



**CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 13, 2024**

**1. CALL TO ORDER- TURNBULL**

Mayor Turnbull called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Supervisor Glaab welcomed the board and the audience to Huron Township.

**2. ROLL CALL- HEISE**

Supervisor Heise called the roll:  
Deputy Supervisor Joseph Hawver, alternate, Canton Charter Township;  
Mayor Brian Turnbull, City of Northville;  
Mr. Jason Rhines, alternate, Northville Charter Township;  
Deputy Supervisor Timothy Rush, alternate, Sumpster Township;  
Mayor McCraight, City of Romulus;  
Fire Chief Joseph Murray, alternate, City of Dearborn;  
Mr. Hussein Farhat, alternate, City of Dearborn Heights;  
Mayor John Rhaesa, City of Wayne;  
Mayor Ken Voigt, City of Belleville;  
Supervisor David Glaab, Huron Township;  
Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan, City of Livonia;  
Mr. Adam Bonarek, alternate, Redford Township;  
Fire Chief Jason Kaye, alternate, City of Inkster;  
Supervisor Kurt Heise, Plymouth Township;  
Ms. Kelly O'Donnell, City of Plymouth;  
Supervisor Kevin McNamara, VanBuren Township.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: The City of Garden City, and The City of Westland.

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 Heise to approve the agenda for September 13, 2024.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES- HEISE**

Motion by Rush, supported by Heise to approve the meeting minutes for June 14, 2024.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**6. TREASURES REPORT- HEISE**

Motion by Glaab, supported by Voigt to approve the Treasurers report for 5/31/24, 6/30/2024, and 7/31/2024.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**7. FY 23-24 AMENDED BUDGET AND FY 24-25 PROPOSED BUDGET- SELLEK**

Motion by Rhasea, supported by McCraight to approve the FY 24-25 proposed budget.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**8. DIRECTORS REPORT**

A. Executive Director's Report- Sellek

**Radioactive Waste Resolution and Townhall**

The below resolution was adopted by the CWW Executive Committee on August 20, 2024 and distributed accordingly.

**Resolution 2024-004**

**EXPRESSING CONCERN REGARDING THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE SCHEDULED TO COME TO WAYNE COUNTY, MI**

**WHEREAS**, the Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) is comprised of 18 member communities and over 730,000 residents in Wayne County, MI; and

**WHEREAS**, the Conference of Western Wayne and residents have raised previous concerns over hazardous waste traveling through Wayne County and being disposed of at Republic Services' Wayne Disposal and Michigan Disposal, and

**WHEREAS**, Wayne Disposal is preparing to take 6,000 cubic yards of soil and concrete and 4,000 gallons of groundwater contaminated with elevated radiation from the Niagara Falls Storage Site in Lewiston, New York, which from 1944 until 1952 served as a primary storage location for wastes and byproducts associated with uranium ore refining; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working on a multiyear project to remove the elevated radiation wastes from the Niagara site, and

**WHEREAS**, 25 semitrailer loads a week of the radioactive waste would be shipped on local highways and roads to Wayne Disposal, in Van Buren Township, beginning in late August and expected to continue through January 2025, and

**WHEREAS**, Wayne County officials were not notified of the upcoming transport of radioactive waste through our communities, and

**WHEREAS**, public safety issues of this magnitude affect the entire western Wayne County region and the surrounding communities in Michigan, putting our residents, motorists and infrastructure in harm's way; and

**WHEREAS**, western Wayne County officials and residents have no say in what occurs at Michigan Disposal, although it directly impacts the health and welfare of our communities and all of Wayne County; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Conference of Western Wayne Executive Committee on behalf of the Board of Directors formally requests that Wayne Disposal reconsider accepting radioactive waste, and

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that CWW encourages the Federal Government to seek alternative solutions to disposing of their radioactive and hazardous waste that does not jeopardize our citizens and infrastructure, including changing interstate agreements, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Conference of Western Wayne further requests that Wayne County officials be notified in advance of all transport of the referenced waste, including but not limited to; specific safety measures during transport, routes of the semitrailers and what dates and times these semitrailers will be traveling through Wayne County communities.

