



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes September 12, 2020

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, George Covalle, Neva Covalle, Barbara Crown, Jerry Freeman, Donna Halacoglu, Jim Laethem, Melanie Most, Kathy O'Connor, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Jerry Thiel, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple, Rosemary Wiczorek;

Excused: Susan Bryson, David Martin;

Guests and Members Present: Todd Brady, Susan Richardson, George Rose, Linda Schoonover, Joanne Shirkey, 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 August 2020 meeting minutes were presented. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to approve the August 2020 meeting minutes, Lois Whipple seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the August 2020 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for August 31, 2020 was \$31,727.73, with total cash on hand being \$91,346.26. Lois Whipple inquired how much is allocated to the permanent restrooms fund at Browne's Field, and Harold reported that there is approximately \$37,000 which does not include donations from this year. Harold stated that he will not be renewing the bulk mail fee for the United States Postal Service since the HISCFA will not be using this service again in the near future. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

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

Secretary Report: Neva Covalle did not have anything to report this month.

Communications: Neva Covalle stated that no communications were received this month.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski stated that the pump system that was set up at Browne's Field has yet again been sabotaged. Someone has visited the area and has intentionally inflicted damaged to the pump. The owner of the pump (who has graciously allowed the HISCFA to use their equipment) is attempting to locate and purchase parts to repair the pump.

Rosemary Wiczorek indicated that there were many cancellations for the Browne's Field pavilion rental this year, but the pavilion did eventually host three rentals this summer. Additionally, there are three upcoming events that



will be hosted at the pavilion in the next few weeks. One of the renters who cancelled requested that their security deposit be kept by the Association as a donation.

Government Affairs: Craig Baloga discussed “Plan 2014” enacted in 2016 by the International Joint Commission (IJC) for regulators in both Canada and the United States to work together, which sets up a procedure by which they regulate the outflow of water from the Moses-Saunders dam (75 miles southwest of Montreal) on the St. Lawrence River. All of the Great Lakes water west of it basically flows through this hydroelectric dam. It’s like a big faucet that regulates what goes out to the Atlantic Ocean. The article went into detail about what’s currently happening and how it might be affecting flooding in the Great Lakes areas; there was a ton of finger-pointing between environmental erosion, shipping companies, etc. They’re going to analyze it again, and there are trigger levels to either increase or decrease the outflow. Craig is going to keep an eye on it to monitor how this will ultimately affect us in our local region. This following link has the full information that Craig summarized during the meeting: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/environment/great-lakes/ct-great-lakes-climate-change-lake-ontario-20200901-qn66kypx5rhenkhwt2lausrxie-htmlstory.html>.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: Chief Rose reported that during the month of August he attended a meeting with all agencies involved in the final plans for Raft Off 2020. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Engle, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Bryson for their continued support of the fire department during Raft Off. They assisted us with medical staging, let us put the Command Post on their Island, and other support equipment. The Clay Township Fire Department assisted the Port Huron Fire Department during Float Down by providing two personnel and personnel watercraft. The agreement between the Harsen’s Island Fire Department and the Harsen’s Island Lions, allowing us to hook into the septic tank, has been completed and sent to Dennis Szymanski waiting for their answer on the agreement. The flag company tried to install our new flagpole at the Island station; however the ground water level is too high. Brian Sears was awarded an in-service award for 23 years of service in the fire department. Chief Rose stated that he took a trip to Alumitech Airboats in Florida to complete the final specs for our new airboat; with specs to include cabinets under the driver, co-pilot, and passenger seats. Hatches will be installed for storage under the deck, and they will include recessed navigation lights and speaker for the siren. They will be installing emergency lights, work lights, siren, and GPS. Additionally there are no active cases of COVID-19 in the township, nor on the Island.

