



The Governing Voice for
700,000 Wayne County Residents

CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES March 14, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER- BROSNAN

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

Supervisor Graham-Hudak introduced the board and the audience to Canton Township.

2. ROLL CALL- MCRAE

Supervisor Graham-Hudak called the roll:

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak Canton Charter Township;

Mayor Brian Turnbull, City of Northville;

Supervisor Mark Abbo, Northville Charter Township;

Deputy Supervisor Timothy Rush, alternate, Sumpter Township;

Mayor Robert McCraight, City of Romulus;

Fire Chief Joseph Murray, alternate, City of Dearborn;

Mayor Bill Bazzi, City of Dearborn Heights;

Mayor John Rhaesa, City of Wayne;

Mr. Jason Smith, alternate, City of Belleville;

Supervisor Kelly Trombly, Huron Township;

Mayor Maureen Brosnan, City of Livonia;

Supervisor Pat McRae, Redford Township;

Mayor Byron Nolan, City of Inkster;

Supervisor Chuck Curmi, Plymouth Township;

Mayor Pro Tem Colleen Pobur, alternate, City of Plymouth;

Supervisor Kevin McNamara, Van Buren Township;

Mayor Mark Jacobs, City of Garden City;

Deputy Mayor James Godbout, alternate, City of Westland.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: none.

Others present: Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, and members of the audience.

3. INTRODUCTIONS- BROSNAN

Mayor Brosnan recognized Mayor Bazzi and congratulated him on his appointment as Ambassador of Tunisia. She also asked board members and members of the audience to introduce themselves.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA- BROSNAN

Motion by Turnbull, supported by Rush to approve the agenda for March 14, 2025.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES- MCRAE

Motion by Rush, supported by McCraight to approve the meeting minutes for February 14, 2025.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

6. TREASURES REPORT- MCCRAIGHT

Motion by Jacobs, supported by Rush to approve the Treasurers report for 2/28/2025.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

7. 2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Stacey Reeves from Plante Moran presented the 2024 CWW Financial review to the board.

8. DIRECTORS REPORT

A. Executive Director's Report- Sellek

GLWA Rate Increases

On February 26, GLWA voted to approve rate increases for sewer and water customers for fiscal (July 1-June 30) years 2026 and 2027. The meeting was the first time the authority could raise water and sewer rates above a 4% cap — known as the 4% promise — imposed when GLWA was formed in 2014 in the wake of Detroit's bankruptcy filing in 2013.

The original proposed increase was an average of 7.73% on wholesale water rates and an average of 5.39% for sewer rates for FY26. After some public pressure during the meeting, the board unanimously approved a 5.9% hike for water and a 4.5% hike for the sewer part of its passage of the organization's fiscal year 2026 and 2027 budgets.

Last year, GLWA approved increases of 3.25% for water and 3% for wastewater services.

CWW communities' changes in rates:

	2025 Monthly Water Charge	2025 Monthly Sewer Charge	2026 Monthly Water Charge	2026 Monthly Sewer Charge	Water Difference (fav) and unfav	Sewage Difference (fav) and unfav
Belleville	\$ 18,300.00		\$ 19,400.00		\$ 1,100.00	
Canton Twp	\$ 595,700.00		\$ 634,200.00		\$ 38,500.00	
Dearborn	\$ 559,500.00	\$ 1,791,400.00	\$ 584,200.00	\$ 1,869,200.00	\$ 24,700.00	\$ 77,800.00
Dearborn Heights	\$ 217,000.00		\$ 229,000.00		\$ 12,000.00	
Garden City	\$ 98,300.00		\$ 103,700.00		\$ 5,400.00	
Huron Twp	\$ 88,400.00		\$ 93,400.00		\$ 5,000.00	
Inkster	\$ 76,600.00		\$ 80,200.00		\$ 3,600.00	

Livonia	\$ 674,500.00		\$ 710,100.00		\$ 35,600.00	
Northville Twp	\$ 316,100.00		\$ 284,000.00		\$ (32,100.00)	
Northville	\$ 45,300.00		\$ 47,500.00		\$ 2,200.00	
Plymouth	\$ 64,200.00		\$ 67,400.00		\$ 3,200.00	
Plymouth Twp	\$ 260,800.00		\$ 273,800.00		\$ 13,000.00	
Redford Twp	\$ 173,000.00	\$ 29,400.00	\$ 182,000.00	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,200.00
Romulus	\$ 216,700.00		\$ 226,200.00		\$ 9,500.00	
Sumpter Twp	\$ 41,900.00		\$ 44,900.00		\$ 3,000.00	
Van Buren Twp	\$ 200,800.00		\$ 207,700.00		\$ 6,900.00	
Wayne	\$ 104,700.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 110,400.00	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 100.00
Westland	\$ 356,000.00		\$ 373,600.00		\$ 17,600.00	

According to GLWA, the increases are tied to current and new infrastructure projects, including corrosion control in pipelines owned by local cities and a massive study on flood mitigation in Southeast Michigan. The cost of materials and chemicals for maintenance has also risen by almost 55% since 2020.

