

Draft – Harsens Island Transportation Authority Meeting Minutes

Meeting held October 8, 2022 at the Lions Club

Meeting called to order at 9:40AM by Harold Bain

Roll Call - Harold Bain – Present
Gary Beaulac – Present
Paul Cassidy – Present
Dennis Szymanski – Present
Wayne (Skip) Tarnow – Excused Absent

August 20,2022 Minutes

Motion by Szymanski to accept the minutes of August 20, 2022, seconded by Gary Beaulac. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Balance as of 9/30/2022 \$125,185, check was issued for the Traffic Study. Working on financial audit, have sent all information offer to Tammy Pitzer with Clay Township, Skip has sent over all the requested minutes and agendas as requested. We have not had any further response. In addition, the \$250,000 quarterly report was sent and as a reminder HITA must use the grant money before any more is released. Motion by Szymanski to approve and file the Treasurer's report seconded by Harold Bain, motion carried.

Old Business

Detroit International Bridge Company Update

HITA continues to have concerns over the lack of transparency from the DIBC, particularly in terms of partnership and rates. HITA has a meeting scheduled on October 10, 2022 at which time we will discuss what we need to proceed with the DIBC. They are requesting we secure a \$45 million dollar grant for the bascule portion of the bridge before discussing a private public partnership which is unacceptable. The grant writer sees no sense in hiring them for the grant money without this partnership.

Traffic Study Update

HITA contracted for 8 weeks of traffic study and have collected 4 weeks of data at this point beginning 8/25/2022. Week 1 – 6463 vehicles. Week 2 – 8007 vehicles (labor day). Week 3 – 5667 vehicles and Week 4 (ending 9/22) 5553 vehicles.

New Business

EUPTA (Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation) update

Option to purchase our own ferry system and EUPTA and DVM Utilities as well as MDOT are interested in investing and establishing a ferry system for Harsens Island. EUPTA has shared operating expenses, details about their docks and equipment and provided blueprints. There are substantial State and Federal monies available to ferries and would provide the island relief quicker and HITA would remain in control of rates and operations.

Newly Appointed Secretary Maureen Boury Update

Maureen Boury has been appointed as Secretary to HIA and will provide updates at each meeting. She will be posting her updates on the website.

Traffic Study Quote

Enhance and Extend the traffic quote to include more detailed information such as right turns, left turns, u-turns and traffic flow. This information will be necessary for a feasibility study which will be required for any grants, etc. Motion by Szymanski to approve \$8918.00 for the extension of the traffic study, Bain seconded, motion carried.

Website Budget

Website enhancements to be completed by end of October. Quote to completely rebuild the HITA website which will include a more user-friendly site, mobile friendly site, new calendar page, search engine optimization and provide updated information on a regular basis to inform residents. Also includes training to the board. Motion by Szymanski to approve budget for a new website conversion, seconded by Bain, motion carried.

Next Steps

Meeting with DIBC 10/10/2022

Meeting with Blue Water Transit 10/12/2022

Public Comments

Questions regarding the DIBC land that has already been secured.

Questions regarding other bridge companies – We basically have 3 options, DIBC/MDOT (which is a longer process or a new Ferry.

Fares are important to both residents and visitors

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40AM by Harold Bain