



The Governing Voice for
700,000 Wayne County Residents

CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER- TURNBULL

Mayor Turnbull called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

Deputy Supervisor Timothy Rush welcomed the board and audience to Sumpter Township.

2. ROLL CALL- HEISE

Supervisor Heise called the roll:

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak, Canton Charter Township;

Mayor Brian Turnbull, City of Northville;

Mr. Jason Rhines, alternate, Northville Charter Township;

Deputy Supervisor Timothy Rush, alternate, Sumpter Township;

Mr. Kevin Krause, alternate, City of Romulus;

Fire Chief Joseph Murray, alternate, City of Dearborn;

Mayor Bill Bazzi, City of Dearborn Heights;

Mayor John Rhasea, City of Wayne;

Mayor Ken Voigt, City of Belleville;

Deputy Mayor James Godbout, alternate, City of Westland;

Supervisor David Glaab, Huron Township;

Ms. Kim Dold, alternate, City of Garden City;

Mr. David Varga, alternate, City of Livonia;

Supervisor Pat McRae, Redford Township;

Supervisor Kevin McNamara, VanBuren Township.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: Plymouth Township, The City of Inkster, The City of Plymouth.

Others present: Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, and members of the audience.

3. INTRODUCTIONS- TURNBULL

Mayor Turnbull asked board members and members of the audience to introduce themselves

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA-TURNBULL

Motion by Glaab, supported by Rush to approve the agenda for June 14, 2024.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES- GRAHAM-HUDAK

Motion by Rush, supported by Krause to approve the meeting minutes for May 10, 2024.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

6. TREASURES REPORT- GRAHAM-HUDAK

Motion by Graham-Hudak, supported by McNamara to approve the Treasurers report for 4/30/24.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

7. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Executive Director's Report- Sellek

Executive Committee Authorization -Action Item

The CWW Board does not meet during the months of July and August. Traditionally, the CWW Executive Committee has been authorized to act on standard board issues with the ability to call a special meeting for the full board if necessary. The CWW Board Members may wish to adopt the below resolution designating the executive committee to act on behalf of the full board from June 15, 2024 to September 12, 2024:

**A Resolution in Support of the Executive
Committee to Act for Full Board**

Whereas, the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) is a consortium of eighteen western Wayne County communities joined in an effort to

improve local government and local services through cooperation and collaboration; and

Whereas, the CWW Board traditionally does not hold full Board Meetings during the months of July and August of each year; and

Whereas, if any issues of extreme urgency arise, a full Board Meeting would be called for all communities to attend;

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that the Conference of Western Wayne Board authorizes the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the full Board from June 15, 2024 through September 12, 2024 with the next full CWW Board Meeting scheduled for September 13, 2024.

Motion by Glaab, supported by Rush to adopt a resolution for the CWW Executive Committee to act for Full Board from June 15- September 12, 2024.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

GEMT Resolution and HB 5695—Action Item

Below is a resolution for your consideration. The Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program (GEMT) is a federal program that provides for reimbursement on Medicaid ambulatory services. The State of Michigan must enroll in the program for local governments to be able to participate. HB 5695 directs the Michigan Department of Health Human Services to enroll in GEMT.

Several CWW communities (Dearborn Heights, Livonia, Canton Township, Wayne) have passed similar resolutions of support. The amount of anticipated reimbursement would vary by community. However, some annual reimbursement estimates are:

Dearborn: \$2M

Livonia: \$600-\$700K

Wayne: \$180K

Should the State of Michigan enroll in GEMT, it is still the local municipalities choice to participate or not.

The GEMT program requires the local public provider to verify their costs to provide transports through a cost report. After completing the cost report and certifying the expenditures are correct, the State Medicaid office completes a review to ensure the cost report was filled out correctly and has reasonably established a cost for that community. The state will set the Medicaid rates for payment for the public provider for both fee for service and managed Medicaid.

In addition to HB 5695, the state also needs to appropriate funding to MDHHS for the start up of the program (\$500K) and for the continued administration of the program (\$1.5M annually).

