



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes January 14, 2023

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, Susan Bryson, Steve Gartland, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

Excused: Melanie Most;

Unexcused: Steve Lawrence, Kathy O'Connor, Terry Wiggins;

Guests and Members Present: Harold Bain, Artie Bryson, Tom Hellstrom, Kurt Marchwinski, Chuck Miller, Doreen Miller, Cher Neumann, Dan Neumann, George Rose, David Sluka, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow, Sue Tornow, Randy Wildner.

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

The November 2022 meeting minutes were presented. **Linda Schoonover made the motion to approve the November 2022 meeting minutes, David Martin seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

Craig Baloga opened with an announcement that he will not be continuing on as HISCFA President at the completion of his term ending this year, but will continue to serve as a Director on the board.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer Report: Harold Stieber presented the November and December 2022 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for December 31, 2022 was \$59,409.52, with total cash on hand being \$125,148.79. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

David Martin made the motion to approve the November and December 2022 treasurer's reports, Leonard Verlinden seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Margaret Marchwinski reminded everyone that our monthly donations that the HISCFA provides to the Reader's Cove and the Harsen's Island Lions come directly from donations from our members. On the membership renewal forms, our members give extra monies in addition to their annual membership dues directed specifically to these charitable organizations on the Island. Margaret reported that there are already five new memberships that have been received, and the next coming months the membership is expected to ramp up with the finalizing of the annual letter and membership form that is sent out through the mail at the end of February.

Communications: Margaret Marchwinski reported that in response to the HITA special meeting in December, she has received many emails supporting HISCFA's reappointment of Harold Bain, Gary Beaulac, and Dennis Szymanski to the HITA Board for another term.



Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski reported that both water stations (the main water station and the Bates Cut water station) were successfully winterized without any issues. There was a small repair performed at the main water station where the valve did not close completely; the valve was replaced and everything is working as intended again.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple read a portion of a news release from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, entitled "Michigan releases new fish consumption guidelines for rainbow smelt and carp caught in various lakes," which can be found here:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2023/01/12/eat-safe-fish> Linda Schoonover indicated that the Friends of the St. Clair River is conducting a similar survey of fishermen in this area to determine how much fish they consume that they catch in the river.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Grant Update:* Harold Stieber indicated that the Association has submitted a grant application to the Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Fund for \$50,000 to go towards parks and recreation improvements, so the HISCFA focused on pickleball improvements at Browne's Field to start. Jane Mount will submit another grant application to focus on the walking path at a later date. The HISCFA still hasn't been able to find any foundation to assist with subsidizing our permanent restrooms project.
- *Pavilion Vandalism:* Craig Baloga indicated that the incident went to the prosecutor's office and is being processed. The HISCFA filled a form out indicating the results of what occurred, and that the HISCFA would like to know what the ruling is, what the judge's report reads, what is the restitution, etc. How all that plays out is still yet to be seen since it is still in process.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Fundraising Event, January 28th:* Susan Bryson brought in an event that is set to occur on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall. This event is \$20 plus a cash bar, and will feature a Mexican-themed dinner and live music by local musicians On the Border. This is a charitable event to benefit Eric Vigelius, recently diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer.
- *Fundraising Events - Volunteers Needed:* Susan Bryson announced that she organized the recent Shrimp Boil fundraising event for the Lions last year, and she would be willing to host this event for benefit of the HISCFA restrooms fund if some volunteers would be willing to come forward and assist with this event. Much discussion about the calendar took place. Susan indicated this would be a good event to have outdoors at Browne's Field. Shrimp, corn on the cob, sausage, etc. are boiled in the pot and everything is put out on the table once it's done. Ideally it would be a flat fee per person and then a cash bar. Susan indicated she has several large pots to use, and large turkey fryers with propane are ideal for this event. It was decided that downtown during the Sans Souci Block Party would be the best time to host this event. A committee will be formed and this topic will be discussed further to iron out all the details.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson mentioned that the \$2.5M federal grant application for the water line project (including a second feed to Harsen's Island) was successfully awarded to Clay Township. It will take approximately three to four years to complete this project. In the past three years, the



