

Draft – Harsens Island Transportation Authority Meeting Minutes

Meeting held June 11, 2022 at the Lions Club

Meeting called to order at 10:36AM by Harold Bain

Roll Call -

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

Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2022 – Motion by Beaulac to approve, seconded by Szymanski, Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Beaulac presented the latest Treasurer’s report thru May 31, 2022. Balance \$123,000. Payment of \$2400.00 paid for Directors Liability Insurance. Financial status report will be posted to the HITA Website. The \$250,000 grant, \$125,000 received, the remaining balance due in 1 year. Grant conditions require report every 6 months. Provided report in April with 0 expenditures, next report due October and will reflect the liability payment and any other expenditures. Motion by Szymanski to approve treasurer’s report, seconded by Beaulac, motion passed.

Liability Insurance Update – Beaulac reported securing liability insurance from Nickel & Saph for \$2400.00, covers HIA Board for 1 year, 4/27/22 – 4/27/23. Copy of insurance available for review.

Detroit International Bridge Company (DIBC) – Harold met with DIBC, recommendation from DIBC to meet with Miller Canfield for legal representation. Harold and Skip also met with the Coast Guard for over 2 hours waiting on permits and has interest. Beaulac asking for assurance that DIBC will provide presentation to the community to share fee structure and answer questions.

Miller Canfield – Attorney Jeff Arnoff presented HITA with his credentials and overview of his role in representing HITA. Jeff specializes in public fiancé, bond issues and works with Government entities. Mr. Arnoff of Miller Canfield would represent HITA in a public/private partnership with DIBC. HITA has the same needs with public/private issues and would provide services representing HITA on the objective/vision to construct a bridge and a relationship with HITA and DIBC. With the entanglement of the bascule portion of the bridge Miller Canfield would make sure HITA is protected, likely the source of funding for the bascule will likely require public (HITA) to receive funding and act as a pass through of the funds, bascule should be a wash. Jeff has not received any proposals or business plans from DIBC, due diligence is needed to review overall plan including toll cost structure. Board members Beaulac, Szymanski and Bain reiterated that any agreement with DIBC would have to be in the best interests of the Island Community in terms of cost savings and profitability. Discuss on what Miller Canfield’s pay structure would look like for HITA, Jeff explained it would most likely be an hourly arrangement with a high cap and would apply a 20-25% discount as HITA is a government entity. Jeff will provide an engagement letter with fee structure for next meeting.

Bike Path Presentation – John Darling with the DNR and resident Chuck Miller presented an opportunity for a walking path, a 3.5 mile circuit from the DNR field office along M154 to the 2 current loading sites on M154 back into the marsh to original location. Time the path would be available would be Jan 2 – Aug 2 yearly. Closed Sept 1 – Jan 1 for hunting permits. John Darling working with multiple DNR divisions, i.e. fisheries, wildlife and biologists to accomplish. Very preliminary at this point. Chuck is asking HISCFA and HITA for community support and potential financing.

Public Comments –

Lots of discussion around the bridge -

Will DIBC make a presentation at HITA to answer community questions – DIBC has agreed to present
Bridge cost would have to benefit the community in cost savings -

Motion made by Szymanski, 2nd by Bain to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:00PM