



The Governing Voice for  
700,000 Wayne County Residents

## **CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**March 10, 2023**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER- GLAAB**

Supervisor Glaab called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.  
Mayor Patrick Wimberley gave a brief introduction to the City of Inkster

### **2. ROLL CALL- TURNBULL**

Mayor Turnbull called the roll:  
Supervisor Ann-Marie Graham-Hudak, Canton Charter Township;  
Supervisor David Glaab, Huron Charter Township;  
Mayor Brian Turnbull, City of Northville;  
Supervisor Mark Abbo, Northville Charter Township;  
Supervisor Kurt Heise, Plymouth Charter Township;  
Supervisor Pat McRae, Redford Charter Township;  
Pro Tem Ms. Kim Dold, alternate, City of Garden City;  
Mr. Tim Rush, alternate, Sumpter Township;  
Mayor John Rhaesa, City of Wayne;  
Ms. Mariana Hernandez, alternate, Dearborn Heights;  
Mayor Patrick Wimberly, City of Inkster;  
Mayor Robert McCraight, City of Romulus;  
Fire Marshall Laura Ridenour, alternate, City of Dearborn;  
Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Van Buren Charter Township;  
Mayor Mike Londeau, City of Westland.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: City of Livonia, City of Belleville, and City of Plymouth.

Others present: Representative from Debbie Dingell's office, Representative from Rashida Tlaib's office, and members of the audience.

### **3. INTRODUCTIONS- GLAAB**

Supervisor Glaab asked board members and members of the audience to introduce themselves.

### **4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-GLAAB**

Motion by Turnbull, supported by Rush to approved the agenda for March 10, 2023.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES- TURNBULL

Motion by Heise, supported by Londeau to approve the meeting minutes for February 10, 2023.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT- HEISE

Motion by Abbo, supported by Rhasea to approve the 2/28/2023 treasurer's reports.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

## 7. PRESENTATIONS

Wayne County CEO, Warren Evans, spoke on the positive financial status of Wayne county has had since Mr. Evans has served in this position. Mr. Evans encouraged the communities of CWW to work with Wayne county to help spend their ARPA money.

## 8. DIRECTORS' REPORT

A. Directors' Report- SELLEK

### **Resolution on Train and Railroad Safety--Approval**

On February 27, CWW sent out a media release regarding the transportation of the Norfolk Southern train derailment toxic waste. We called on the EPA to publicly confirm no further waste would be transported to our Michigan facilities.

Being that there is no federal requirement for waste generators to notify local, county or state jurisdictions of hazardous waste transport, attached is a resolution requesting that the government enact laws that do so.

The resolution also calls on the United State Congress and the Federal Railroad administration to enact laws and standards that will prevent these avoidable disasters in the future.

Motion by Turnbull, supported by McCraight to approve the Resolution on Train and Railroad Safety.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

### **Romulus Deep Well Injection Resolution-Approval**

Attached is draft resolution 2023-002 regarding re-opening the public comment period concerning the deep well injection site in Romulus.

Mayor McCraight spoke in more detail on the history well injection site.

Motion by McCraight, supported by Heise to approve the Romulus Deep Well Injection Resolution.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

## **GLWA**

On February 22, 2023 GLWA approved a 3.7% water rate increase and a 2.4% sewer rate increase for 2023, beginning July 1.

Attached are the cover letters sent to Member Partners for FY 2023 and FY 2024 charges. According to GLWA for both years, there is no charge for Highland Park debt.

GLWA is working out general materials for community outreach related to charges and will seek CWW input in the future.

## **911 Telecommunicators Reclassification**

Following the recent tragedy at MSU there have been a number of legislative discussions and bills regarding school safety, gun safety and also the recognition of first responders.

Federally, public safety telecommunicators (911) are classified as “clerical” and not as “first responder”. For years there has been a movement by the 911 community to change this classification. However, the change has not been supported in Washington.

The 911 dispatcher who was notably on the scanner during the MSU tragedy, garnered much support from the public, including contacting state legislators to classify public safety telecommunicators as first responders.