township has also gotten \$6M in infrastructure grants, and residents will start seeing the benefits of that in our water and sewer bills (from the additional recent \$1M sewer interceptor grant) soon. The township applied for a DNR Spark Grant of \$300,000 to include barrier-free exercise equipment around the walking path at the township park. To replace existing equipment under this grant scores better under the grant, so replacing the children's playscape was included in the scope of that grant project. Hopefully the existing playscape can be repurposed to Browne's Field. Feedback on this grant is expected sometime in January, but if it is not awarded, there are a few more attempts that can be made for these monies. The Clay Downtown Development Authority (DDA) assisted with the new Algonac High School weight room for around \$245,000. Additionally with Clay DDA funds, Clay Township is building three pickleball courts at the township park.

There are rumors that the State of Michigan is going to reallocate Act 51 monies on road repairs; normally these funds are allocated approximately one-third each to MDOT for state roads, cities, and counties. Supervisor Bryson is hearing that they are now allocating less money to counties and more to MDOT and cities. Unfortunately as a result of this, our county will get less money to share with us now (this was anticipated - this is why our road millage came about). Quotes for stone will go out next week and there will be an increase in stone. The county had a program where they would pay for 80% of the stone and the township would pay 20%. That is either going to go away totally, or at best it will be a 50/50 split. Supervisor Bryson started a program 8 years ago to begin to put stone down every year. We are now seeing the benefit of this yearly application (years before it was every 3 or so years). Now, he says he's not sure it is possible to put the stone down every year anymore. For example, Krispin Road hasn't had to be closed in the spring like how it used to. Supervisor Bryson requested the county to do the last fog layer on Middle Channel Drive, South Channel Drive, and Bates Highway: part of that was done last fall. He is in talks with MDOT if/when they do M-154, to give us a 6-foot shoulder on each side. It's not officially a bike path, but it would be perceived as a bike path along that state highway. Supervisor Bryson indicated the township also got a \$3,000 scrap tire grant to help supplement our cleanup days. This can be profitable if we make a year-round drop-off site for tires, but that is currently being investigated and is not finalized at this time.

Mark your calendars for Island Cleanup Days: the spring event will be May 20-21, 2023, and the fall event will be August 26-27, 2023. The spring cleanup days will be in coordination with the Block Party event to take place in Sans Souci on the 20th. The request will be for three bands on two stages: the county stage will be brought in like it was last year (in front of Sans Souci Bar), and they'll be setting up a second, smaller stage near the Sans Souci Landing / former Distillery area to reduce the amount of time it takes for setting up each band. The bands that are signing on will likely be Ten Beach Drive, Dogfish, and Los Gringos. Music in the Park dates are being looked at, with four possible dates for Browne's Field.

Disagreements with EGLE are ongoing: every month or two they're doing new things - with lower water, people are asking for dredging permits, and they're requiring soil samples prior to allowing dredging. Soil samples cost approximately \$4,500 each, and the process is such that the paperwork for the permit is issued but only on contingency of soil sampling being completed. In the past, the soil samples only had to be done if the spoils were taken off-site. But now, even if it is contained on-site, the samples are still required. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being followed and enforced, even though it's not the letter of the law. Additionally, these BMPs were created from studies completed in Wisconsin on inland lakes as opposed to areas such as our own. Supervisor Bryson argued this point with them, but it didn't go anywhere. Right now, if you want to put in a seawall or a boathouse, you're required to put turtle ramps in so that turtles can get onto the property. They're also telling people how to do some plantings on land before the seawall to help purify the surface water / rain water before it goes into the river/canal.



Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of November and December, Chief Rose attended one meeting: the St Clair Flats Association in November.

Both fire boats have been pulled out for the season. Fire Boat#1 will be stored at the Algonac Harbor Club (inside), and Fire Boat#2 will be stored at station#1 (Harsen's Island). If the Clay Township Fire Department needs to respond to the out-islands, they have access to Fire Boat#2 and the Airboat. West Shore started to install the early warning sirens on Harsen's Island and the mainland. They are all hooked up except for one on the Island and one on the Mainland. They are having some difficulty with the one along Voakes Rd. near the DNR property. One of the ceiling furnaces at station#1 in the work bay area needs to be repaired immediately and perhaps replaced next year. Chief Rose will be getting some quotes for a replacement. The CTFD wants to advise residents to make sure their batteries in their smoke alarms are replaced, along with their carbon monoxide detectors. If residents require assistance to replace the batteries, they can call the CTFD for help. They should also have their wood stoves and chimneys cleaned and inspected.