Draft:

Conference of Western Wayne

Resolution of Support

Implementation of the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation Program in Michigan

WHEREAS, the **Conference of Western Wayne fire and EMS agencies** provides Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) services for western Wayne, which includes 730,000 residents and many Medicaid beneficiaries; and,

WHEREAS, the GEMT program available through the United States Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services provides reimbursement to public providers for services provided to Medicaid patients; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is not currently participating in the GEMT program, which is a voluntary enrollment program at both the state and local levels; and,

WHEREAS, implementation of the GEMT program in the State of Michigan may yield hundreds of thousands of federal reimbursement for the western Wayne County EMS agencies annually; and,

WHEREAS, the emergency services sector has struggled with workforce retention and recruiting in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the GEMT program will help Michigan public agencies including the **Conference of Western Wayne agencies** retain and hire employees; and,

WHEREAS, the GEMT program has shown to expand access, quality, and sustainability of emergency services for Medicaid recipients for public providers; and,

WHEREAS, the MI-GEMT coalition is advocating for the passage of legislation directing the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to enroll in the GEMT program; and,

WHEREAS, the MI-GEMT coalition includes the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Counties; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Directors of the Conference of Western Wayne hereby conveys its support for efforts of the MI-GEMT coalition; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Conference of Western Wayne urges the Michigan State Legislature to adopt House Bill 5695 of 2024, which directs the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to enroll in the GEMT program through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services State Plan Amendment process; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, The Conference of Western Wayne urges the Michigan State Legislature to include funding to administer the GEMT program in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Appropriations bill (HB 5556/SB767).

Motion by Glaab, supported by Krause to support GEMT resolution and HB 5695.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

GEMT Coalition Letter:

State Representative Brenda Carter
Chairwoman, House Insurance and Financial Services Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
S-785 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairwoman Carter,

As organizations representing local governments and emergency services across Michigan, we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 5965, introduced by Representative McFall. This bill directs the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to opt into the federal Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) program. We request that you take swift action before the summer recess to hold a committee hearing on this legislation.

The GEMT program offers supplemental reimbursement to publicly owned or operated ground emergency medical transportation providers for services rendered to Medicaid patients. By opting into this federal program, Michigan can address significant funding shortfalls that our public EMS providers face and improve access to care for our most vulnerable populations.

Current Medicaid reimbursement rates fall short of covering the actual costs of providing emergency medical services, leading to severe financial strain on our local governments and EMS providers. In comparison to our neighboring Midwest states that are already benefiting from the GEMT program, we are losing out. This decision puts us at a significant disadvantage – both in terms of personnel and our ability to provide the best possible EMS services.

Michigan opting into the GEMT program will provide support in several key ways:

- Improved funding will allow EMS providers to invest in better equipment, training, and personnel, leading to improved emergency medical services.
 - Ensuring that Medicaid patients and other vulnerable populations receive adequate emergency medical care. By covering the total cost of these services, we can reduce healthcare disparities and ensure equitable access to high-quality care for all residents, regardless of their income or location.
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- Local governments can utilize GEMT funds to fully cover eligible medical transportation costs, ensuring effective resource utilization for equipment, staffing, and other safety initiatives. Communities that coordinate to provide public EMS services can also see cost savings.

The state of Michigan opting into the GEMT program is essential to our communities' health, safety, and well-being. To support the implementation of this program, we have also advocated for an appropriation in the House MDHHS budget, HB 5556, which includes \$500,000 in new one-time funding to support implementation and \$1.5 million set aside for ongoing funding

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We are eager to work with you and your committee to advance HB 5965 and strengthen Michigan's emergency medical services system.

Sincerely,

Michigan Municipal League
Michigan Townships Association
Michigan Association of Counties
Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Conference of Western Wayne

LEIN Radio Encryption

As you may know, the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) has been pushing radio encryption for some time, as dictated federally by the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS).

There are new developments to the endeavor as of last week. If your police department does not currently have radio encryption and they are audited by LEIN, LEIN will issue a "finding". They will need to respond to the finding with a plan, i.e. "We are purchasing multi-key, advanced encryption standard (AES) enabled radios going forward or we plan to be fully encrypted in 5 years", etc. The finding will NOT be an audit failure.

