



The Governing Voice for  
700,000 Wayne County Residents

## **CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APRIL 11, 2025**

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

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

Mayor Brosnan introduced the board and the audience to The City of Livonia.

### **2. ROLL CALL- MCRAE**

Supervisor McRae called the roll:

Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak Canton Charter Township;

Mayor Brian Turnbull, City of Northville;

Deputy Supervisor Timothy Rush, alternate, Sumpter Township;

Mayor Robert McCraight, City of Romulus;

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;

Mr. Jason Kaye, alternate, City of Inkster;

Supervisor Chuck Curmi, Plymouth Township;

Mayor Suzi Deal, City of Plymouth;

Mr. Dan Selman, alternate, Van Buren Township

Mayor Mark Jacobs, City of Garden City;

Mayor Kevin Coleman, City of Westland.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: Northville Township, and The City of Dearborn.

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

**3. INTRODUCTIONS- BROSNAN**

Mayor Brosnan asked board members and members of the audience to introduce themselves.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA- BROSNAN**

Motion by McCraight, supported by Smith to approve the agenda for April 11, 2025.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

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

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

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**6. TREASURES REPORT- MCCRAIGHT**

Motion by Jacobs, supported by Rush to approve the Treasurers report for 3/31/2025.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

**7. DIRECTORS REPORT**

A. Executive Director's Report- Sellek

**YAP Contract renewal**

Wayne County has released its RFP for Youth Assistance Provider services. Responses are due April 30. As we have done for previous YAP submissions, we are requesting that CWW communities provide a letter of support. Please return a letter of support to Ms. Sellek by April 21.

500 Griswold, 15th Floor

Detroit, Michigan 48226

RE: RFP 37-25-039

To Whom It May Concern,

The Conference of Western Wayne (CWW) has been involved in serving our children and adolescents for the past 45 years. CWW has had its current Youth Assistance Program contract with Wayne County since 2020. In response to RFP 37-25-039, please accept this letter of support for the Conference of Western Wayne on behalf of the MUNICIPALITY.

As the MAYOR/SUPERVISOR OF XXXX, I would like to express support for CWW to continue to administer the Youth Assistance Program for our region. We are committed to providing prevention and diversion services for our at-risk youth, and we have found a unified and effective approach. We would like to see it continue.

I appreciate Wayne County's consideration in this matter.

### **Municipal Bonds—Action Item**

Consideration of resolution in support of tax-exempt municipal bonds.

#### **RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE 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 Conference of Western Wayne 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 Board of Directors of the Conference of Western Wayne as follows: The Board of Directors hereby encourages the Michigan Congressional Delegation to assist the Conference of Western Wayne in 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 Michigan Congressional Delegation.

Motion by Smith, supported by Turnbull to adopt the municipal bonds resolution.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

#### **CWW Transit Subcommittee**

The newly formed CWW Transit Subcommittee met last week to discuss developing a plan to seek input from residents on transit needs. CWW will collaborate with Canton Township planners to develop a survey that Western Wayne residents can use to identify their transit needs across the region. We will make the survey accessible via the CWW website and provide each community with a link to its specific survey. We will develop generic questions for all communities, and each community will also be able to add specific questions.

More details to come.

#### **New Detroit Area Code**

State regulators announced that southeast Michigan telephone customers living in and around Detroit will need to begin using their area code to make phone calls, including local calls, in the coming months.

The [Public Service Commission](#) (PSC) stated that the move is being made ahead of the implementation of a new 679 area code that will be overlaid within the 313 area code jurisdiction.

While the 313 area code will remain in place, it is projected to run out of unassigned phone numbers, which will be available for assignment to customers beginning on November 7, 2025, once all 313 phone numbers have been allocated.

Beginning April 7, 2025, a six-month "permissive dialing" period will commence, during which all customers in the 313 area code will be able to make local calls using either seven digits or 10-digit dialing.

Starting on October 7, 2025, all local calls made in the 313 area code will need to be made using 10 digits, including the area code. The PSC said trying to make a local call using only seven digits after that time will not be successful and those who do may receive a recording telling them to try their call again using 10 digits.

The PSC also urged customers in the affected area to reprogram all services, automatic dialing equipment, applications or software in the coming months to dial 10 digits if they are currently programmed to dial seven digits. This includes life safety systems, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, gates, speed dialers, cell phone contact lists and voicemail services.

### **Mackinac Policy Conference Tickets**

In a reversal of the Secretary of State's original ruling, the Detroit Regional Chamber can continue to provide complimentary admission to its popular Mackinac Policy Conference to public officials.