The new command vehicle was placed in service and the lights and siren were installed, along with the department logo. Chief Rose would like to thank Chris McGuffin for installing the equipment on the vehicle. Downriver Goodfellow's activities were as follows: December 19, 2022 there was a food giveaway and later gift cards and toys were given out. There was not much participation this year; the township had about 36 families applied.

The new AEDs have been obtained, and they will be replaced as soon as possible. The locations of these devices are at both churches, the Lions Hall, and Browne's Field.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Susan Bryson commented about the outcome of the brick paver project move from Sans Souci to Browne's Field. Susan indicated she was very appreciative of the HISCFA for permitting the bricks' move to their final destination to Browne's Field, and felt that it was not the responsibility of the HISCFA to bear the burden of the cost to finalize the project. As such, Susan supplied her own funds to finish the project and is extremely pleased with the outcome. She looks forward to working with the Association on further landscaping in the surrounding areas.
- ✓ Susan Bryson suggested hosting a Community Garden at Browne's Field. There was some discussion about this topic, but no decisions were made.
- ✓ Margaret Marchwinski mentioned that there was a request from Island resident Debbie Mehl, and she is going to take it upon herself to get sponsors and get the ball rolling on bringing a dog show as a new event for 2023. This dog show travels to many locations throughout the state and indicated that Harsen's Island would be a new place this show would like to perform. This would be a fundraiser for HISCFA - the group agreed and would like to hold June 17th as a firm date for this purpose. There will be an agility competition and workshops during this event. Debbie Mehl and Chris Knight will present in an upcoming HISCFA meeting with all of the details, including a one-day liability policy.
- ✓ Dennis Szymanski mentioned that the annual Muskrat Dinner will be held on February 14th, 2023 at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall, and tickets are available by contacting a member of the Lions.
- ✓ Harold Stieber stated that a total of \$64,414 has been accumulated towards the permanent restrooms fund. It is unknown at this moment how much will actually be needed to complete the project. Supervisor Bryson mentioned that he can share the information that the Clay DDA has regarding the public restrooms that are



going in at the Pearl Beach fishing pier. Craig Baloga agreed that the HISCFA should review the information once Supervisor Bryson provides it.

Next meeting will be Saturday, February 11, 2023 at **9:30 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

David Martin made the motion to adjourn; Dennis Szymanski seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (November & December 2022)

Fire Department Incident Report for Harsen's Island (Year-end 2022)