According to FOX2, the vast majority of GLWA's budget—about 86%—goes to two sources: paying down debt used to finance infrastructure improvements and operation and maintenance.

An additional 5.2% goes to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department as part of the authority's lease agreement with the city, while another 7% is set aside for future projects.

Three other sources of funding include paying for Detroit's pension plan and trust and a residential assistance program for water conservation and minor plumbing repairs.

Year	Water	Sewer
2018	1.8%	-0.7%
2019	1.8%	0.1%
2020	0.6%	0.8%
2021	3.2%	2.0%
2022	1.5%	-0.6%
2023	3.7%	2.4%
2024	2.75%	2.75%
2025	3.25%	3.0%
2026 Final Proposed	7.73%	5.39%
9-Year Average	2.9%	1.7%

The past eight years of water and sewer rate increases approved by the Great Lakes Water Authority.

The Source: Information for this story included the Great Lakes Water Authority's proposed budget and previous reporting.

Municipal Bonds

Congress' attempt to reinstate the 2017 tax cuts set to expire has raised some concern that tax-exempt municipal bonds may be at risk. While some are exploring this idea to cover the tax cuts, it does not appear to have garnered much support. However, in the act of

prudence, the below resolution can be used to express support for keeping the federal tax exemption on municipal bonds.

RESOLUTION OF THE [CITY COUNCIL] [BOARD OR ALDERMEN] OF THE CITY OF [CITY NAME], [STATE] DECLARING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL BONDS.

WHEREAS, the tax-exempt municipal bond market is a widely used source of capital for states, local governments, tribes, territories, and non-profit borrowers that finances a tremendous share of the nation's public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments finance about three-quarters of the public infrastructure in the United States and use tax-exempt bonds to do so, with the federal government providing only about one-quarter of the investment; and

WHEREAS, federal tax exemption for municipal bonds, dating back to the 1800s and incorporated into the modern tax code in 1913, has been crucial for state and local governments to affordably finance critical infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds offer borrowers to achieve a multiplier effect of 2.11, meaning that for every dollar, borrowers achieve \$2.11 in borrowing cost savings thereby demonstrating the efficiency and effectiveness of this exemption in facilitating infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds provide for essential infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, utilities, broadband, water and sewer systems, and hospitals, which are vital to the health and well-being of our community such that without such bonds, the cost of borrowing would be more expensive thereby causing an increase in taxes and fees that would place an undue burden on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the [City Council] [Board or Aldermen] of the City ("Governing Body") finds and determines that tax-exempt municipal bonds provide an opportunity for economic development along its path, better facilitate the movement of agriculture products, equipment, and other goods, and increase safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City as follows: The Governing Body hereby encourages the [STATE] Congressional Delegation to assist the City of

[City Name], [STATE] by preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds by supporting and ensuring the protection of the federal tax exemption of municipal bonds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be furnished to all members of the [STATE] Congressional Delegation.

Following the reading of the foregoing Resolution, _____ made the motion and _____ seconded the motion, and the question being put to a roll call vote, the result was taken as follows:

[INSERT VOTE LANGUAGE AND SIGNATURE BLOCS]

Drone Integration Congressional Funding

After the CWW region wide drone assessment, the City of Romulus applied for a Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) drone integration grant on behalf of 12 CWW communities. While unsuccessful, the need for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) integration and the obstacles to implementing it remain.

This project aims to connect communities within the Conference of Western Wayne's jurisdiction and take the next step after assessing each municipality's policies and procedures on drone usability.

The purpose is to help ensure that each municipality within CWW is in communication on this technology to stay connected and experience economic development.

CWW will submit a similar request for Congressionally Directed Spending through Senator Peters' office. The deadline is Monday, March 17. The original request received support from CWW, CWW communities, SEMCOG, Detroit Aerotropolis, Airspace Link, and Wayne County Career Center.

A draft letter of support will be sent to the CWW Board.

Growth Works Update

This month, Growth Works Care Management continues its effective support, now overseeing 101 youth: 80 in community care and 21 in out-of-home placements.

At the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center, 97 youth are detained, including seven from Western Wayne. Notably, Western Wayne youth average a 35-day stay, significantly lower than the facility-wide average of 96 days.

In proactive community initiatives, Growth Works has launched two specialized programs: one to treat adolescent clients with problematic sexual behaviors, and a violence intervention program in Inkster.

CWW Legislative/Assistant Director Position

Craig has accepted another job in Lansing. We will likely post the open position on April 1. I will cover both positions until we can find an ideal replacement. I have covered both positions in the past, when I first became director in 2015 and in 2023 before Craig joined CWW. My primary focus is to find the right fit for CWW, and I am prepared to cover both roles until we are able to find that person.