OLD BUSINESS

- *Music in the Park / Raffle Drawing:* This event is taking place at 6:00 pm this evening (Saturday, September 12, 2020). The grandstand is being brought in from the mainland, and the raffle drawing will take place at 7:00 pm. George Covalle asked whether a 50-50 raffle would be held in addition to the HISCFA raffle drawing. Barbara Crown indicated that there should be tickets available to support a 50-50 raffle. Neva Covalle said she would look for them, and also provide a barrel for drawing the tickets. Melanie Most will be present at the event to publish the drawing on the HISCFA Facebook page. Raffle winners drawn were:
 - *1st Prize (\$750) winner:* Ruth Roth
 - *2nd Prize (\$300) winner:* Jeff Radjewski
 - *3rd Prize (YETI cooler) winner:* E.J. McKnight
- *Brick Pavers in Sans Souci:* Last month it was reported that Jane Cihon wanted to work with the HISCFA to partner in this project, but now Jane is taking on this project without the involvement of the HISCFA.
- *HISCFA Election Results(2021):* The following are the results of the executive board officers election:



- *President:* Craig Baloga
- *Vice President:* Lois Whipple
- *Executive Secretary:* Neva Covalle
- *Treasurer:* Harold Stieber
- *Chairperson:* George Covalle
- *Recording Secretary:* Melanie Most

Jerry Thiel made the motion to accept the above-named persons as the Executive Board for the HISCFA beginning 2021, Lois Whipple seconded; all in favor, motion carried. Directors Craig Baloga, Jerry Freeman, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, and Lois Whipple, whose terms expire December 31, 2020, have communicated to the board they were willing to remain on the board. **Jerry Thiel made the motion to appoint the above directors: Craig Baloga, Jerry Freeman, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, and Lois Whipple to new three-year terms, expiring December 31, 2023. Lois Whipple seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

- *Director solicitations:* George Covalle suggested that the people who willingly volunteered for the HITA Board (as a result of the HISCFA transportation survey) that didn't make it on that board *may* wish to become a HISCFA director since they are obviously community-minded. George has drafted a letter to send to those people to attempt to solicit them as a future HISCFA director to help re-populate the board.
- *Water Stations:*
 - Todd Brady reported he had a survey done for the main water station building to be able to update technology capabilities on the property. The purpose of the upgrades is so that when water station access cards need to be updated (shut off, turned on, etc.) there will no longer be a need to physically go to the water station to plug in to perform those tasks. When the current technology was implemented, this new technology didn't exist back then (but it does now). Todd looked at either replacing or upgrading the current system, and it appeared to be cheaper to upgrade (rather than replace) by about half. Todd got with Comcast to have a survey done for the building: their access point would be right outside the building at the telephone pole. There would be a one-time \$100 install fee and a \$70 monthly fee for the broadband access. Since there has never been broadband in the building, it is possible that there might need to be a small cost for construction to take place to accommodate it (drill holes, pull wire, etc.). Because the pole is so close to the building, it is estimated that construction costs should be pretty low. Along with the existing system that is currently implemented by ITC, there will need to be an upgrade to the system which is estimated at around \$1,000 to add components to it in order to make it cloud-based and Wi-Fi enabled. It will cost around \$300 to convert the database over (depending on how many cards are currently registered). Both of those fees are one-time fees. Additionally, the cloud-based software to run the new system will cost \$20 monthly so allocated HISCFA board members can have access to it when necessary (to login and make adjustments). Lastly, a firewall is needed in order to create a network. Todd stated that he has a firewall and he will donate to the Association the firewall and his skills/time to perform the work. In summary, there is about \$1,500 in upfront costs and \$90/month to maintain the upgraded system. Additionally, since there will now be Wi-Fi, it will be possible to install security cameras to monitor the water station remotely as well. Furthermore, an upgrade from the quarter-system to a credit card-based system could be possible for the water delivery system as well.