At the federal level, CJIS and the FBI had not been discussing the issue separately. They are now taking a “pause” on enforcing encryption and are looking into the scope of the problem. The FBI has not taken an official stance on encryption yet. We are being directed to hold off on making any encryption purchases or decisions at this time. However, if you have plans on purchasing any new radios in the future, it would be prudent to purchase multikey AES enable radios so they can be encrypted should the feds call for the official requirement.

CWW Police Chiefs and PSAP Directors have been made aware of this.

Wayne County August Ballot Proposals

There will be two County-wide ballot proposals on the upcoming August ballot.

1. Renewal of the Wayne County Parks Millage
2. Amendment to the Wayne County Charter

Two Important County Proposals on Primary Election Ballot

Proposals affecting county property taxes and amending the county charter will be on the ballot in all Wayne County communities on Tuesday, August 6.

Voters asked to renew county parks millage

Voters will be asked to consider renewing a tax commonly referred to as the parks millage. It was first authorized by county voters in 1996, and then renewed for five-year periods on five occasions since.

The proposal would continue the millage through 2030. The parks levy is just under one-quarter of a mill and appears on winter tax bills.

In very approximate terms, the tax would cost \$24.42 per year on a home that is worth \$100,000. A mill is \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of a property’s taxable value. Taxable value is listed on tax bills and on assessment notices.

To determine how much one pays on the parks millage, their home's taxable value can be multiplied by .0002442. If passed, it is expected to generate about \$14.47 million in 2026.

The parks millage would provide funding for park improvements in the county and local municipalities. Here is the proposal as it will appear on the ballot:

Proposition P

PARKS MILLAGE RENEWAL

To renew the millage authorized in 2020, shall Wayne County levy this millage at the 2023 rollback rate of 0.2442 mills (about \$0.24 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for five more years (2026 through 2030) to continue to improve and operate several parks and related facilities, including Hines Park, Elizabeth Park, Wayne County Family Aquatic Center at Chandler Park, and improvements to municipal parks in the 43 communities as provided in an implementing ordinance through an annual allocation by commission district of the greater of \$50,000 or 15% of the total funds generated from that district, on the condition that, for any year for which this continued levy would be imposed, Wayne County must budget from other sources an amount equal to its 1995-1996 fiscal year appropriation for parks? Based upon the total estimated 2026 taxable value of \$59,252,807,563, this renewal is projected to generate \$14,469,536 in 2026.

YES _____

NO _____

Voters asked to amend Auditor selection process in charter

Voters will be asked to amend the County charter to allow any qualified audit firm to be awarded the contract for independent external auditor services when the County competitively bids audit services.

The current requirement that limits the services of an independent external auditor to 8 years would be eliminated. The County would be permitted to select the best qualified audit firm.

Here is the proposal as it will appear on the ballot:

Proposition A

AUDITOR SELECTION AMENDMENT

Shall the Wayne County Charter Section 3.119 (e) be amended in part to allow the County's independent external auditor, selected by competitive bid, to serve for a term of three years or more?

YES _____

NO _____

CWW Summer Activities

The CWW staff will be working on several major projects over the summer months. Staff will be occupied with the 2024 Salary Survey, the CWW 2024-2025 budget and 2024-2025 State budget.

Next CWW Meeting

Have a great summer. The next CWW meeting is Friday, September 13, 2024 in Huron Township.



B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- PUCKETT

Federal

“Standing Strong on the Thin Blue Line: How Congress Can Support State and Local Law Enforcement.”

Last month state and local law enforcement officials testified before the House Homeland Security Committee on the challenges faced by law enforcement. Several topics were addressed, including gun violence, the prevention of school shootings, workforce recruitment and retention concerns, and the importance of collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. They also addressed the fentanyl crisis and the need for more funding and resources.

State

Budget

Discussions on budget targets are ongoing, but it has been reported that there is still a long way to go before the House, Senate and Governor’s office reach an agreement. The statutory budget deadline for the Legislature to complete work on the budget is July 1.

