



## Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association

### Minutes July 8, 2023

**Directors Present:** Craig Baloga, Jeanne Burczyk, Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, Margaret Marchwinski, David Martin, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Dennis Szymanski, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

**Excused:** Lucy Burby;

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

**Guests and Members Present:** Mike Balan, Joe Bosy, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Jeanne Burczyk, Sandy Favrow, Mike Galati, Jim Laethem, Karen Nihranz, Spencer Phinney, Cindy Pilato, George Rose, Pat Schulte, Jim Stieber, Mark Verschaeve.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:02 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The June 2023 meeting minutes were presented. **Dennis Szymanski made the motion to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes, Steve Lawrence seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, minutes to be placed on file.**

#### **Executive Committee Reports**

**Treasurer Report:** Harold Stieber presented the June 2023 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for June 30, 2023 was \$70,434.24 with total cash on hand being \$136,447.89. Many of the gross receipts received have come from the 2 recent fundraising events: Barks, BBQ & Rock-n-Roll, and That event grossed over \$3,600 with minor expenses impacting the HISCFA. Chris Knight fully sponsored the entertainment out of her own pocket, so the HISCFA would like to thank her for not only the idea for this new fundraiser, but also for coordinating a lot of the activities and sponsoring a significant portion of the expenses. Additionally, the HISCFA would like to thank Carol Everett who was also a major sponsor, as well as Debbie Mehl: their team of volunteers were vital in the success of the event. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

**Steve Lawrence made the motion to approve the June 2023 treasurer's reports, Leonard Verlinden seconded to approve; all in favor, motion carried, reports to be placed on file.**

**Secretary Report:** Margaret Marchwinski indicated that some preliminary copies of The Delta News will be available for pickup at the Car Show next weekend. It will not be the entire quantity of copies since this is an early run and they won't have time to bound them all, but they will continue to be printed for all of them to be ready for Field Day. Beyond Field Day, the Reader's Cove will be a pickup location for pickup of The Delta News in lieu of mailing them (reducing mailing to an absolute minimum). Field Day raffle tickets were mailed out this week, and



directors are encouraged to sell as many as possible. Two new members have joined the HISCFA this month. Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> is a tentative pavilion rental date, but at the moment there are no directors who are volunteering to facilitate the rental. These tasks include unlocking the pavilion, washing the floor, setting out garbage cans, opens the chair/table storage area, opening the kitchen (if applicable), and closing up afterwards and return everything to its original state and returning their deposit. The HISCFA is looking for someone to take on this responsibility in the future.

Communications: There are no official communications to report this month.

Browne's Field: Harold Stieber indicated that there was some more vandalism (although inadvertent) that occurred at Browne's Field. The posts for the pickleball nets were dragged across the surface, which resulted in damage to the surface. The video footage is being reviewed if it can be determined who is at fault. The final work has not yet been completed on the resurfacing, so it is hoped that it can be repaired before the upgrades are finalized. Dennis Szymanski indicated that there are some trees that have died along the ball field and towards the road. After the summer events have finished, it would be worthwhile to have some assistance to take down some of those trees before they fall and do any damage. If anyone has some interest in taking the wood, they will be welcome to it once it's down and collected. Some of this wood could be used as part of the fall BBQ event for the bonfire, but there is much more than would be needed for that event. David Martin indicated that he has names and phone numbers of 14 people who have previously indicated that they want to sponsor a bench to be placed at Browne's Field. On top of the cost of the bench, it will cost approximately an additional \$150 to have the bench placed and cemented into the ground, plus an additional cost of approximately \$100 to have the plaque created & engraved and secured to the back of the bench. David agreed to share his list of names with Craig Baloga after the meeting. Dennis Szymanski stated that we should have the donors pay for the bench and the plaque, and the HISCFA should incur the costs to complete the installation. A quotation request was sent yet again for an updated quote for the walking path at Browne's Field so that the bench locations can be finalized and both of these projects can move forward.