Michigan does not have a classification system, nor does it have a definition of “first responder” outside of “medical first responder”. Nothing in state law prevents a local municipality from offering the same benefits to dispatchers as they do to law enforcement, fire and EMS. There is also nothing in current state law that would provide anything more to 911 dispatchers if they are classified or defined as first responders.

We are seeking a Senate resolution that recognizes all first responders, including public safety telecommunicators for their vital and life-saving roles in emergency response and their highly specialized skill set.

### **Assistant Director Position**

The job posting to replace Ms. Haynes will be published as a position for CWW Legislative and Communications Director. The position has evolved over the years and this new title is more reflective of the responsibilities of the position.

CWW has had little turnover throughout the years and it is imperative that we find the right candidate for this position. Therefore, we are in no rush to fill the position and will take the amount of time needed to find the right person. In the meantime, Ms. Sellek will be responsible for both positions.

### **CWW City Manager/Deputy Supervisor Meetings**

CWW has had a request to begin facilitating meetings for CWW City/Township Managers and Deputy Mayor/Supervisors. The goal is to provide them with the ability to have regular communication with each other and to receive CWW updates that may pertain to their position more directly.

### **CWW 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary--Approval**

As mentioned at the February board meeting, this year is CWW's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are planning it for Thursday, September 14, 2023 from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. or (9:00 p.m.) at Laurel Manor in Livonia. It will be an open house event with presentations/resolutions beginning at 6pm.

Invites will be geared towards CWW supporters, former staff, legislators current and former, board members, township trustees, city council members, Wayne County officials, Human Resource Directors, DPW Directors, local Chambers of Commerce, Police and Fire Chiefs and 911 directors.

An initial estimate of a guest list has it being well over 100 invitees. CWW would provide heavy appetizers, the presentation portion and have a cash bar available.

This event was not originally included in the FY 23 budget, therefore I am seeking approval to spend up to \$10,000 for the event. This would include, but is not limited to, Laurel Manor food and rental fees, invitations, and a CWW backdrop.

The projected year-end fund balance approved by the Board for 2023:

911 Restricted Funds: \$203,710

Unrestricted Funds: \$330,923

**Total Fund Balance Year End 2023: \$534,633**

Motion by Londeau, supported by Wimberley to approve the \$10,000 requested for CWW 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

## **9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

B. Legislative Update- SELLEK

### **Public Notice Law**

Representative Kevin Coleman (D-Westland) is working on changes to the public notice law to better reflect the shifts in the news-print industry. If your community has not yet sent me the information needed for this, please do so ASAP:

1. How much does your community spend annually on print public notices?
2. If your community no longer has a local print option, how much of an increase have you or will you see having to print in the DetNews/Freep?
3. Does your community still have a local print option?

### **SB 124 & SB 125: Railroad Crossings**

Senator Darin Camilleri's (D-Trenton) re-introduced SB 124 and 125 would create a local grade separation grant program and provide the parameters in which to qualify for the grants.

In addition to Sen. Camilleri's sponsorship, four other CWW Senators are co-sponsors. Both bills have been referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Motion by Rhesea, supported by Turnbull to support bill SB 124 and SB 125.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

### **Law Enforcement Agencies Training Reimbursement**

SB 32 Santana (D-Detroit) would allow law enforcement agencies to recoup training academy costs if an employee voluntarily leaves within 3 years of being hired.

Within 1 year: 100% of the cost of the law enforcement training academy up to and not exceed the employee's salary for the first year of employment.

Within 2 years: 66% of the

cost... Within 3 years: 33%

of the cost...

This legislation has been put forth for many years and has not seen any movement prior to now. However, SB 32 passed out favorably on March 2 and will move to the full Senate for consideration.

House version is HB 4176.

Motion by McCraight, supported by Rush to support bill SB 32.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

### **Poverty Tax Exemptions**

SB 55 Chang (D-Detroit) would amend the General Property Tax Act to extend a provision allowing an automatic poverty exemption under certain conditions for the 2022 tax year through the 2023 tax year for properties that were exempt in the 2019, 2020, or 2021 tax year. The governing body of a local assessing unit would have until December 1, 2023, to adopt a resolution to continue the exemption for those properties. Additionally, the bill would allow a board of review to grant a partial poverty exemption equal to a 75% reduction in taxable value for the tax year in which the exemption was granted.