Clay Township Fire & EMS

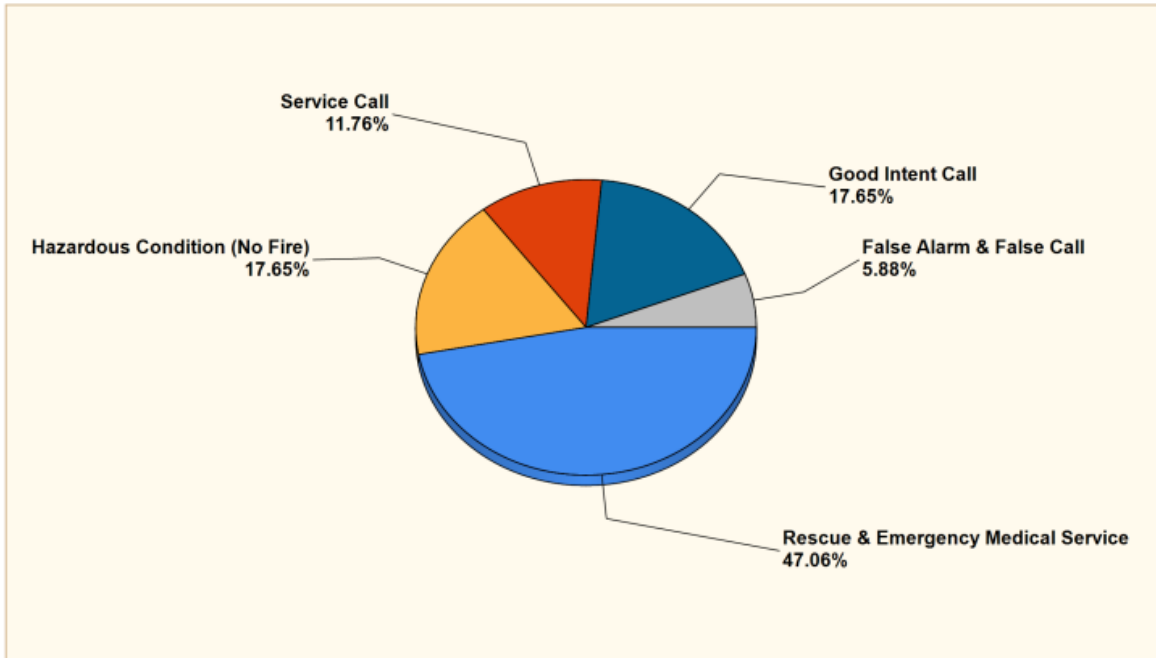
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 11/01/2022 | End Date: 11/30/2022



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	8	47.06%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	3	17.65%
Service Call	2	11.76%
Good Intent Call	3	17.65%
False Alarm & False Call	1	5.88%
TOTAL	17	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	5.88%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	7	41.18%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	1	5.88%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1	5.88%
444 - Power line down	1	5.88%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	2	11.76%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	5.88%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	11.76%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	5.88%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	17	100%



Clay Township Fire & EMS

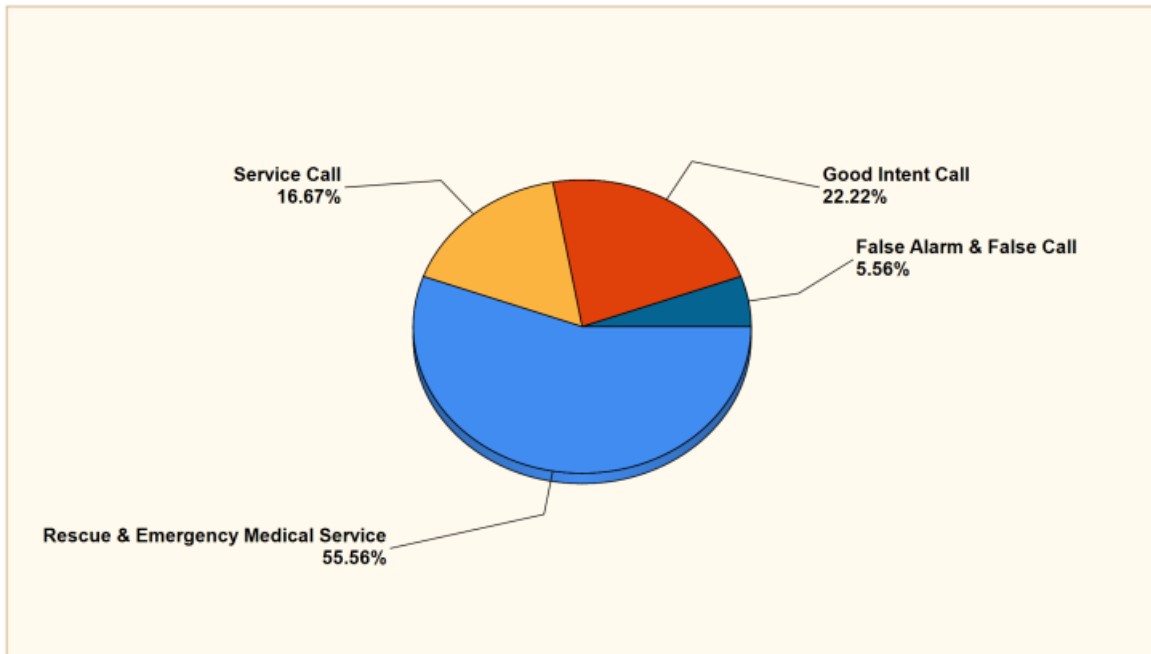
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 12/01/2022 | End Date: 12/31/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	10	55.56%
Service Call	3	16.67%
Good Intent Call	4	22.22%
False Alarm & False Call	1	5.56%
TOTAL	18	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	4	22.22%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	6	33.33%
500 - Service Call, other	1	5.56%
554 - Assist invalid	2	11.11%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	4	22.22%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	5.56%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	18	100%



