



Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

Minutes April 8, 2023

Directors Present: Craig Baloga, Lucy Burby, Margaret Marchwinski, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden;

Excused: Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, David Martin, Lois Whipple;

Unexcused: Susan Bryson, Jerry Freeman, Kathy O'Connor, Terry Wiggins;

Guests and Members Present: Artie Bryson, Mike Galati, Kathy Harrison, Larry Morelli, Nancy Morelli, Cher Neumann, Dan Neumann, George Rose, Dave Sluka, Jim Stieber, Skip Tornow, Cindy Valentine, Mark Williams, Stacy Williams.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:33 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 2023 meeting minutes were presented. **Lucy Burby made the motion to approve the February 2023 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 February and March 2023 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for March 31, 2023 was \$84,600.68 with total cash on hand being \$150,112.59. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at HaroldS@hiscfa.org.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the February and March 2023 treasurer's reports, Linda Schoonover seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.

Secretary Report: Margaret Marchwinski stated that she has been very busy collecting membership dues and articles for The Delta News, as well as coordinating advertising at the large signboard near the ferry. The Reader's Cove will assist with passing out copies of The Delta News this year, in an effort to reduce postage fees and make them more widely available for pickup at various times to accommodate residents' schedules.

Communications: Harold Stieber mentioned that there were two thank-you cards that were received from the recipients of the scholarships last year. Emails continue to come in about advertising and other general membership questions.

Browne's Field: Dennis Szymanski stated that the replacement flags have been purchased for Browne's Field. One has been installed and one still has yet to be replaced. Dennis also spoke to the St. Clair County Road Commission to address the drain near the water station that was buried and lost during under-channel construction some time ago. The Road Commission brought their truck and large pump near Browne's Field to assist with the pumping of the



culverts that had backed up significantly to the extreme rainfall that the area witnessed in the past few weeks. The Road Commission will also send letters to residents who currently have their drains sandbagged with instructions to remove them immediately, all around the Island (not just near Browne's Field). Korthals Lawn Care will continue to care for Browne's Field again this season. There is a small pallet of leftover pavers that Dennis would like to use behind the backstop of the ball diamond where the tent is usually set up during the charity baseball games. There are currently rocks at that location, but HISCFA President Craig Baloga agreed that this would be an appropriate use of that extra material, so Dennis will organize the effort to install those extra pavers in that location. The entrance door on the pole barn is rotted at the bottom and needs to be replaced. The dog waste station near the advertising sign was noticed to have been knocked over. Dennis will investigate the cause and look for a solution. A large limb from a tree fell and crushed a section of the chain link fence near the driveway/parking area. Harold will investigate whether this situation is eligible for an insurance claim.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple is still waiting on some scholarship information from one student at Algonac High School. Paul Wargo posted the following information about water levels: The warm winter fulfilled the Corps' prediction that the level would rise steadily after hitting bottom way back in December. By the end of March we should be only 2" below the March level of last year. However, the Corps still says we will end up about 6" lower than last summer.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Grant Update:* There are no new updates about the status of the recent grant application, but details will be shared as soon as something is available. The results are scheduled to come back during the month of April.
- *Pavilion Vandalism Update:* Craig Baloga indicated that the incident went to pre-trial on March 27th, 2023 at 10:45am at the St. Clair County Juvenile Court. Craig joined and participated in the electronic meeting. The juvenile was charged with vandalism on Browne's Field, and separately (unrelated) was also facing three counts of assault. Two of those charges were dropped, but one still remains, along with the vandalism charge. The juvenile is now on probation and has to pay restitution. The bill came to around \$1,500 to make repairs and install new lighting, which needs to be paid between this juvenile and the other perpetrator. The follow-up court date is on June 27th to assess the juvenile's progress with this case. Possible additional community service will be discussed at this future date. The second perpetrator is scheduled for a court date on Tuesday April 18, 2023. The cases for each perpetrator were handled separately, although the prosecuting attorney is the same for both cases. The juvenile seemed neither remorseful nor defiant.