Government Affairs: Lois Whipple reported about a Michigan Department of Health & Human Services press release regarding mosquitoes in Bay County that tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), and another press release that warns Michiganders to avoid foam on bodies of water. These press releases can be found here: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2023/07/03/eee-bay> and <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2023/06/28/water-foam>.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- *Grant Update:* No updates at this time.
- *Car Show Update:* Craig Baloga mentioned that we're getting down to the wire with preparations for the Car Show taking place next Saturday, July 15, 2023. Flyers have been printed on one side with the registration form on the back. Craig asked directors to please post them wherever possible. It has been advertised all over the tri-county area and the Island as well. It is expected to be a well-attended show. Some additional sponsors are rolling in even now, and some banners will begin being hung around Browne's Field. Craig indicated that it appears we are all set for volunteers, but please come and attend the show and if anyone backs out, your assistance is appreciated to keep things running smoothly. Some stakes will be placed on the field to outline some of the areas that will be utilized for the show.
- *Field Day Update:* Preparations have begun for this event. Special thanks to Lois Whipple and Christine Baloga for securing a bounce house that will be delivered to the Island for Field Day on August 5, 2023.



Supervisor Bryson requested a map of Browne's Field be marked up with locations to place the large boards from Clay Days, and for the benefit of the Association where the bounce house will be placed, etc. Dennis Szymanski indicated that the beer truck is ready to go for this event as well. Linda Schoonover indicated she has received numerous vendor registrations, but there is more room available for additional vendors. August 2<sup>nd</sup> is the cutoff to accept Silent Auction items.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *2023 Director Ballots*: Next month is our membership meeting where we nominate directors for new terms or additional terms. Between now and then, we need to look at re-electing or nominating new directors. The executive board is responsible for this activity, so the ballots will be placed on social media and placed on our website for the public.
- *Porta-Logic Wi-Fi Water Station Card Reader*: For a while now, a Wi-Fi card reader has been discussed being implemented in the main water station. Craig Baloga reached out to the company that manufactures this equipment (Porta-Logic), which would basically replace the quarter machine that is currently in place. The estimate for this system will be approximately \$13,500, and it was being looked at because the mechanical coin machine keeps jamming and causing problems. Harold indicated that the water station doesn't make the Association any money as it is, so this cost isn't really justified other than being a convenience for the Association and for members/users.

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson**: Supervisor Bryson discussed some new additions to the Township in the way of new pickleball courts at the township park, and a new parking area & restrooms facility near the Pearl Beach pier. Melanie Most asked whether the plans for the restrooms at Pearl Beach could be shared with the HISCFA, and Supervisor Bryson agreed to share that information. Apparently there is a shortage of glass block to be purchased, so once that is obtained the rest of the work can continue on that structure. The mainland pickleballers indicated that perhaps the Island pickleballers might entertain a monthly, friendly competition.

The township has gotten their EGLE permit to extend the water line along Columbine Rd. just past the Schoolhouse Grille. The additional 900 feet, at a cost of approximately \$55,000, is being taken care of in-house.

There are many upcoming events on the Island, including Cleanup Days on August 26-27, 2023, and more Music in the Park events: one during Field Day on August 5<sup>th</sup>, then on September 16<sup>th</sup> during the Bonfire & BBQ event at Browne's Field.

As mentioned in detail in the last HISCFA meeting, Clay Township, working with ASTI Environmental, determined that EGLE has granted three similar permits to what was submitted for the proposed nature park on the Krispin Drain (yet the township's plan was denied). As a result, EGLE alluded to the fact that the "new" person who denied the permit was mistaken to deny the permit. The Warren EGLE office has been working with Supervisor Bryson on this project, as well as The Old Club. The Old Club had valid permits in place (before the fire) to install 80 pipes in order to raise the structures. However, above the Warren EGLE office's heads are the ones that are giving them a difficult time about granting work in accordance with the existing permits. Clay Township has an ordinance where a non-conforming house burns down, it is possible to rebuild that non-conforming structure on the same footprint, but it can't be rebuilt and be *more* non-conforming. The Old Club is the largest taxpayer in the Township.



