

Draft - Harsens Island Transportation Authority Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting held December 1, 2023 at the Lions Club

Meeting called to order by Harold Bain at 6:04PM

Role Call: Harold Bain – Present
Gary Beaulac – Present
Dennis Szymanski – Present
Skip Tornow – Present
Paul Cassidy – Absent Excused

Public Comments:

Kevin Geraghty -North Channel

\$4.3 m – 5 years (\$866,000 1st year) – What is the cost of the feasibility study? Can you share where the property is located? What is the go forward after the tax business plan? Level of confidence?

Wendy Lenz – 6850 South Channel

Where is my money going? I'm happy with how things are now

Mark V – What is the designated date that the millage will stop?

Ilene Bischer – Last minute meeting on a Friday at 6:00pm with only 2 days notice

Brian Doyle 215 Monroe – What happens if the feasibility study shows there is no option to go forward?

Stephanie – 3110 South Channel – I know what is going on because I have attended every meeting.

Rich Sullivan – 7030 Middle Channel – When will the Feasibility Study begin, this is a very difficult process.

Approval of November 11, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Dennis Szymanski motion to approve the November 11, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Harold Bain, motion passed.

Old Business

Chairman Comments

Bringing to your attention the MSU Study conducted for MDOT regarding Michigan Ferry Responsibilities to Island Residents – posted on HITA website and would suggest residents' review. Highlights:

Pg 9 – Harsens Island – No eligible monies received – Operator not interested in receiving state or federal monies which would require oversight and reviews of financials.

Pg 115 – Current study shows below satisfaction

“It seems that a state authority needs to step in relation to CAF, local government has no interest”

Pg 148 Final recommendations

Pg 149 2nd paragraph

Boury Report

Will post on website – Overview:

Harsens Island needs to establish community support by provided basic funding to move forward

4.5 millage which will provide HITA \$866,000 to be spent to complete the feasibility study so HITA can apply for grants, purchase the property and to pay for a grant writer. Remainder for the day-to-day operations. If the project is not feasible, HITA will not continue the millage.

Millage proposal ballot language recommendations from SCC Elections Manager

Skip Tornow made motion to approve ballot language as written: Shall the Harsens Island Transportation Authority be authorized to levy up to 4.50 mills (\$4.50 per \$1,000 taxable value) upon all taxable property within the Harsens Island Transportation Authority's geographic boundaries (the boundary lines of Voting Precinct No. Four (4) of the Township of Clay) for a period of five (5) years, 2024 through 2028, inclusive, as new additional millage, for the purpose of providing funds for public transportation services? It is estimated that 4.50 mills would raise approximately \$866,223 when first levied in 2024. Yes or No. And approve the resolution. Dennis Szymanski seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

New Business

Poll Challenger Recommendations for millage election

Harold Bain made a motion to credential poll challengers for the February election, seconded by Skip Tornow, all ayes, motion passed.

Whitey Simon

Chuck Kukawka

George Covalle

Neva Covalle

Susan Marlow

Public Comments

Mark – The board has the questions but no answers, if you have the answer, answer it.

Mike Malik- 8117 South Channel – I own a multi-million dollar place, I'd rather pay the \$15 and have control. There has always been issues with CAF, there must be a way to come up a resolution. I will fight the millage all the way.

Jon DeBoyer – Out island residents won't use the ferry, this is taxation without representation, they are trying to shove it down your throat and I hope you realize that.

Adjourn -

Harold Bain adjourned at 6:45pm

