

Approved – Harsens Island Transportation Authority Meeting Minutes

Meeting held August 20, 2022 at the Lions Club

Meeting called to order at 9:37am by Harold Bain

Roll Call

Harold Bain – Present

Gary Beaulac – Present

Paul Cassidy – Present

Dennis Szymanski – Present

Wayne (Skip) Tarnow – Present

Amendments to the agenda – Harold Bain

- Presentation by Dan DiLegge, President of DVM Utilities to present alternative ferry project for consideration
- Quality counts quote for traffic study
- DIBC requests letter of support from Clay Township board

Motion by Skip Tarnow to add above amendments, seconded by Harold Bain, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Beaulac presented the latest Treasurer's report thru July 31, 2022.

Balance \$123,035.67. Remaining \$125,000 coming after usage of first \$125,000. Provided State with 2-month report on balance. State advises use it or lose it.

DIBC update

EGLE permits are in order (requested more stones around pillars) Coast Guard have a verbal commitment with bascule. Still have not received proposed rate schedule from DIBC. Several grants available with deadlines for the approx. \$45million from HITA for the bascule, need to move forward with the grant writer. DIBC will make a presentation when HITA is ready.

Legal Representation

DIBC asked for legal representation and HITA will utilize Jeff Aronoff from Miller Canfield. Motion by Szymanski to hire Jeff from Miller Canfield for work at HITA's discretion on request, per job, no monthly retainer with a \$60,000.00 cap to finish negotiating with DIBC. Seconded by Skip Tarnow motion passed.

Grant Writer

Beaulac will reach out to the Grant Writer who has already presented to the board. He will request previous resume and presentation with urgency.

Memorandum of understanding with DIBC

Letter of understanding from DIBC pertaining to rates, reasonable rates can be a non-binding letter. MDOT is in on a bridge as well, could take 10 years to build. MDOT has \$8billion in slush fund they could earmark \$180million for bridge. Like DIBC, MDOT would also require Clay Township Board Approval

Non-Disclosure Agreements

Harold has asked all board members to sign NDA's. Motion by Szymanski, seconded by Gary Beaulac, motion passed.

DVM Utilities

Dan DiLegge President – Dan discussed his company's capability of providing an alternative ferry project for consideration. DVM is a large commercial construction company in business for 41 years. Aspects of

the team at DVM include funding from state, local, equity. Variables on operations. HITA has opened conversation with Blue Water regarding a potential contract should we choose alternative ferry system. Blue Water has access to Act 51 money that we could utilize to put in a dock structure, something we have missed out on year over year. We have what we need in terms of property and have information on acquisition of ferries. Motion by Szymanski to continuing negotiations with Dan from DVM Utilities. Seconded by Paul Cassidy, motion passed.

Quality Counts – Traffic Study

Quality counts to provide traffic study with cameras. Cameras will capture traffic that lands on the island, will be placed on the HIFSCA advertising sign, we have the permit to direct the camera on their road. Would like to start ASAP, need for MDOT. Quote received for 28 days, increasing that to 60 days. Motion by Szymanski to support hiring Quality counts for traffic study with a \$10,000 cap, if over more discussion would be needed. Seconded by Gary Beaulac, motion passed.

Letter of support from Clay Township -Requested by DIBC and MDOT -Speculative letter read aloud – need clay township board support letter for alternative transportation. Harold Bain will request to be put on the Clay Township Board agenda on 9/6/2022 for their support.

Public Comments –

Gary Beaulac – asked about reapproaching Champions to have them utilize federal funds to rebuild docks and lower rates. HITA has no contract with Champion to give Champions federal funding from BW through HITA.

David Bryson asked to be placed on the next agenda

Questions regarding the traffic study, grant writer and timeframes.

Skip Tarnow motion to adjourn at 10:58 seconded by Harold Bain, motion passed.