Supervisor Bryson received the good news that it appears that the wastewater treatment plant project has been fully funded. In the state budget that is being presented to the Governor (keeping in mind she has line-item veto power), there is \$2M budgeted directly for the wastewater treatment plant through Algaewheel. It's going to be about \$3.5-4M for the entire project, but what they did at the State level (because there are so many people asking for this money) they did a new program with EGLE for new wastewater treatment plant programs. The money was awarded to EGLE to prioritize projects like this, and quick action was required in order to obtain it. Approximately 3 months ago, Algaewheel just won a competitive national award through the EPA for the best new technology for anything environmental-related in the country, so it came to be extremely beneficial for the township to be talking to this specific company for this future project. Supervisor Bryson indicated that he is looking at either the second or third week of August to host a town hall regarding this subject. The future location of this plant has been determined to be four lots on Maple Ave. near Sans Souci, and will be capable of servicing all of Sans Souci and then some, with room for expansion. The initial hookup will be free, but then will be estimated to be approximately \$4,000 to hookup, and then perhaps \$40 a month (all costs are preliminary at this time). The septic haulers (e.g. Rattee) will be allowed to dump the waste they collect on the Island into the wastewater treatment plant for a fee, rather than hauling it away off the Island. 128 tons of carbon will be able to be recouped from this each year, which equates to approximately \$25-30k per year put towards the operation of the plant. First \$2M is available in October, and at that time the bidding will take place (but it is known that Algaewheel will be) then the construction will take approximately 12-14 months to complete. It will be completed in 2 phases: the first phase is to get going on the plant and it won't take much to lay the pipe through town, and the second phase is the collection system. First in November, the property will need to be prepped and there are some wetlands there to contend with. It appears there will be a trade that will take place between EGLE and Clay Township (the township will trade the old dump site, in exchange for permission to use the proposed property for the wastewater treatment plant). There's \$150,000 available for the engineering of this through the EPA, and since we were awarded the grant money, we should be able to get that funding for the engineering as well. It is unlikely that the carbon credits received from this venture will ever exceed the cost to operate the facility, but if they do, the money generated from the carbon credits will remain on the Island. Once this work begins, parts of Sans Souci will need to be under construction with 2-3 foot trenches to assist with the gravity feed for this project.

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

Jobbie Nooner was very quiet this year, with only 150 to 200 boats around the island. We responded to one minor emergency for the day. Chief Rose would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. Bob Bryson for allowing us to use their property for staging, and also Mr. Todd Chartier for allowing us to launch our two personal watercrafts from his property, and of course Clay Township Dispatch for the amazing job they did.

The Clay Township Fire Department (CTFD) geared up for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. The CTFD assisted the Algonac Fire Department on one event: the fireworks as stand-by.

The CTFD will be working with the St. Clair County Marine Division, and US Coast Guard next month to plan out Raft Off in August.



Chief Rose would like to thank the Harsens Island Ferry Captains/pilots and deckhands for their prompt action for getting our emergency vehicles across the river when needed. All fire department equipment is in service. Tri-Hospital will have an ambulance service stationed on the Island every weekend through Labor Day.

There are two new additions to the CTFD: George A. Papp is currently employed with TRI-EMS as an EMT- P since 2022, George was with Ray Township Fire Department and MedStar EMS as a basic EMT. He holds the following certifications: Firefighter 1&2, and EMT-P (Paramedic) for the State of Michigan. Also, Cheyenne A. Hansen is currently employed with TRI-EMS, and she has been with the company since 2017. She presently works on an ALS unit as EMT basic. She has some limited firefighting background.

Chief Rose would also like to highlight the CTFD Facebook page which features safety tips and firefighter profiles so you can “meet” your fire department - please give the page a “Like.” Supervisor Bryson indicated that there has been a 24% raise provided to the CTFD through the township budget as of July 1, 2023.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ David Bryson was in attendance and it was requested for him to provide an update on the status of the ferry dock on the mainland that has been under construction for some time. For the last 6 months, construction on the new docks has been stalled due to parts availability. Champion Auto Ferry is expected to receive them at the end of July, at which point construction will resume. Once it starts going together, it will go together quickly. They are planning to put the dock into service sometime this fall. When asked about the additional gravel put down on the other mainland dock, David indicated that the new dock is about 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list of priorities, because their first priorities are to maintain traffic and maintain operations, so they are doing whatever they can to support those first. As an aside, for the 4th of July weekend, four boats ran and they hauled about 50 cars every 10 minutes. The biggest problem or hangup during that weekend was for vehicles unloading off the ferry: the concrete sensor at the traffic light was not working properly, and at one point CAF had to request the police to come and direct traffic so that the traffic could proceed through the red light. CAF has been calling MDOT for the last month or so, but they won't return the calls. Supervisor Bryson indicated he has a contact that he can try to reach out to, to get movement on the repair of the light.
- ✓ Jeanne Burczycki asked whether the fence around the pickleball courts will be replaced with the surface upgrade project. Craig Baloga stated that the fence was not in the scope of the project. Melanie Most asked whether the fence was in disrepair, and Jeanne confirmed that it is not. Craig suggested to spray paint the fence, but Dennis recommended to roll it with paint rather than spray it, if that update is going to occur in the future.