- There is a water station committee that is being formed by George Covalle, Harold Stieber, and Craig Baloga. George hopes that this committee will find a sustainable way to provide water to persons on the Island that truly need it, and also to be able to more effectively to manage the payments. Updates will need to take place to update the water station to make it as maintenance-free and labor-free as possible, so this committee will tackle this project.
- On September 1st, the water station received some needed repair work under the watchful eye of Harold Stieber and Craig Baloga. Two new self-closing faucets were installed in the outdoor basin along with two new sink baskets that were leaking. Inside, the floor drain was dug up, snaked out and replaced along with the addition of new drain piping and a cleanout for the inside basin. Also, a new shutoff valve and petcock were installed so that the outside water outlets can be turned off and drained for the winter. It was discovered during the process of snaking out the floor drain that there appears to be a holding tank of some sort behind the water station that the floor drain empties into. The camera on the end of the snake was unclear due to the sludge build up, but a big root ball was pulled out of the line and the drain seems to be flowing freely right now. It would be up to us if we want to pursue digging up the tank to see where the line ultimately drains. A sign was hung indicating that there was wet cement where the plumber re-cemented the floor drain, and that should be cured by now.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Harold Stieber mentioned that he and Christine Baloga have been in contact about the Wild Apricot membership management software. Christine has been working on a proposal for the service and how a newly-designed website will look. All of the membership information will be housed in this site as opposed to the Excel spreadsheets and the manual ways it is handled now. Harold suggested having a separate meeting to discuss the nuances of switching over to this new method of handling membership and review once there is a plan in place.
- ✓ Skip Tornow asked for a clarification on the sign at the Bates Cut water station. The sign reads that small containers are permitted, but how large is too large? The intent was to permit hand-held and slightly larger containers, but NOT to permit commercial-grade containers or containers on trailers. If anyone sees someone taking advantage of this service, they are asked to notify someone on the board of directors. Large amounts of water should be obtained at the main water station with a paid water station card.

Next meeting will be Saturday, October 10, 2020 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Jerry Thiel made the motion to adjourn; Lois Whipple seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

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



Clay Township Fire & EMS

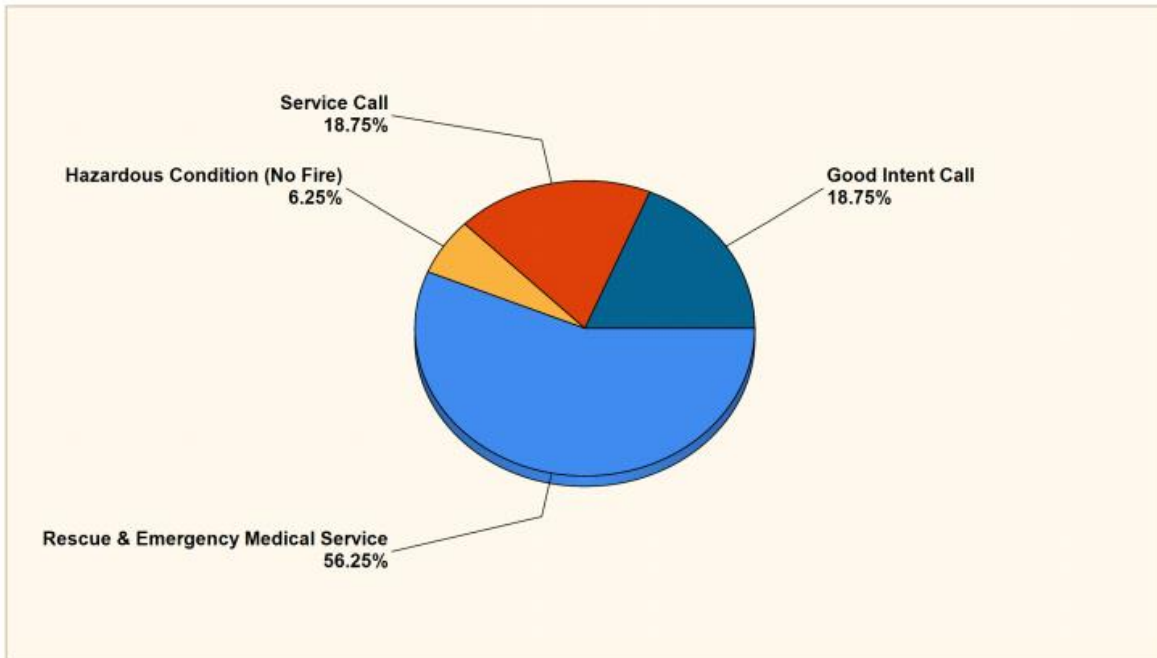
Clay Township, MI

This report was generated on 9/2/2020 10:12:01 AM



Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 08/01/2020 | End Date: 08/31/2020



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	9	56.25%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	1	6.25%
Service Call	3	18.75%
Good Intent Call	3	18.75%
TOTAL	16	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	6.25%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	8	50%
400 - Hazardous condition, other	1	6.25%
500 - Service Call, other	1	6.25%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	2	12.5%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	6.25%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	12.5%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	16	100%