NEW BUSINESS

- *Calendar of Events:* The website (hiscfa.org) has been updated with all of the upcoming meeting dates and many events.
- *Website / email issues:* Margaret Marchwinski indicated that she has been having issues with her HISCFA.org email address. Craig Baloga indicated that she should contact our tech support company to assist with this issue, along with other issues that people have reported such as the website being flagged as unsafe or suspicious. The owner of this company formerly was involved in the HISCFA and has been significantly withdrawing support over the years. Harold Stieber indicated that it may be time to investigate a new tech support service to support the HISCFA going forward. Margaret is aware of two possible local Island residents that could support. This would be primarily the email support, domain hosting, computers,



etc. **Dennis Szymanski made a motion to pursue quotation(s) for a new tech support company to assist the HISCFA in the future, Linda Schoonover seconded; all in favor, motion carried.**

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson: Supervisor Bryson mentioned that the St. Clair County Road Commission will be assessing the drains around the Island and will be notifying residents to remove the sandbags that were formerly in place to prevent flooding since flooding is no longer a concern.

There are many infrastructure projects going on, with \$4.5M in grants supporting these projects. Another \$1M grant was applied for that appears to be very favorable for another water main interconnect with Ira Township. Budget time is a difficult time for the Township due to inflation, and the Township will basically just be receiving only \$8,000 more than they did last year which is not very impactful. There are 6 unions in the township and they're all up for negotiation this year. A total of about 85% of the township is direct labor.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of May 13th which will be Clay Days held on the Mainland. Additionally, mark your calendars for May 20-21, 2023 which will be Island Cleanup Days. The Sans Souci Block Party will also be held on Saturday, May 20th. There are three bands scheduled and there will be 2 stages: 10 Beach Drive, Dogfish, and the Meldrum Brothers. All non-profit organizations will be invited to participate, and the HISCFA will do the shrimp boil as a fundraiser for this event. There will be 4 concerts on the Island this year in the Music in the Parks series. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting Cindy Babisz at the township offices. There will also be several concerts in both Algonac and at the Clay Township Park. Look for dates posted on social media.

There are different options being pursued for downtown Sans Souci for a community septic system but several were shot down by EGLE. An aerobic batch plant was also investigated. The engineering for this plant is being investigated in Sans Souci so that's why you might see some flags all around that area. Supervisor Bryson is attempting to get funding to support this project. It will look like a 30x90ft building and convert the algae into plastic and ink, as a renewable source of energy. It will also be creating carbon credits to sell on the open market. The money made from carbon credits will eventually repay for the facility itself. If it all works out, the state would pay for a large chunk of it and the people in Lansing seem very supportive of this project. All the coring samples have been completed, and the flags can be pulled.

An attendee at the meeting brought up the road grading on the Middle Channel, and Supervisor Bryson mentioned that another layer will be assessed for Bates Hwy and Middle Channel at the same time that some work on M-154 will be completed. If there are any concerns or questions about the upcoming road work, all questions should be directed to the St. Clair County Road Commission at 810-364-5720.

Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose: During the month of February, Chief Rose attended two meetings: the St. Clair Flats Association, and St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association where general business was discussed.

Supervisor Bryson and Chief Rose met with the DNR St. Clair Flats and discussed the emergency warning system proposal on Voakes Rd, and after talking with them, it's going to be a long process due to the land being purchased with Federal money. The location of Green St. & South Channel has been identified as a proposed location to solve this issue.



The Clay Township Fire Department conducted a station tour for Cub Scout Pack 222, a tour of the fire vehicles and equipment with a safety briefing given along with handouts. Tour was given by Sgt. Carr.

Fire Department EMS jackets came in and issued to the personnel, everyone was very pleased.

It's been a warm month; we were lucky with no ice in the river. At the beginning of the month some ice came down out of Lake Huron and the ferry was thinking of shutting down but did not. The Clay Township Fire Department was ready in case the ferry did shut down.

The CTFD was inspected by the State of Michigan EMS Division for their medical license renewal. The Clay Township Fire Department met all the requirements and Chief Rose would like to thank Firefighter/EMT-P Sherrard for his assistance.