Next meeting will be Saturday, August 12, 2023 at **9:00 am** at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall.

**Steve Lawrence made the motion to adjourn; David Martin seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

[MelanieM@hiscfa.org](mailto:MelanieM@hiscfa.org)



## APPENDIX

Fire Department Incident Reports for Harsen's Island (June 2023)



# Clay Township Fire & EMS

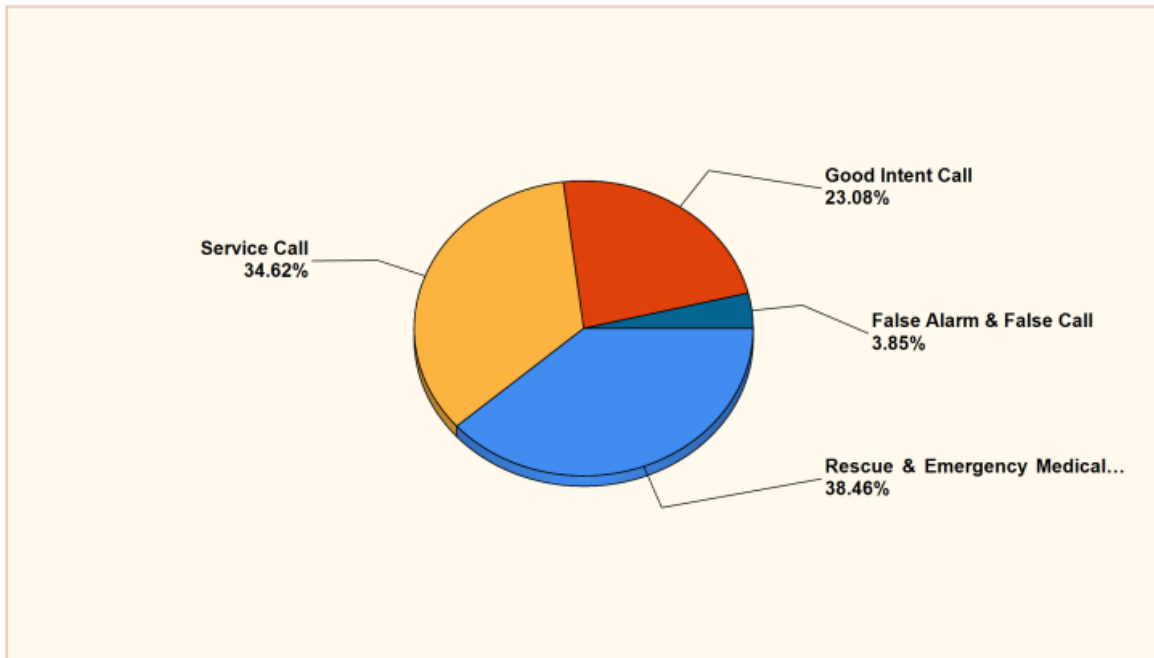
Clay Township, MI

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## Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 06/01/2023 | End Date: 06/30/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	10	38.46%
Service Call	9	34.62%
Good Intent Call	6	23.08%
False Alarm & False Call	1	3.85%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	3.85%
320 - Emergency medical service, other	1	3.85%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	8	30.77%
500 - Service Call, other	1	3.85%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	2	7.69%
554 - Assist invalid	1	3.85%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	5	19.23%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	1	3.85%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	5	19.23%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	1	3.85%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100%</b>