Congresswoman Dingell and CEO Evans hosted a Radioactive/Hazardous Waste Townhall on September 4. Many of our board members were in attendance along with about 200 members of the public.

### **Not-in-Custody Warrants**

Please see this update from Wayne County Prosecutor, Kym Worthy:

Wayne County Prosecutor, Kym Worthy, obtained a grant from the State of Michigan for Five Million Dollars to reduce the not-in custody criminal warrant backlog that has been a subject of concern to our office and our communities. The first phase of the project runs from July 8, 2024, to September 30, 2024. Prosecutor Worthy is presenting this interim progress report to all CWW communities and advises that there will be a second phase of the project beginning in October. The grant funds have allowed Prosecutor Worthy to hire experienced prosecutors to work after regular business hours to reduce the backlog without using general fund dollars.

From July 8, 2024, to September 1, 2024, the total number of cases disposed of is almost 1280, and there are still several weeks for phase one of the project to conclude. "Disposed of" means that either a charging decision was made, or a denial was issued. The totals by unit are as follows: General Warrants/ Screening 757 cases, DV (Domestic Violence) 177 cases, SAT/Child Abuse (Sexual Assault Team/Child Abuse) 81 cases, Homicide 72 cases, and Juvenile 192 cases. Please bear in mind that some cases require more intense scrutiny to arrive at a charging decision or a denial.

Since this number of backlogged cases were resolved during the Prosecutor's Office move to the new Criminal Justice Complex, we are optimistic that even more of the backlog will be resolved in the second phase of the Project. Thank you for your kind attention.

### **Growth Works Update**

From Growth Works CEO Nick Griswold:

Growth Works continues to partner with Wayne County and Third Judicial Circuit Court as implementation of juvenile justice reform begins October 1, 2024. Particular items of note are the expansion of eligible offenses for diversion and a required screening tool for juveniles lodged in the detention facility. Representatives from Growth Works will be attending discussions with law enforcement in the coming weeks as we all learn about new processes and requirements for our youth together.

The agency's Suicide Prevention Coalition is gearing up for their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mental Health Conference for school-based mental health professionals. We welcomed over 300 school

personnel to our 2023 conference and we're expecting to break that record this year. If anyone is interesting in attending, program details and registration information can be found on our website at <https://gwcares.org/mental-health-conference/>

As our program year comes to a close at the end of the month, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for our partnerships and for your support and willingness to be vocal about our struggling youth. Our agency will be working with each of you in the next couple months to share our progress measurements and collaborate on new approaches to help those in your communities.

### **Michigan Human Society/Shelter Rising Costs**

Some CWW communities have received confirmation of significant increases in their fees to the Michigan Humane Society. Westland's current contract is for \$130,000 annually and is being increased to \$670,000. Livonia's current contract is \$72,000 and they are being increased to \$249,000, plus another \$120,000 per year to pay to help Michigan Humane Society upgrade their facilities, which they own.

Additionally, CWW communities with other providers are also seeing enormous increases. **In order to discuss potential remedies, I would like to appoint a subcommittee consisting of: Livonia, Dearborn, Redford, Westland and Dearborn Heights (and/or any other community that is interested).**

Motion by Brosnan, supported by Rhines to appoint a subcommittee consisting of: Livonia, Dearborn, Redford, Westland and Dearborn Heights.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

### **2024 WWBLB**

We are pleased to announce there **are 400 seats registered for our 2024 Western Wayne Business Leadership Banquet** – our ninth year as the “Premier collaboration experience for Western Wayne's leaders.”

This year's event will again be at **The Henry – Autography Collection** hotel (300 Town Center Dr. Dearborn), located on Hubbard and Southfield in Dearborn. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, and run from 4-7:30 p.m. 4pm networking and 6pm dinner. This year will feature a panel: Manufacturing Outreach in Defense, Space and Beyond.

Understanding that many times the banquet falls on the same nights as council or board meetings, please know you are welcome to join the reception only if you are unable to stay for dinner.

