



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes July 11, 2020

Directors Present: George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Donna Halacoglu, David Martin, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wiecezorek;

Excused: Craig Baloga, Susan Bryson, Lucy Burby, Jerry Freeman, Jim Laethem, Dennis Szymanski;

Guests and Members Present: Maureen Boury, Artie Bryson, Judy Jessup, George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow;

George Covalle brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The June 2020 meeting minutes were presented. **David Martin made the motion to approve the June 2020 meeting minutes, Leonard Verlinden seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the June 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for June 30, 2020 was \$42,212.84, with total cash on hand being \$99,208.44. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

David Martin made the motion to approve the June 2020 treasurer's reports, Lois Whipple seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle reported that there are currently 542 members this year, which is only down 53 from last year (595 members last year). The Old Club membership is not included in this count; however, their membership is also down approximately 40 members.

Communications: Neva Covalle read a communication from member Barbara Feldman, thanking the HISCFA for their support of the pickleball players.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski was not present at the meeting today, but provided a note that read that the field is in great shape (drying out). Barbara Crown stated that the golf cart is in need of repair. Patrick Feighan had the information for a local repair person and he stated he is willing to assist with taking it there. It is important to get the cart running to assist with caring for Browne's Field. George Covalle asked why there are three portable toilets available at Browne's Field if there are no events being hosted. David Martin stated that there is always two units available, and the third one is supposed to be there for storage purposes only (we are not currently paying for it) during the summer and replaced on the mainland at the ferry in the winter. It can also be opened in the event a third unit is required.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga was not present to report out today.



Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson stated that the Township has passed the budget for this next fiscal year. He stated the Township is anticipating a 20-25% decrease in revenue, but overall he was pleased with how it worked out. With the budget, the Township is getting two new fire trucks: one for the Island and one for the mainland. Also within the budget is a new airboat for the Island station as well.

The Township and the County closed on the property across from Catch 22 restaurant for the new beach park. There is a deal with an adjacent home and they're in talks with two other adjacent homes to negotiate the land. The beach will be about 360 feet long from the Harbor Club to the DNR Access across from Kroger. It will be owned, developed, and maintained by the County, and the County is committing \$3,000,000 to this project. This first-class project has been in the works for about 7-8 years now. The project won't be able to start construction for about 12-14 months until the EGLE process can be completed.

The Township is about to get refunded for the purchase price of the property for the kayak launch / nature park on Harsen's Island along the Krispin Drain. That money has been earmarked to go towards the development of that project. There will be engineering costs up front, but the first phase will include a parking lot and a dock on the Krispin Drain with a kayak launch, and the second phase will be a public restroom which the Island needs desperately.

There are road projects and bridge projects going on including the Flamingo street bridge replacement. Supervisor Bryson stated that many people don't realize the cost to replace this bridge is around \$1,500,000. The Township has been working on this for about three years, and through Federal, State, and County grants, the Township's share is only \$37,000. Without those grants, the cost would be on the Township 100 percent. For the past 18 months, with all the grants the Township receives, the Township is currently managing \$4,629,000 in public grants, including two FEMA grants totaling \$660,000 to assist the firefighters to be safer. Clay Township was the only fire department in St. Clair County to receive a FEMA grant, and we received two of them. This comes as a huge savings for the Township's budget.

The water main that runs along M-29 is approximately 75-80 years old, and 85% of the water main breaks occur there. Supervisor Bryson stated that he doesn't want to incur new debt before replacing some of the old water debt. A lot of the water debt will be replaced in this coming year after several years of not increasing rates. This year finally, there are preliminary plans to install a new water main, in addition to placing an additional service line under the North Channel to service Harsen's Island (currently there is only one). EGLE doesn't like a closed system (which the Island currently is), so creating a loop is preferred anyways. The system will be more robust and should also increase water pressure on the Island. The engineering is tentatively scheduled to begin a year from now. To pay for it, the Township won't have to increase the water debt charge. This is the third year now that the water rates have not gone up. Kudos to the Township for managing that effectively.

Approximately 75% of the boaters have been following the rules, and the police boat is usually available and on the water 3 days a week working 12-hour shifts. They have been issuing tickets and warnings. To put it in perspective, there are about 45 miles of roads in the township with three cars out there at any time, but 140 miles of shoreline in the Township and there are only one or two boats available at a time. The resources just aren't there, but we do what we can.

With respect to COVID-19, there are 41 cases total in the Township, 3 active cases, and none on the Island. It has been frustrating with the onslaught of executive orders to follow: some have replaced others, some have been added. Bottom line: be smart and do the right thing. There is a community action plan that has been put into place to assist those affected by the virus, including food giveaways, prescription drop-offs, and suspension of water shutoffs and



late fees due to financial hardships. The food giveaways have been funded through the end of the summer with assistance from AT&T and the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. If anyone wishes to assist with the food giveaway, please spend your money locally by purchasing food to donate.

