



## **Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association**

### **Minutes August 12, 2023**

**Directors Present:** Craig Baloga, Steve Gartland, Steve Lawrence, David Martin, Melanie Most, Linda Schoonover, Harold Stieber, Leonard Verlinden, Lois Whipple;

**Excused:** Lucy Burby, Margaret Marchwinski, Dennis Szymanski;

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

**Guests and Members Present:** Mike Balan, Artie Bryson, David Bryson, Jacob Bryson, John Dickson, Barb Feldman, Kathy Harrison, Michael Krust, Karen Nihranz, George Rose, Jim Stieber, Bobbie Tippie, Dan Tippie.

Craig Baloga brought the meeting to order at the Harsen's Island Lions Hall at 9:03 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The July 2023 meeting minutes were presented. **Dave Martin made the motion to approve the July 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 July 2023 Treasurer's Reports. Harold reported that the balance in the checkbook for July 31, 2023 was \$40,957.41 with total cash on hand being \$110,193.00. Full copies of the monthly Treasurer's Report are available by contacting Harold Stieber at [HaroldS@hiscfa.org](mailto:HaroldS@hiscfa.org).

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

**Secretary Report:** Margaret Marchwinski was not present to report any updates. There was some discussion about when to hand out another round of copies of The Delta News but no conclusion was stated.

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

**Browne's Field:** Dennis Szymanski was not present because he was picking up community service workers to assist with the Cornhole Tournament today at Browne's Field. Craig Baloga indicated that some kind of a box or cage needs to be placed over the sump pump at Browne's Field for safety around that area.

**Government Affairs:** Lois Whipple reported about a report from the MDHHS regarding fish that are safe to eat within the waters in the State of Michigan. For more information, you can read the press release here: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/newsroom/2023/08/11/2023-eat-safe-fish>



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- *Grant Update:* There are no updates at this time. A new source for grant funding will need to be pursued in the future.
- *Walking Path Quotations:* The HISCFA is going to try to break ground on a walking path in the late summer or early fall of this year. HISCFA has received feedback that there is a lot of interest to get it going. President Craig Baloga presented a couple of quotations from the same company a few years apart, but nothing from the last two years. Also worth noting, between 2017 and 2021, the cost increased approximately \$20k. There are no current quotations in our possession, but they need to be obtained. Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson indicated that there are a couple of local asphalt companies that may be able to provide some more competitive quotations. Craig indicated that it's important to get some additional, recent quotes. The size of the restrooms need to be confirmed in order to spec-out the septic field. Then, the next step would be to apply for a permit for a septic tank/field.

## NEW BUSINESS

- *2023 Director Ballots:* Members can now grab a ballot and submit their vote at today's meeting. The ballot will be placed on social media and the HISCFA website for current members to vote.

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson:** Supervisor Bryson discussed the upcoming town hall event regarding the Algaewheel plant. A press conference was held on the Island a couple weeks ago, in order to introduce our state legislators to this activity. Phase 1 is going to be building the plant and hooking up the Sans Souci businesses to the plant. Phase 2 would be to continue to hook up the rest of the area for those who wish to participate. Harold Stieber indicated that the Great Lakes Islands Alliance are also interested in seeing how it works out for our community. Stacy Williams asked whether this plant would increase taxes in our township, and Supervisor Bryson explicitly stated that there will be NO increase in taxes to our community / township for this plant to be placed on the Island. To operate the plant is a fixed cost, so the more people that eventually hook up, the lower the monthly cost will be to everyone. However, firm costs cannot be confirmed at this time. The initial plant capacity will handle up to 25,000 gallons/day, which could handle approximately 175 homes. However, the design can accommodate expansion at a later time if needed.

MDOT indicated that they planned to repave M-154 but they said it would be chip-sealed. Supervisor Bryson argued that it would be a terrible idea, and he convinced 7 or 8 legislators from Lansing to work to get a line item in next year's budget for \$2.5M to asphalt our state highway.

Supervisor Bryson presented to EGLE about three or four different places that were similar to what was being requested in the proposed Island nature park that were approved while the Island was denied. Through the Algaewheel plans, Supervisor Bryson has the ear of some higher-ups at EGLE now, and they agreed that EGLE should not have denied the Island permit in the first place.

**Guest Speaker, Clay Township Fire Chief George Rose:** During the month of July, Chief Rose attended three meetings: the Harsen's Island St. Clair Flats Association, St. Clair County Chiefs Association, and the US Coast Guard. The Clay Township Fire Department (CTFD) has been planning for the next event, which is the Raft Off,



held on Saturday August 12, 2023. The CTFD has been working on getting permission to use property for Medical Staging and the command post at Mr. Todd Chartier's vacant lot on South Channel Dr. The CTFD will also be tasked with balloon deployment, among other things. Clay Fire Boat#1 assisted Algonac Fire Department with their fireworks display and they did a fire boat demonstration for Sunsatation Boats. The Fire Department assisted the Clay Township Police by transporting them in the fire boat for a noise complaint on the Baltimore Hwy. Both stations are being staffed.