Last month at the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference, General Fund revenues are up \$351 million from the January consensus estimate while School Aid Fund revenues are expected to be \$163 million less. The reasoning for the difference is that the General Fund is boosted by Corporate Income Tax and the School Aid Fund is made up mostly of sales tax and state education tax. The lower outlook of the sales tax is driving the School Aid Fund to lower numbers.

HB 660 – Stormwater Management Fee

Senate Bill 660 (Sen. Bayer – D) which would create the Stormwater Management Utility Act had a hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee. SB 660 would create an optional plan for municipalities to adopt to provide structure, process and guidelines to how the city can manage the amount of stormwater hitting the area.

Currently, individual households pay a flat rate for stormwater management in their sewer rates. For municipalities opting in, the plan would be a fee-based utility where the fee would be proportionate to the resident’s use of the system, or stormwater their property accrues. This would result in their sewer rate going down and them receiving a separate bill from the local government for the stormwater management system.

The legislation received support from local governments and environmental groups, but there were concerns on whether this was a tax or a fee, if there would be enough public support, businesses could disproportionately be burdened by fees, and the lack of clear-cut rules for fee reduction.

HB 5557 – Housing in Municipal Master Plan

House Bill 5557 (Rep. Grant – D) had a hearing in the House Economic Development and Small Business Housing Subcommittee. The legislation would require land use planning commissions to consider local housing needs in developing or revising a master land use plan. Specifically, governments would have to promote or adequately provide for a range of housing types, costs, affordability, attainability and ages to serve housing demands for a diverse population.

Currently master plans are already required to take into account provisions for transportation, safety, sewage, roads and recreation, but there is no requirement for housing needs.

The legislation received broad support from Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Township Association, Michigan Realtors, the Michigan State Housing and Development Association, and the Michigan Home Builders Association.

HB 4921 – Speed Detection Systems in School Zones

House Bill 4921 introduced by Representative Fitzgerald- D passed the House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee. HB 4921 would allow speed detection systems to be used in school zones. The legislation defines speed detection system as a portable or fixed automated system that uses radar or lidar to detect a vehicle's speed and captures a recorded image of the rear of a vehicle that exceeds the speed limit in force at the time of the violation.

Supporters of the legislation argue that local governments should be allowed to use speed detection technology in school zones to improve safety and promote responsible driving. This technology could help local governments who face law enforcement shortages and lack the capacity to enforce school zone speed limits.

HB 5696 – Motor Vehicle Noise Regulation

House Bill 5696 introduced by Representative Price – D recently passed out of House Transportation, Mobility and Infrastructure committee. HB 5696 is intended to crack down on vehicles that intentionally modify exhaust systems to create excessive noise. The bill

would increase fines from \$100 to \$500 with further increase for multiple violations. The legislation would also fine dealers and mechanics who install such devices.

Renewable Energy Siting Repeal

The group Citizens for Local Choice who initiated a ballot campaign to repeal PA 233 of 2023 which shifted siting for large renewable energy projects and energy storage facilities to the Public Service Commission failed to collect at least 356,958 signatures by the deadline to be on the November ballot. They stated that they are now focused on getting the issue on the 2026 ballot.

In response, Senator Hoyenga (R) introduced Senate Bill 898 that would repeal PA 233 of 2023. The legislation is not expected to see any movement.

8. PRESENTATIONS

The Senior Alliance's CEO, Jason Maciejewski, gave an annual update to the board. US Army Corps of Engineers Outreach Coordinator, Brian Korzetz, gave a presentation on their active projects and gave special attention on their lead water program and upcoming flooding research.

9. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell spoke more on flooding issues within our CWW communities. The Congresswoman encouraged each community to apply for FEMA to have support whenever it is needed. The Congresswoman will keep the board posted on the funding for community projects, she expects answers by September. Lastly, the Congresswoman encourages all communities to spend ARPA dollars.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were made by the public.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Glaab, supported by Rush to adjourn the CWW Board Meeting at 11:04 a.m.

AYES: All. Motion carried