In the preliminary ruling from the department in March, it scoffed at the notion that the mere presence of a public official could match or exceed the \$3,700 registration cost for general members and \$4,900 for future members or be considered a service. The Chamber contended that the value of participating public officials is about \$6,005 per official and warned that the end of complimentary tickets could risk the existence of the conference.

Benson said additional evidence provided by the Chamber meets the standard to constitute a service. "Your public comment included additional evidence demonstrating that access to public officials in general is not only of high value to conference sponsors and other attendees but is a primary reason sponsors contribute and attendees participate in the conference," she wrote. "The evidence you provided supports the conclusion that the participating public officials add a specific value to the conference that can be attributed only to public officials; a value that is not also added by other, nonpublic officials in attendance."

The Chamber demonstrated in its comments how the role of public officials at the event differs from that of other conference attendees, Benson said. "They sit for news media interviews, attract sponsorships of the conference and participate in public panels," she said.

"The public comment you submitted provides the Department additional evidence to support the conclusion that public officials will be actively participating in conference sessions, and that public officials are providing a service beyond merely being present at the conference and available to have conversations with other attendees as was concluded in our preliminary response based on your initial submission," Benson wrote.

The legislature is still seeking a permanent legislative solution to cover the tickets for elected officials.

### **May CWW Board Meeting**

The City of Dearborn will host our May 9 board meeting.

## **B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- SELLEK**

### **Public Safety and Violence Prevention Fund**

New Public Safety and Violence Prevention Fund plans by the Michigan House were announced on Monday. In a press conference, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and House Speaker Matt Hall announced that the plan would allocate 1.5% of the annual sales tax

revenues to the new Fund, **likely more than \$150M annually. The money would be distributed to communities based on their local crime rates. If communities fail to decrease their crime levels, the funding could be reduced and given to other municipalities.**

Rep. Farhat (D-Dearborn) and Rep. Harris (R-Waterford Township) sponsor the bipartisan bill package.

Similar legislation was passed in each chamber last year but did not reach the Governor's desk. Senate democrats have not indicated whether or not they will support the proposal in this session.

### **Neighborhood Road Fund**

[HB 4230](#), recently added to the House Roads package, would amend PA 51 to create the Neighborhood Road Fund using funds from the Corporate Income Tax.

**For fiscal years 2025-26 through 2029-30, \$100 million in the Neighborhood Road Fund each fiscal year under House Bill 4187 would have to be deposited and maintained in a separate account to be spent by the Local Bridge Advisory Board. The Department of Transportation would distribute the remaining money, upon appropriation, to county road commissions and city and village road agencies, based on each group's proportional share of the total mileage of both groups.**

**The committee also adopted a substitute to [HB 4185](#) to hold local revenue sharing harmless. The substitute earmarks \$95 million for cities, villages, and townships based on what each municipality receives through the statutory revenue-sharing formula.**

The fuel sales tax currently generates funds for the School Aid Fund and statutory local revenue sharing. To hold that funding harmless, the legislation allocates \$750 million in sales tax to the School Aid Fund and \$95 million in sales tax to local revenue sharing. The plan also retains the \$50 million allocated for the Housing and Community Development Fund.

House Republicans said lawmakers will determine the budget cuts through the budgeting process, whether they are duplicative programs or those deemed ineffective.

Democrats objected, saying they could not support a plan without knowing where the cuts will come from.

[HB 4180](#), which would exempt motor and aviation fuel from sales tax, passed 65-43. Democrats [Rep. Joey Andrews IV](#) (D-St. Joseph), Farhat, [Rep. Jason Morgan](#) (D-Ann Arbor), [Rep. Samantha Steckloff](#) (D-Farmington Hills), [Rep. Joe Tate](#) (D-Detroit), [Rep. Karen Whitsett](#) (D-Detroit) and [Rep. Angela Witwer](#) (D-Delta Township) voted for the bill.

[HB 4181](#), which would eliminate the 6 percent specific tax levied on interstate motor carriers that use motor fuel or alternative fuel in Michigan, also passed 65-43. Andrews, Farhat, Morgan, Steckloff, Tate, Whitsett and Witwer again voted for the bill. [HB](#)

[4182](#) Tracked, which would exempt motor fuel and aviation fuel from the use tax, passed 65-43, with support from the same list of Democrats.

[HB 4183](#), which would increase motor fuel tax to 51 cents per gallon, passed 62-46. Andrews, Farhat, Morgan, Steckloff, Tate and Whitsett voted for the legislation, but Witwer voted no, along with [Rep. Steve Carra](#) (R-Three Rivers) and Rep. Jim DeSana (R-Carleton).

