



**CONFERENCE OF WESTERN WAYNE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May, 8, 2020**

1. CALL TO ORDER – CONLEY

The CWW Board Meeting was held via Zoom. Mayor Conley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL – RHAESA

Mayor Rhaesa called the roll: Mayor Kerreen Conley, City of Belleville; Supervisor Pat Williams, Canton Charter Township; Mayor Jack O'Reilly, City of Dearborn; Councilperson Jaylee Lynch, City of Garden City; Supervisor David Glaab, Huron Charter Township; Councilperson Kathleen McIntyre, alternate, City of Livonia; Mayor Brian Turnbull, City of Northville; Supervisor Robert Nix, Northville Charter Township; Mayor Oliver Wolcott, City of Plymouth; Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz, Redford Charter Township; Karen Armatis, alternate, Sumpter Township; Dan Selman, alternate, Van Buren Charter Township; Mayor John Rhaesa, City of Wayne; and William Wild, City of Westland.

CWW Board Member/voting alternate of record not present: City of Dearborn Heights; City of Inkster; Plymouth Charter Township; and City of Romulus.

Others present: Jazmine Danci, representing Mayor Burcroff.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - RHAESA

Motion by Kobylarz, supported by Nix to approve the minutes from March 13, 2020.

AYES: All. Motion carried.

4. INFORMAL REPORT ON COVID-19

Mayor Conley asked board members what their plans were for reopening.

Mayor O'Reilly reported they have done a lot locally. They have brought in many entities to benefit not only Dearborn but surrounding communities. Dearborn is listening to Lansing. They have kept all of their employees for now.

Ms. Lynch said that Garden City is also listening to Lansing. Their employees are working every other day. They will be putting approximately 12 people on furlough over the summer.

Kathleen McIntyre from Livonia said that 37% of their employees are on furlough. No return dates yet for either the employees, or for public access to the buildings, which are two separate dates.

Mayor Wolcott said that Plymouth is following Lansing's advice, and they took early action. The city did have a five-year budget already in place. He is looking for creative ideas on how other communities are going to proceed with events. A number of events have already been cancelled by the organizers.

Jasmine Danci, Community Outreach Director for Romulus, said that Mayor Burcroff put the city into a State of Emergency on March 16, 2020. Once or twice a week they communicate with the public based on FEMA best practices. The city is slowly extending the "essential employee" designation.

Mayor Rhaesa thanked all the Mayors and Supervisors and Ms. Sellek for the Beaumont Hospital Resolution and Mayor Conley for the Channel 7 interview. The hospital has reopened. Having the hospital close to non COVID-19 patients during a pandemic was very difficult. The City of Wayne also had eight firefighters out with COVID-19; one is hopefully returning to work soon.

They are looking at reopening Wayne City Hall soon. They have installed sneeze guards and are looking at installing a doorbell system.

Mayor Wild said that this last Monday, they furloughed 77 employees and are holding off on hiring part-time seasonal employees. Westland puts out a daily briefing which includes state, county, MML etc. updates, so that it is as inclusive as possible. They have put as many meetings on Zoom such as budget meetings. City Council is fully functional on Zoom.

Mayor Turnbull stated that the City of Northville has 14 road projects in process. Similar to the City of Plymouth, they have not furloughed any employees. Mayor Turnbull said that they have offered Northville Downs as a (COVID-19) testing site. They have had two virtual town hall meetings. They do one major newsletter per week. Altogether, they have 27 different board meetings; they are all done via Zoom.

Supervisor Williams said Canton Township's Emergency Response Team met daily for the first couple of days of the crisis. A lot of hours were put in by the team, and Williams offered the team's insight to the board should anyone need assistance.

Supervisor Nix said that the township had 116 cases and 16 deaths. They started by closing parks except for the walkways. Northville Township sends messages to its residents approximately every 3-4 days. Northville Township did not lay any full time staff off because of how they are structured; the township would have to pay unemployment. The part-time employees were laid off.

Supervisor Kobylarz said that they are anxiously waiting to see what kind of money Redford Township is going to get from the state. They just passed the township's budget. Several employees were put on furlough.

Supervisor Kobylarz also said that in regard to COVID-19 reporting, Redford Township and Detroit are similar to Belleville and Van Buren Township in that they share zip codes. Wayne County is using a geo-tracking system, so although it is getting better, the backlog of erroneous reporting hasn't been cleared up. She feels that perhaps we should look at the numbers as the CWW region.

Karen Armatis reported that Sumpter furloughed a few people in mid-April. They called back the building clerk yesterday since construction started yesterday. The inspectors are back. Police and Fire were never furloughed. DPW was never furloughed. All township messages are updated on their website, government channel, and the township hall's front door.

Dan Selman said that Van Buren has cancelled all of its events through July 5th. Their meals on wheels distribution has continued. They have developed a multi-tiered opening plan. Working through VPN, they have been able to keep up with the work load largely offsite. They haven't furloughed employees for the same reason Northville Township didn't.

Mayor Conley said that Belleville has cancelled its Strawberry Festival. They haven't laid off any employees. They are looking at alternatives to large events, similar to the City of Plymouth. They have shifted the public to go online more than ever.

Mayor Rhaesa asked if there is interest in the creation of a side group concerning events; several people were interested.

Supervisor Williams said that there is a meeting coming up for the Plymouth-Canton Relay For Life, it's a virtual event. He asked if members could promote it if they see it online.

Kathleen McIntyre noted that one positive aspect has been the change in the building inspection process which is now online. It has streamlined the process for the department as well as the businesses.

Mayor Conley asked if anyone had been contacted by the Governor's office as to how the pandemic closures have affected their processes; no one mentioned being contacted.

Mayor Turnbull said that he signed off on a letter from Oakland County to Representative Haley Stevens that is asking for a direct payment to the communities in the next stimulus package. He will send a copy to Ms. Sellek.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Kandrevas from Wayne County Executive Warren Evans' office appreciated the CWW meeting. He talks with almost each community usually weekly during the update the county holds at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesdays.

Stephanie Blatt with Consumers Energy said that their foundation has shifted entirely at this point to help with COVID-19 related needs.

Wayne County Commissioner Terri Marecki and Melissa Daub announced that they will be holding a town hall meeting this coming Thursday, May 14, 6-8 pm.

Susan Stefanski with SEMCOG said that all staff is working from home. They have webinars and podcasts available online such as toilet paper use, using parks, and social distancing. They also have COVID-19 brochures available online. She gave Stephanie Taylor's name, as she is the information specialist at SEMCOG should board members need information resources.

Bill Anderson with SEMCOG talked about the state revenue issues. \$2.5 billion state budget shortfall in current FY. The state will probably have to come back in August to look at the budget again.

Jason Maciejewski with TSA thanked CWW and Mayor Rhaesa for the reopening of Beaumont Hospital in Wayne. TSA is having it's 5th annual food distribution on May 21st. If anyone is having a food distribution happening, let him know as TSA can help with volunteers and/or food. His cell is 734-645-4773.

Supervisor Williams asked Jason to send him information so that the few residents in Canton can be transitioned to the TSA programs. He also asked Stephanie Blatt with Consumers Energy to send a summary to the board with all the programs listed.

Melissa Daub said that the Wayne County Commission has been holding commission meetings via Zoom. The Governor signed an authorization through June for them to do so.

Amanda York with Senator Stabenow's office asked for everyone to send questions to her email or to call the Detroit office, rather than the D.C. office.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Williams, supported by Lynch to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

AYES: All. Motion carried.