Clay Township Fire & EMS

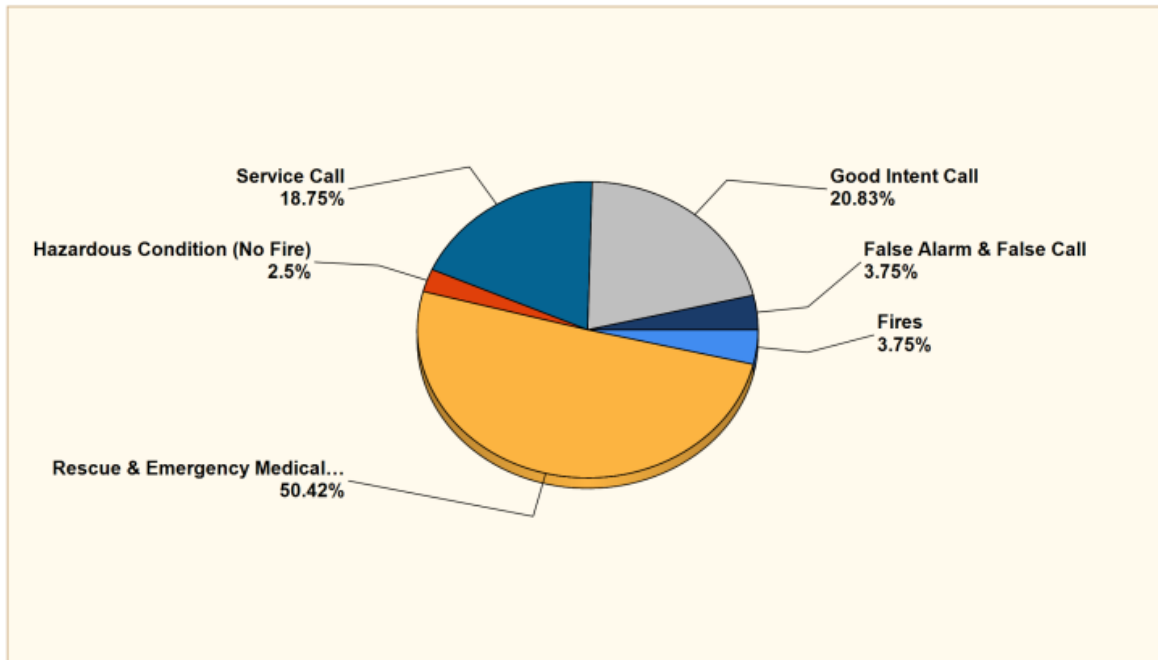
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 01/01/2022 | End Date: 12/31/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	9	3.75%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	121	50.42%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	6	2.5%
Service Call	45	18.75%
Good Intent Call	50	20.83%
False Alarm & False Call	9	3.75%
TOTAL	240	100%



Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	3	1.25%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	1	0.42%
134 - Water vehicle fire	2	0.83%
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	1	0.42%
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	2	0.83%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	14	5.83%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	0.42%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	98	40.83%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	2	0.83%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	1	0.42%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	4	1.67%
381 - Rescue or EMS standby	1	0.42%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	2	0.83%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	1	0.42%
444 - Power line down	3	1.25%
500 - Service Call, other	16	6.67%
550 - Public service assistance, other	4	1.67%
554 - Assist invalid	10	4.17%
561 - Unauthorized burning	2	0.83%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	13	5.42%
600 - Good intent call, other	2	0.83%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	7	2.92%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	41	17.08%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	3	1.25%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	0.42%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0.42%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1	0.42%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	3	1.25%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	240	100%