[HB 4184](#), which would increase the tax imposed on aircraft fuel to 10 cents per gallon, passed 62-46. Andrews, Farhat, Steckloff, Tate, Whitsett and [Rep. Dylan Wegela](#) (D-Garden City) voted yes. Carra, DeSana and [Rep. Josh Schriver](#) (R-Oxford) voted no.

[HB 4185](#), which deposits \$755 million into the School Aid Fund from the revenue collected under the 4 percent sales tax imposed by the act and \$95 million for cities, villages and townships, passed 64-44. Andrews, Farhat, Morgan, Steckloff, Tate, Wegela, and Whitsett voted with the majority.

[HB 4186](#), which would increase the Michigan Business Tax to 30 percent, passed 61-47. Andrews, Farhat, Morgan, Steckloff, Wegela and Whitsett voted with the majority.

[HB 4187](#), which would modify the distribution of the Corporate Income Tax, passed 63-45. The chamber adopted a floor substitute to maintain funding for the Housing and Community Development Fund. Andrews, Morgan, Steckloff, Wegela and Whitsett voted for the bill.

The final bill in the package, [HB 4230](#), which would establish the Neighborhood Road Fund, passed 63-45. Andrews, Farhat, Morgan, Steckloff, Tate and Whitsett voted for the bill, but Witwer and Carra voted no.

## **ESTA**

A draft letter was sent to the Board to express concerns about the final language in HB 4002.

Changes to state's Earned Sick Time Act that went into effect last month could cause irreparable harm to employees with jobs that are seasonal, transient or sporadic, particularly in the construction industry where long periods of nonwork could affect the accrual of sick time in bargained contracts, the Michigan chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association argued in a complaint filed this month with the Court of Claims.

The plaintiff organization in *NECA v. Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity* (COC Docket No. 25-000037) sued the state shortly after the laws took effect on February 21 with modifications from the Legislature.

The complaint seeks a declaratory ruling from [Judge Sima Patel](#) that would hold the changes to ESTA do not apply to employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement before February 21 until the expiration, renewal, extension, or renegotiation of a given CBA—primarily if the agreement does not provide for sick time or sick leave benefits and regardless of whether a CBA specifically addresses them.



It also seeks a declaratory judgment that any action taken to investigate, fine, or otherwise sanction an employer for not complying with the ESTA changes are void if due based on the fact that an employer was not providing sick leave benefits in a CBA enacted before February 21.

NECA wants Patel to further enjoin the state from taking those actions until the current CBA expires, is renewed, extended, or otherwise negotiated.

The plaintiff also asked Patel to grant the group summary disposition following oral arguments in addition to the requested declaratory and injunctive relief.

Court records show that the state has yet to respond to the complaint.

### **Remote Tax Tribunal Hearings**

[HB 4098](#) and [HB 4099](#), which would amend the [Tax Tribunal](#) Act to allow the tribunal to hold hearings and decide proceedings remotely, passed with broad bipartisan support.

"Holding hearings virtually can make the process of appealing the tribunal less burdensome for citizens who live far away, saving them a trip for an in-person hearing," [Rep. Pat Outman](#) (R-Six Lakes) said during a floor speech supporting the legislation. "It also saves the state money by allowing tribunal members to participate remotely without traveling."

HB 4098 passed the House 100-8, and HB 4099 passed the House 98-10.

### **Remote participation for those with disabilities**

An amendment to the Open Meetings Act to allow people with disabilities to participate remotely in public hearings was reported to the Senate floor on Tuesday.

The bill, [SB 129](#) Track, sponsored by [Sen. Sean McCann](#) (D-Kalamazoo), applies only 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.

Committee members reported the bill on a 6-1 vote, with [Sen. Jim Runestad](#) (R-White Lake) voting no,

### **Legislation**

[HB 4081](#) – Introduced by Rep. DeBoyer (R) would allow counties and municipalities to increase the number of parcels potentially subject to division. **HB 4081 was voted out of committee on March 20.**

[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 passed by the House 97-11.** The Senate referred HB 4014 to the Committee on Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection.

## **8. ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMMENTS**

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell addressed the board today to assuring that members of congress are working to protect Federal funding. The Congresswoman warned that the passed budget will result in cuts to programs, although she does not have specific information on what the cuts will be, she will be in touch once she knows. Reopening of community funding projects are set to open and is receiving letters from communities for this. Lastly, The Congresswoman requested that any board members who receive notices of funding being taken away to let her office know ASAP.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments were made by the public.

## **10. OTHER BUISNESS**

None.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Rush, supported by Turnbull to adjourned the CWW Board Meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Ayes. All. Motion carried.