative actions now
- Plan to have extra supplies of important items on hand
- Choose a room in your home that can be used to separate sick household members from those who are healthy
- Discourage children and teens from gathering in large public areas and at events while school is dismissed

Put your emergency plan into action!

- Stay informed about the local pandemic situation
- Stay home if you become sick and notify your workplace if your schedule changes
- Keep track of school dismissals and keep routines at home as normal as possible
- Use the separate room and bathroom you prepared for sick household members
- Know your risk for getting and spreading an illness before you decide to attend a large public event

For more information, visit:

- www.ready.gov/getinvolved
- www.cdc.gov/npi
- http://ccchealth.org/pandemic-flu/pdf/individuals_and_families_checklist.pdf



For more information: www.scchealth.co



Clay Township Fire & EMS

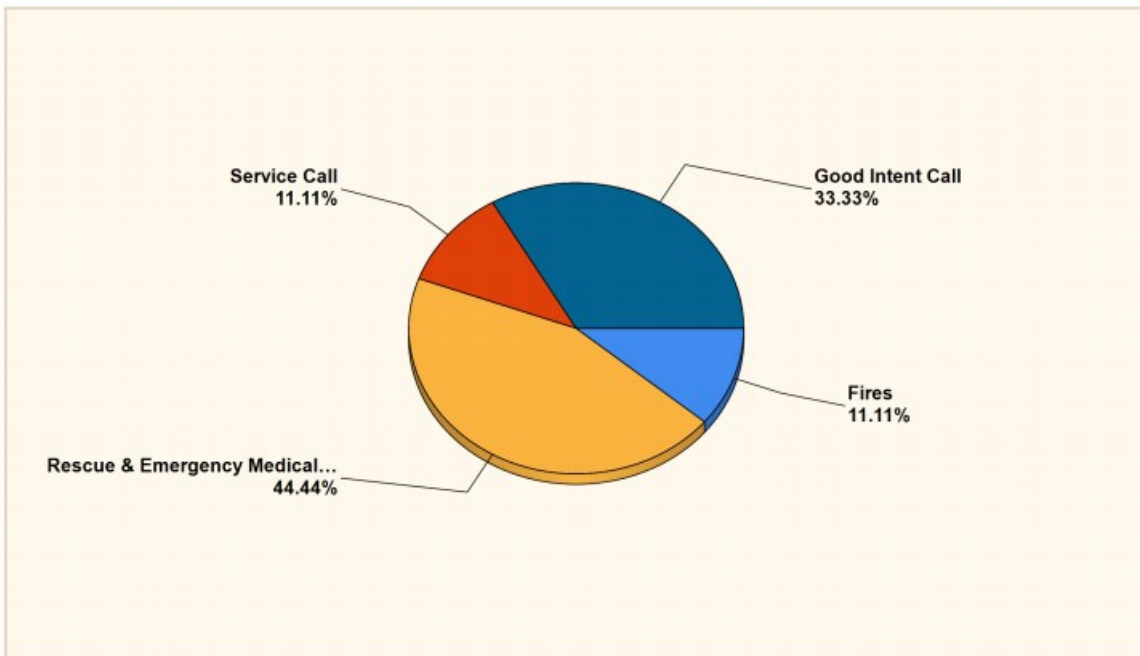
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

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



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	1	11.11%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	4	44.44%
Service Call	1	11.11%
Good Intent Call	3	33.33%
TOTAL	9	100.00%



Clay Township Fire & EMS

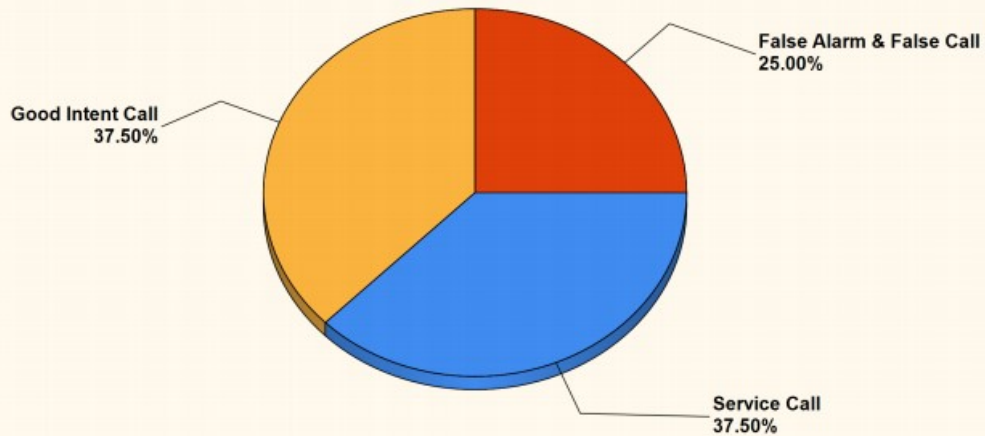
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 02/01/2020 | End Date: 02/29/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Service Call	3	37.50%
Good Intent Call	3	37.50%
False Alarm & False Call	2	25.00%
TOTAL	8	100.00%