



The Governing Voice for  
700,000 Wayne County Residents

CWW Represents:

Cities: Belleville, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Garden City,  
Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Romulus, Wayne and Westland

Townships: Canton Charter Township, Huron Charter Township, Northville Charter Township, Plymouth  
Charter Township, Redford Charter Township, Sumpter Township and Van Buren Charter  
Township

## **Resolution 2023-003**

### **REQUESTING IMPACTED GLWA MEMBER COMMUNITIES BE REIMBURSED FOR THEIR PAYMENTS OF THE HIGHLAND PARK WATER AND SEWER DEBT**

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

**WHEREAS** Wayne County receives water services from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and all 18 CWW members are paying members of the GLWA; and

**WHEREAS** the State of Michigan has had a direct role in GLWA providing water services to the City of Highland Park; and

**WHEREAS** the State of Michigan assisted in facilitating an agreement between the state of Michigan, GLWA and Highland Park; and

**WHEREAS** on October 19, 2023, the Highland Park City Council voted unanimously to approve the tentative deal; and

**WHEREAS** on October 25, 2023, the water authority's board of directors approved terms of a settlement agreement between GLWA and Highland Park; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed settlement agreement dismisses all related litigation, including the \$24 million Highland Park debt lawsuit; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed settlement agreement would require the State of Michigan to pay for and oversee the installation of water meters in Highland Park. GLWA will reduce Highland Park's water charges and will provide a settlement credit of \$60,000 per month to Highland Park on its sewage charges until June 30, 2024; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed settlement agreement funds water main and service line replacements in Highland Park, releases a \$25M sewer infrastructure grant for GLWA and funds a \$5M drinking water infrastructure grant for GLWA; and

**WHEREAS** by 2022 Highland Park had accumulated \$54,233,700 in debt to GLWA for both water and sewer services since 2012; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Highland Park's debt had been allocated to the 87 other GLWA member communities, including the 18 communities in western Wayne County; and

**WHEREAS** of the \$54,233,700 debt Highland Park had accumulated since 2012 \$19,882,700 (36%) had been allocated to the paying members in Wayne County including \$14,600,600 (27% of total) to the paying members in the Conference of Western Wayne region; and

**WHEREAS** the Conference of Western Wayne 18 communities and their residents were charged and subsequently paid for 27% of the entire debt owed to GLWA; and

**WHEREAS** 73% of the entire Wayne County allocation was charged to the 18 communities in the Conference of Western Wayne; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Conference of Western Wayne Board of Directors applauds the State of Michigan, GLWA and Highland Park for reaching a tentative settlement.
2. The Conference of Western Wayne Board of Directors fully supports a long-term infrastructure solution to address the water and sewer issues in Highland Park.
3. The CWW Board of Directors hereby requests the State of Michigan and/or GLWA to fully reimburse our 18 communities the nearly \$15 million that has been paid by our residents towards the Highland Park Debt.
4. The CWW Board of Directors hereby requests that our state legislators and our Wayne County Commissioners call on the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes Water Authority to reimburse member partner communities for the debt amounts that have been paid towards the Highland Park debt.

I attest that this is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at the direction of the CWW Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on November 3, 2023 in Huron Charter Township.

Supervisor David Glaab, CWW Chairman of the Board



Motion by Plymouth Township, seconded by Sumpter Township

Ayes:

City of Dearborn

City of Dearborn Heights

City of Garden City

City of Livonia

City of Northville

City of Romulus

City of Wayne

Canton Charter Township

Huron Charter Township

Northville Charter Township

Plymouth Charter Township

Redford Charter Township

Sumpter Township

Nays: None

Absent: City of Belleville, City of Inkster, City of Plymouth, City of Westland, Van Buren Township