The CTFD received their ISO rating: they are a 5/5X for the township. With some of the infrastructure plans, such as new water lines, second water feed to the Island, starting building inspections... this may improve our score in the next inspection.

Chief Rose is working on the fire department replacement program for vehicle and equipment and station maintenance for the upcoming budget year 2023-2024.

During the month of March, Chief Rose attended one meeting; the St. Clair County Fire Chief's Association, and general business was discussed. He would like to thank the Harsen's Island Garden Club for inviting the CTFD to speak at their luncheon. They discussed safety in the home, the new AEDs, and CPR.

The CTFD is still having back-order issues getting the injectors for Fire Boat#1. They are checking into other avenues where to get them. Fire Boat#2 is ready to be put into the water.

Chief Rose would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance at the Old Club Fire on March 8, 2023: Ira Township Fire Department, Algonac Fire Department, Marine City Fire Department, St. Clair Fire Department, Richmond Fire Department, Chesterfield Fire Department, TRI-Hospital EMS, St Clair County Emergency Management/Homeland Security, with a special thanks to the Clay Township Dispatch, Clay Township Police Department, and the members of our own department, the Clay Township Fire Department, for a job well done. The investigation is not yet complete, but will be meeting on Tuesday to assess. Chief Rose will come back to a future HISCFA meeting to report the cause of fire that was determined.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Linda Schoonover has been receiving applications for Field Day vendors as well as gifts that are being donated. The problem last year was that vendors bombarded the Field Day committee with donations the day-of which did not give the committee time to categorize and prepare them for the event. An agreement was made that all donations must be committed by the time the Car Show takes place each July.
- ✓ It was noted that the first car show registration has been received this week.
- ✓ Chief Rose wanted to remind everyone that there must be no latex paint taken to Island Cleanup Days. If you have latex paint to dispose of: put sand or kitty litter in it, wait for it to harden, then throw it out with your trash on your normal weekly garbage day.



Next meeting will be Saturday, May 13, 2023 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

Dennis Szymanski made the motion to adjourn; Leonard Verlinden seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

MelanieM@hiscfa.org



APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (February & March 2023)



Clay Township Fire & EMS

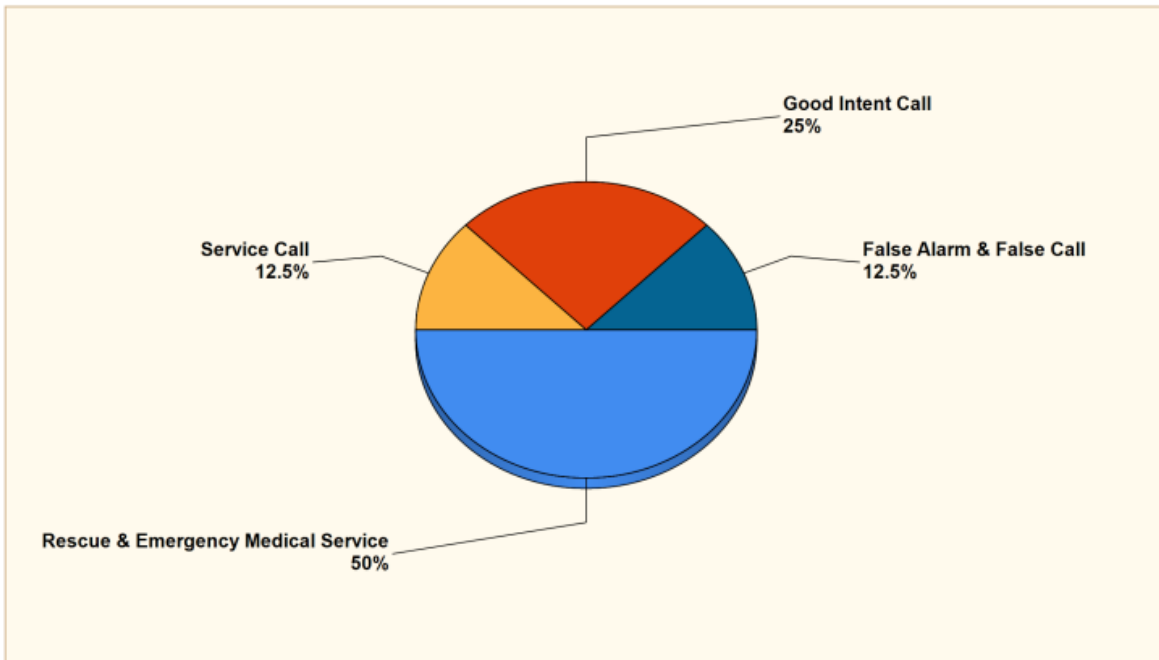
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 02/01/2023 | End Date: 02/28/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	4	50%
Service Call	1	12.5%
Good Intent Call	2	25%
False Alarm & False Call	1	12.5%
TOTAL	8	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	12.5%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	3	37.5%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	12.5%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	2	25%
715 - Local alarm system, malicious false alarm	1	12.5%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	8	100%