If you have not yet RSVP'd and are planning on attending, please let Ms. Sellek know today.

### **2025 Meeting Date Tentative Schedule**

January 10-City of Inkster

February 14- City of Romulus (CWW/DCC annual mixer)

March 14

April 11-City of Livonia

May 9-City of Dearborn

June 13-Sumpter Township

September 12

November 14- City of Wayne

December 12

Thank you for hosting!

### **Community Benefit Letters**

CWW mailed out your community's Return on Investment, or Community Benefit Letters, last week. **These letters detail the 911 funds and Youth Assistance funds your community has received for FY 23/24.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### **Salary Survey**

This year's annual Salary Survey has been completed with 38 communities participating. Hard copies are at your seat and your HR directors' will also receive them. If you need an electronic copy, please let us know and we will send to you/your staff.

## **Reminders**

There will be no October board meeting due to the WWBLB. The November 8, 2024 meeting will be hosted by Dearborn Heights.

### B. Legislative Update- Puckett

#### **Federal**

##### **Budget Deadline**

The U.S. Congress returned this week to face a month-end government funding deadline. Federal lawmakers also face a critical self-imposed deadline of January 1, to decide to raise or extend the nation's debt ceiling or risk defaulting on more than \$35 trillion in federal government debt. 1996 was the last time Congress successfully kept the government funded by the end of the fiscal year. This year, it failed to pass a full-year funding bill until March.

#### **State**

##### **Legislative Schedule**

The Legislature has not formally met since breaking for summer recess in June. The House met on September 11, for a ceremony and the only other day scheduled to meet this month is September 25. With members of the House up for election November 5, the legislature is expected to remain light ahead of election day.

##### **HB 5865 - 5868 – Dark Store Legislation**

A bipartisan package of bills were introduced at the end of June that would close the "dark store" tax loophole. The tax loopholes allow retailers to reduce property tax liabilities by claiming in court that their stores should be assessed based on sale prices of vacant, often deed-restricted stores. This legislation is intended to ensure fair property tax assessment.

##### **HB 4360 (PA 64) – Emergency Services Authorities**

House Bill 4360 which allows emergency services authorities to serve partial municipalities was signed into law and will take effect September 17, 2024.

**HB 5028 (PA 68) – HOA / Energy-Saving Improvements**

House Bill 5028 which prohibits homeowner’s associations from banning an owner (member) from installing energy-saving improvements or modifications was signed into law and will take effect October 5, 2024.

**SB 603-604 (PA 74, 75) – Election Recount Process**

Senate Bills 603 and 604 that modify the election recount process was signed into law and will take effect on October 5, 2024.

**Supreme Court Ruling – Minimum Wage/Paid Sick Leave**

In 2018, there were two voter statutory initiatives that would raise Michigan’s minimum wage along with bringing the tipped minimum wage up to the regular minimum wage. The second would mandate paid sick time for workers.

The Legislature adopted the laws so that neither petition appeared on the ballot. In the same legislative session, the legislature amended the laws.

The Michigan Supreme Court recently ruled that this “adopt and amend” strategy is unconstitutional and reinstates the voter initiatives that will take effect on February 21, 2025. A revised minimum wage schedule will be released and the earned paid sick time applies to all employers and employees regardless of the number of employees or types of employees.

Business groups along with servers and bartenders have been urging the legislature to amend the laws before they take effect. Nothing has been introduced yet, but ongoing discussions over the next few months are expected.

**9. PRESENTATIONS**

Michael Healander, CEO, of Airspace Link gave an overview of the findings of the communities that teamed up with Airspace Link last year.

**10. ELECTED OFFICIALS’ COMMENTS**

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell spoke about the difficulties of the budget passing and does not have a projected date when the budget will pass. The Congresswoman stressed to our board on the importance of voting day safety and to make sure all safety measures are considered. The Congresswoman is focused on getting community grants approved.



**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments were made by the public.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Rush, supported by Rush to adjourn the CWW Board Meeting at 11:33 a.m.

AYES: All. Motion carried.