### **Fireworks Legislation Re-Introduced**

Senator Paul Wojno (D-Warren) has re-introduced the infamous “fireworks legislation” as SB 17.

A local unit of government with a population density of 21 over 3,400 residents per square mile may enact an ordinance that 22 regulates the ignition, discharge, or use of consumer fireworks, except on the following days:

- (a) December 31 until 1 a.m. on January 1
- (b) Memorial Day until 11 p.m.
- (c) July 4 until 11:45 p.m.
- (d) Labor Day until 11:45 p.m.

The bill also increases the fines for violation to \$2,000 per violation, with \$1,000 guaranteed to go to the local law enforcement agency responsible for enforcing the ordinance.

### **No Ordinances on Gas Appliances**

SB 41 Hoytenga (R-Cadillac) would prohibit a local unit of government from enacting any ordinance that prohibits the use of an appliance that uses gas in a new or existing commercial or residential building or structure.

HB 4036 Zorn (R-Onsted) would do the same as SB 41.

### **Bill to Require SOS Registration Fees go to Locals**

HB 4074 Aragona (R-Clinton Township) would require all vehicle registration fees and revenues stay in the County where the vehicles are registered.

Money returned to a county must be distributed to each local road agency that operates in that county based on the total number of lane miles of a highway, road, or street under the jurisdiction of the local road agency in that county.

### **Allow Locals to Ban Open Carry**

Rep. Glanville (D-Walker) introduced HB 4198 on March 7, which would allow local governments to prohibit open carry firearms within their jurisdiction.

### **Marijuana Revenues Distributed**

County and Local distributions for 2022 can be found at: [+FY 2022 Marijuana License Counts.xlsx \(michigan.gov\)](#)

### **MI Department of Treasury Launces the Protecting MI Pension Grant Program**

#### **From MML:**

The Protecting MI Pension Grant Program was created to help Michigan's underfunded municipal pension systems. Under the [Fiscal Year 2022-23 budget](#), Treasury was appropriated \$750 million to establish and operate a local grant program for qualified pension systems with a funded ratio below 60%, as defined in the [Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act](#).

Treasury's Bureau of Local Government and School Services has developed a new [website](#) that local units of government can use to review grant opportunities administered by Treasury. Through this site, local units can learn more about the Protecting MI Pension Grant Program, such as: definitions and grant criteria, timelines, qualification information, and an estimated list of eligible local governments.

All updates including additional program guidelines, application materials, and frequently asked questions related to this grant program will be provided on the website so be sure to check back frequently.

Program guidelines and application materials will be posted no later than April 15, 2023.

#### **Request: Review Your Local Unit's Pension System Data**

Through previously reported data, Treasury has [compiled a preliminary list of Michigan pension systems with a funded ratio of less than 60%](#)



Local units of government are encouraged to review their funded ratio as previously reported on the Retirement System Annual Report (Form 5572) submitted to Treasury as of December 31, 2021. If you believe the funded ratio is inaccurate or your qualified retirement system is missing from this list, please complete the [Pension Data Discrepancy Form](#).

Questions, comments, or discrepancies related to this document should be submitted to [Treasury-MIPensionGrant@Michigan.gov](mailto:Treasury-MIPensionGrant@Michigan.gov) by March 31, 2023.

### **Upcoming Webinar**

A webinar related to the Protecting MI Pension Grant program will be scheduled for late-March/early-April 2023. Additional details about this webinar will be communicated in the coming weeks.

### **Lansing Notes**

Expect normal business to resume in Lansing in the next few weeks. After a start of hot topic issues, Lansing should be getting back to a more traditional order.

Ms. Sellek also spoke on possible elimination of Senate Bill 1163, drinks to-go, that was passed in 2022.

Lastly, Ms. Sellek encouraged communities to repeal “Right to work” to avoid paying fees for unions.

### **10. ELECTED OFFICIALS COMMENTS:**

Mr. Zach Hayward from Representative Debbie Dingell’s office gave an update on the community project deadline that is March 20<sup>th</sup> and encouraged the communities to submit the online form before the deadline.

### **11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Comments were made by the public.

### **12. OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Turnbull, supported by Rhasea to adjourn the Board Meeting at 10:42 a.m.