Clay Township Fire & EMS

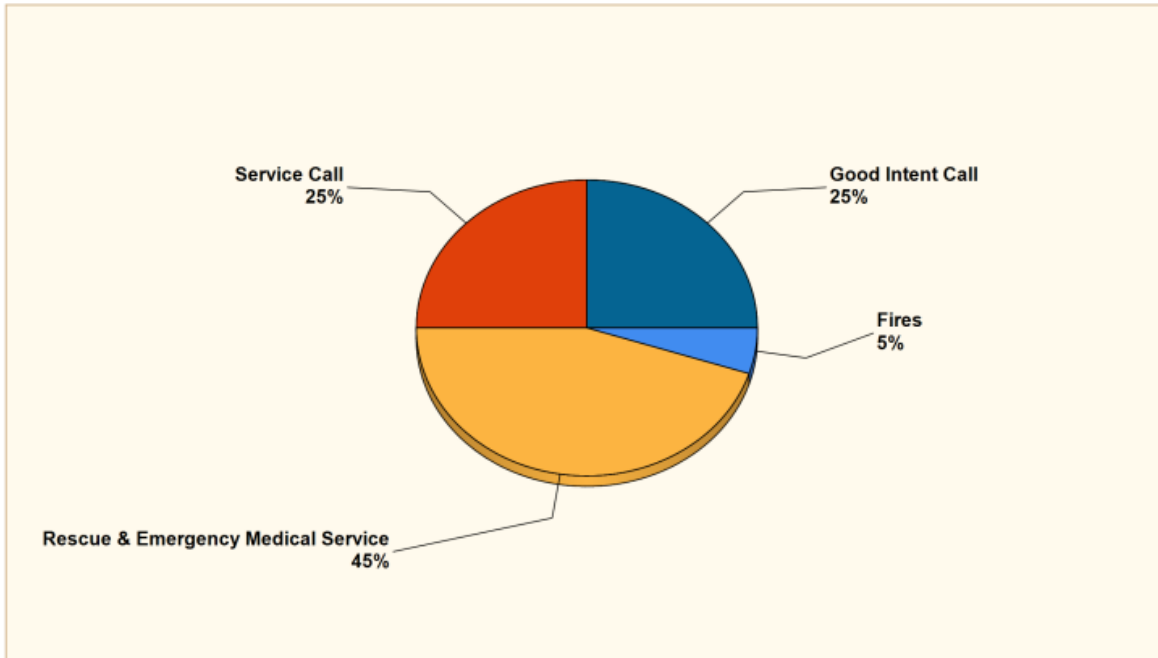
Clay Township, MI

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Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 03/01/2023 | End Date: 03/31/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	1	5%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	9	45%
Service Call	5	25%
Good Intent Call	5	25%
TOTAL	20	100%

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
111 - Building fire	1	5%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	9	45%
500 - Service Call, other	3	15%
554 - Assist invalid	1	5%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	1	5%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	5	25%
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	20	100%