The Economic Development Alliance (EDA) of St. Clair County wanted to give out some money (based on population) for an outdoor event, so Supervisor Bryson is hoping to get approximately \$2,000 back from that opportunity. This money would be spent to help offset the cost of putting on the Music in the Park events on both the Island and the mainland.

The water meters on the mainland are at end-of-life, so many of them will be replaced in the coming years. They will be electronic so that you, as a customer, are able to view your own usage as well as reporting real-time usage. The first group of meters was purchased on last year's budget. The return on investment is 6 years for the cost of the meters.

Donna Halacoglu asked whether Supervisor Bryson could see to it that the pie chart breaking down the funds of the Township can be placed back onto the back of the next water bill that goes out. Supervisor Bryson stated he could do that. Melanie Most asked if he could send it to her so she can publish it in these minutes, but as of the publication of these Minutes she had not yet received them. The general operating fund for the township is 0.52 mils which pays for all the roads among other things. If you have a \$200,000 house, you pay \$52 a year towards taxes for the general fund of the Township. Our township relies a lot on grants and sponsorships, as it should be.

George Covalle asked, with the addition of the second water line coming to the Island, whether the township will be expanding the water to different parts of the Island that currently do not have water. The additional water line will allow that to be possible, but it is up to those specific customers that must pay for the special assessment. Last year the residents on Bedore requested an investigation into cost for the residents to bring water just one street further (to Bedore), and it was found to be too costly for the residents and they decided against it.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose reported that last month there were a total of 125 calls, 18 of which were on the Island. The rescue boat has had two new outboard motors received at Rose Marine, and they will put into service today. There are 3 applications in and will be conducting some interviews soon. The fire department is up to 31 people currently. There are three new sirens that will be placed on the Island this year at \$21,000 per unit. They will be located at Browne's Field, corner of Golf Course and Ames, and the intersection of Voakes and South Channel Drive. A map of these locations can be seen in the Appendix of this document. Two new fire engines that have been purchased should arrive in April-May 2021 (one for the Island and one for the mainland). Not a single call came in for Jobbie Nooner this year, but attendance was down significantly due to the coronavirus and also lack of participation from Canadians due to the border restrictions. The fire department is planning on assisting for the Raft Off on August 8th as well.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Field Day cancellation:* George Covalle wanted a consensus on whether Field Day was officially cancelled. He stated that he saw the advertisement in The Flyer but wasn't sure if it was posted anywhere else officially. Melanie Most reported that she posted it on both Nextdoor and Facebook after being instructed to do so by George, and it was also placed onto the HISCFA website. Field Day was scheduled for August 1st, but instead there will be a Trunk-to-Trunk Sale to try to recoup some of the lost income. The Delta News copies will be able to be handed out to members during the Trunk-to-Trunk Sale.



NEW BUSINESS

- *Pig Roast and Bonfire update / raffle tickets:* Susan Bryson normally chairs the Pig Roast and Bonfire event, but has not provided a commitment to executing it this event. Barbara Crown and others have been discussing ways to do a Silent Auction and raffle ticket sales. There are three prizes for the raffle: \$750 for first prize, \$300 second prize, and a Yeti cooler for third prize (generously donated by board member Kathy O'Connor). George Covalle is concerned that the HISCFA may not be able to sell enough raffle tickets to overcome the cost of the prize money. Barbara mentioned that during the Trunk-to-Trunk Sale (that was taking the place of Field Day this year on August 1st), raffle tickets will be available for purchase along with the distribution of copies of The Delta News. Last year, the Association broke even on the raffle tickets, but in previous years we made around \$1,000 profit. Barbara mentioned that she was going print the raffle tickets on lighter cardstock so that it will be less costly to mail. With respect to public gatherings, Supervisor Bryson stated that if signs are posted to wear masks and remain socially distant, the Association will not be held liable in the event someone catches the virus. Furthermore, a buffet option is not safe enough to be executed, and instead the solution would need to be that someone plate all the food and deliver it to tables which would require manpower that currently doesn't exist. We are not even certain whether McFat's is conducting food service publicly at this point. **Neva Covalle made a motion to cancel the Pig Roast and to not hold a Silent Auction; David Martin seconded. All in favor; motion carried.** Supervisor Bryson stated that the Concert in the Park will still go on. For raffle tickets... With respect to the issues with our Island post office in the past, the desire is to have the printing company mail them on our behalf if that is an option. The raffle license from the State of Michigan does state that the drawing will take place on the date of the September 12, 2020 (the date of the outdoor concert) at 7:00 pm. George Covalle pointed out that now the only draw to the Concert in the Park is the raffle prizes. Lois Whipple added that it is still beneficial to keep the HISCFA name out there and show that we are still doing things for the community as opposed to nothing at all. David Martin agreed that something is better than nothing. The alternative would be to cancel the raffle, not give out the prizes, and just be out the cost of the license (\$50). Jerry Thiel pointed out that even if we do mail the tickets, the Association would need to have volunteers selling tickets in Sans Souci every weekend to help generate a profit (in addition to selling them at the Trunk-to-Trunk Sale). Jerry mentioned that he would be willing to sit for a day and sell tickets if that's what is decided. Financially it boils down to \$1,050 in prizes, plus \$509 to print the tickets, and an additional \$330 to mail them ourselves. Discussion ensued with respect to this topic, whether or not to pursue with the raffle at all. **David Martin made a motion to continue preparing tickets for mailing, sell them at the Trunk-to-Trunk Sale (August 1, 2020), and sell the remainder at the Concert in the Park (at Browne's Field on September 12, 2020) prior to the drawing; Kathy O'Connor seconded. All in favor say Aye: 10; Opposed: 2. Motion carried.**
- *The Delta News:* The final proof should be available this week. Barbara Crown recognized Melanie Most for her continued efforts for proofreading the copy prior to its publication. The ads have generated \$11,200 this year, plus a donation of \$1,000 towards that. It is hoped that the HISCFA pays very little for this edition. The pages have also been cut back from 112 to 96 pages in hopes of cutting some of the cost of the publication. Some advertisers have been lost this year. Invoices need to be sent to those who have not paid for their advertisements.



Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ David Martin asked why there is still a fifth wheel trailer sitting at Browne's Field after Island Cleanup Day held the last weekend in June. Supervisor Bryson stated that he is waiting on a trash container from Emterra to be dropped off.
- ✓ George Covalle stated that he will be presenting the information about the permanent restrooms at the Annual Meeting next month. George has received feedback from Lowell Cameron and Bob Williams, along with a statement from the Health Department about the project.

Next meeting will be Saturday, August 8, 2020 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall. This will be the Annual Membership Meeting.

David Martin made the motion to adjourn; Jerry Thiel seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

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

Location of New Warning Sirens



Clay Township Fire & EMS

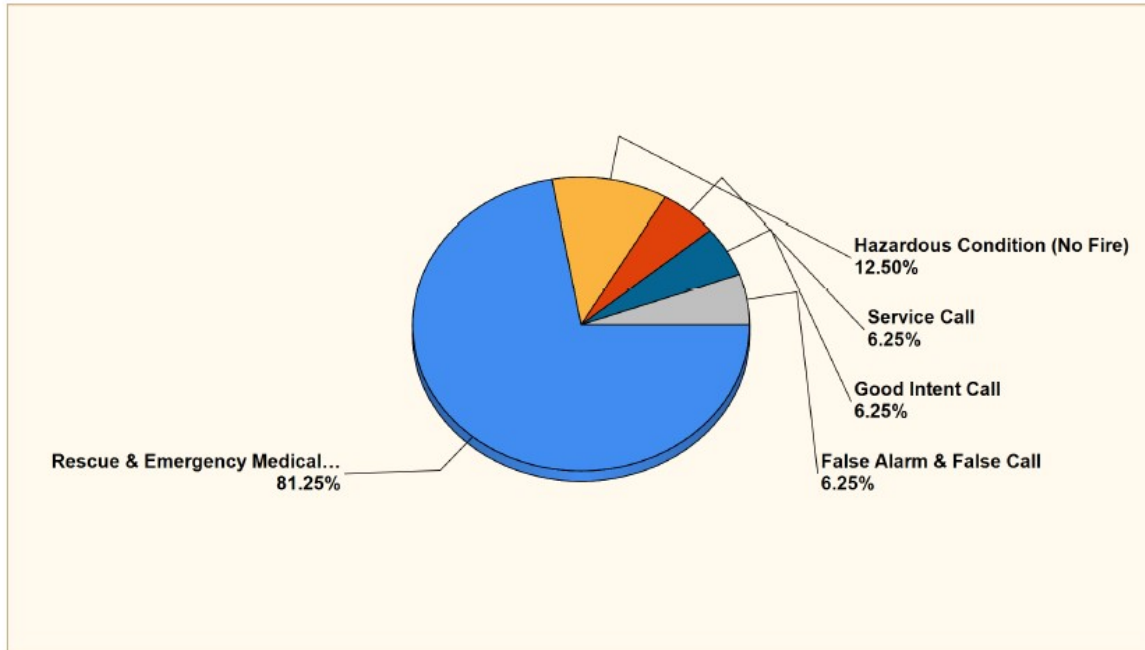
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 06/01/2020 | End Date: 06/30/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	13	81.25%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	12.50%
Service Call	1	6.25%
Good Intent Call	1	6.25%
False Alarm & False Call	1	6.25%
TOTAL	18	112.50%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	5	27.78%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7	38.89%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	1	5.56%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	5.56%
444 - Power line down	1	5.56%
500 - Service Call, other	1	5.56%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	1	5.56%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	5.56%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	18	100.03%