Additional comments from directors or guests:

- ✓ Dave Martin brought up the fact that many copies of The Delta News from previous years still sit in the barn year over year. Dave Martin suggested making a motion to keep 10 copies each of previous years and dispose of or donate the rest. Stacy Williams suggested offering bundles of older copies as a Silent Auction item. Dave further suggested that it might be better to do some of this work over the winter. Melanie Most suggested taking an inventory and offering them to the public for a low cost to complete someone's collection or replace damaged copies. Craig Baloga suggested completing this activity before the fall barbecue on September 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Linda Schoonover has organized a fundraiser on behalf of Friends of St. Clair River to raise funds for beautifying the Island Post Office with plants and/or gravel or mulch. Details will appear in The Flyer and on social media.
- ✓ Jim Stieber mentioned that the Harsens Island Lions are looking for additional volunteers for the Turkey Shoot. The signup link will be posted on our community social media.
- ✓ Kathy Harrison reported that the latest cleaning of the water station was challenging because of the poor job the contractors did cleaning up after their roofing job. Kathy picked up a sandwich-bagful of nails that she picked up by hand before she cut the grass.
- ✓ David Bryson indicated that the impact of transporting cars for a Sunday car show was a lot less than when the show was originally scheduled on a Saturday. David recommended having the car show on a Sunday in the future to ease the burden on the ferry. Additional comments were added that a rain date would be indicated from the beginning rather than trying to scramble at the last minute to get the word out. Melanie Most asked David whether there was any movement on the backlog of materials that CAF was waiting on for completing the mainland dock. David indicated that the big hang up right now is getting new cylinders for the crane. The boom has been removed from the crane for a month now, once the cylinders were sent in. The vendor finally got around to taking them apart to assess the repair to provide a quotation. CAF continues to do work in the shop to continue work and assembly where possible.



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

**Linda Schoonover made the motion to adjourn; Steve Lawrence seconded. All in favor; meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie Most, Recording Secretary

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



## APPENDIX

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



# Clay Township Fire & EMS

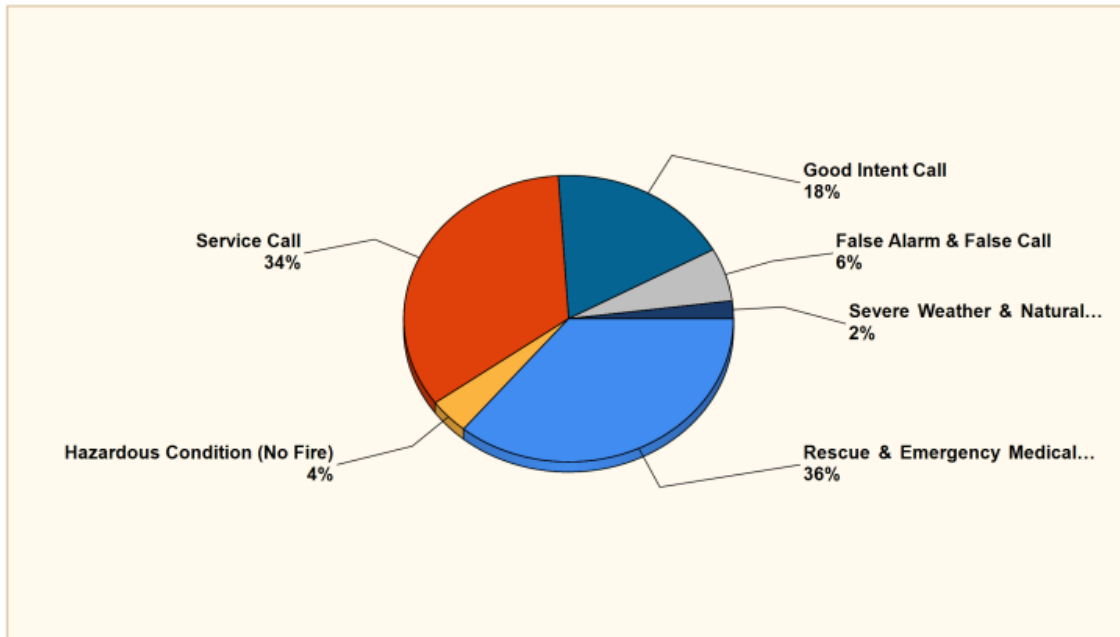
Clay Township, MI

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## Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range

Zone(s): 3 - HARSENS ISLAND | Start Date: 07/01/2023 | End Date: 07/31/2023



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	18	36%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	2	4%
Service Call	17	34%
Good Intent Call	9	18%
False Alarm & False Call	3	6%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>

Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type		
INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	1	2%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	10	20%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	1	2%
342 - Search for person in water	1	2%
360 - Water & ice-related rescue, other	3	6%
365 - Watercraft rescue	2	4%
444 - Power line down	2	4%
500 - Service Call, other	5	10%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	2	4%
553 - Public service	1	2%
554 - Assist invalid	3	6%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	6	12%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	3	6%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	6	12%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1	2%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	1	2%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	1	2%
813 - Wind storm, tornado/hurricane assessment	1	2%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>