April CWW Board Meeting

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy will attend our April 11, 2025, Board meeting hosted by the City of Livonia.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- SELLEK

FEDERAL

Government Shutdown

*Will be verbally updated Friday as necessary

Congress has until the end of today to fund the government to avoid a partial government shutdown. House Republicans unveiled a continuing resolution over the weekend that

would extend government funding through September. The stopgap measure decreases non-defense spending by \$13 billion and increases defense spending by \$6 billion. The bill does not cover the majority of government spending, including Social Security and Medicare—these two programs are on auto pilot funding and not regularly reviewed by Congress.

The House Rules Committee advanced the measure Monday night, and a vote was expected as soon as Tuesday. Republicans have a very small majority in the House and Democrats are expected to unanimously oppose the legislation. There is at least one Republican that publicly is opposing the bill. If the House is unable to garner support they are likely to move to a shorter-term funding measure.

House Democrats also introduced an alternative bill Monday night funding the government through April 11.

STATE

ESTA

The Senate's version of HB 4002 was passed and later concurred by the House on February 20. The Governor signed it into law on February 25. While CWW was initially supportive of HB 4002 in its original version, the final law did not result in the changes we had argued for.

Our primary concern was/is the language that allows for the use and abuse of the three consecutive day no show/call/recourse. The original HB 4002 language solved this problem without question. The final version does not. Employees still have the ability to call off last minute, or after the fact, for up to three consecutive days, and the employer cannot ask for any documentation for any time off that is three consecutive days or less.

In addition, the changes to PTO banks did not result in a way that is conducive to most employers and employees. While it allows for the 72 hours of ESTA sick time to be included in PTO banks, if it is put into the bank, all of the leave time in the bank is subject to ESTA rules.

Senate Lawsuit

The Court finally ruled on the Michigan Senate's lawsuit against the House Republicans for withholding nine bills from being presented to the governor and both sides are declaring victory.

The 2024 Democrat controlled House presented all but nine bills that passed both chambers to the governor. 2025 House Republicans have refused to present those nine bills. The bills

would need to be presented to the governor with 14 days to sign or veto them before the effective date. The bills will die after May 19.

Judge Sima Patel, who is an appointee of Governor Whitmer, opined that the Senate and Senate Majority Leader Brinks had a constitutional right to have the bills presented by the House and Speaker Hall but said she would not order the House to present them as it wasn't the court's role to enforce legislative rules.

House Budget

The House passed a close of books supplemental alongside a \$20 billion spending plan for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The \$20 billion is about a quarter of the current budget. Roughly \$15 billion would go to schools, which includes a per pupil increase to \$10,025, but many of the current budget items are missing. Other dollars would go to the constitutionally required areas of the budget and government functions most at risk for the government shutdown: Department of Corrections, Department of State Police, veterans' homes, revenue sharing, and debt obligations.

House Appropriations Chair, Rep. Ann Bolin said, "We're not working toward a shutdown. It is a government shutdown prevention plan to open up and start the conversation in earnest to show that we are serious about having an open and transparent budget process."

Speaker Hall said the goal was to take a government shutdown off the table as all parties continue budget negotiations, while Democrats and school interest groups expressed concern and scrutinized the process and accused Republicans of playing games.

Road Funding

Road funding conversations continue. Governor Whitmer has named five Democrat legislators to serve as Democratic point-people for road funding negotiations, although she still plans on being very engaged in the process.

House Republicans introduced House Bills 4180 – 4187 which is their road funding solution. House Speaker Hall emphasized that these bills do not require additional revenue, even with their proposed plan to reduce the individual income tax rate and will hold the School Aid Fund harmless.

Mackinac Policy Conference Tickets

The Department of State has issued a preliminary response from a request from the Detroit Regional Chamber on whether or not the Chamber's longtime practice of providing free tickets for elected officials to the annual conference violates the gift limit law.

The preliminary response is that the act does in fact violate Michigan's lobby law gift limit. The current gift threshold is \$79. The Mackinac Policy Conference has a value of about \$6,005.

Public comment on the response is being accepted through March 17.

In addition, SB 101 Singh (D) is pending on the Senate floor and would allow for complimentary tickets to the conference should it become law.

Legislation

SB 129 – Sen. McCann (D) reintroduced legislation that would allow appointed members of public boards who have disabilities the option for participating remotely. SB 129 would only apply to appointed officials, not anyone elected to public office or members of the Legislature. Those participating remotely would also have to be physically present in the state.

HB 4081 – Introduced by Rep. DeBoyer (R) would allow counties and municipalities to increase the number of parcels potentially subject to division. HB 4081 had a hearing on Thursday, March 13.

HB 4014 – A reintroduction by Rep. Slagh (R), would add grandmother or grandfather to the list of exemptions for a transfer of ownership for transfers of residential real property to a previous owner's immediate family member. The bill was reported from committee on Tuesday.

9. PRESENTATIONS

The board heard a presentation from Coeus Creative Group's CEO, Jay Johnson.

10. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Congress Woman Rashida Tlaib updated the board on the continued resolution on budget proposal and a continued resolution is needed. The Congresswoman also brought up concerns of Medicaid cuts and illegal firings.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments were made by the public.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.