

## **COHA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MARCH 18, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Board Members present: Ron Gadoth, Jennifer Janson, Ken Kendall, Julie Finn, Mark Lifter, Sandy Soens

President Ron Gadoth welcomed the audience. This evening's presentation will consist of three speakers. Sergeant Brian Kersanty and Officer Madison Kean of the Farmington Hills Police, Dr. Kelly Coffin the superintendent of Farmington Public Schools and Jim Nash the Water Resource Commissioner.

Sergeant Kersanty and Officer Kean wanted to make the coalition aware that they are available to speak with individual HOAs regarding crime statistics specific to their subdivisions and to give recommendations on how to prevent and avoid crime. They also announced that the next session of the Citizen's Police Academy will begin April 1, 2025. The academy consists of ten 3 hour sessions that serve to educate the public on many aspects of the police department's duties. Topics include fair and impartial policing, response to resistance and violence, emergency dispatch procedures, criminal investigations, evidence technician procedures, firearm safety and instruction, K9 demonstrations, Medical Examiner's Office and traffic enforcement. Residents interested are encouraged to apply via e mail at [CPA@FHGOV.com](mailto:CPA@FHGOV.com). Applicants are subject to a background check. There are still openings available for this session. The next session will be in the fall. Sergeant Kersanty can be reached at 248-871-2602 or by email at [BKersanty@fhgov.com](mailto:BKersanty@fhgov.com). Officer Kean's phone number is 248-871-2753 or cell 947-900-1525. Her e mail is: [MKean@fhgov.com](mailto:MKean@fhgov.com).

Dr. Coffin, the new superintendent of Farmington Public Schools, discussed the mission of the FPS which is to enable students to investigate, grow, express, reflect and innovate. She spoke about positioning of students in the community, noticing individuals and letting them know their voice matters as well as authenticity to give meaning to students. She presented results of the Cobalt Engagement survey showing that over 80% of parents and over 70% of voters would recommend FPS. This outperformed surrounding districts. The survey participants singled out teachers and staff as being the reason for the high satisfaction and commented on the diversity of the students as being a positive as well. Dr. Coffin spoke of the FPS strategic planning goals. The focus is on innovation, leadership, process and tools, culture and values, people and skills. Anyone can monitor the goals on the FPS website dashboard. Currently there has been improvement in student's literacy and mathematics scores in a number of grades. Of note, 80% of students pursue secondary education upon graduation. She then showed a video about students and parents highlighting their positive experiences with teachers and staff. During the Q&A session following her talk, she spoke of the increase in instructional resources to improve students performance as well as more work based learning opportunities available for students.

The final speaker was Jim Nash who has been Water Resource Commissioner for 12 years. This position was formerly known as Drain Commissioner. He manages 400 employees and his department is responsible for managing 400 drains, the sewer system, monitoring lake levels and erosion control for several communities in Oakland County. He noted that the biggest contributor to pollution of our lakes, rivers and streams is due to silt from erosion. He summed up his job as protecting human health and safety, protecting the environment and spending wisely. His agency is nonprofit. He noted that since fertilizers run off our lawns and enter the water system, it is important to find water safe fertilizer. These are available at local hardware stores and water safe brands are identified with a sticker. His department is responsible for 21 communities and does the billing for an additional 14 communities. They are responsible for 3 waste water treatment plants located in Commerce, Pontiac and Novi.

Mr. Nash noted that with climate change, we are experiencing much heavier rain. This is causing stress to the existing system which gets overwhelmed and causes flooding. Warmer atmosphere holds increased amounts of water. The water is released as rain when it cools as it passes over the Great Lakes. His agency is building systems to accommodate these weather changes. We need larger tanks, larger pipes and newer technologies. Farmington Hills is currently in the 3rd year of lining older pipes which is much cheaper than replacing the pipes and should give an additional 75-100 years of utility.

The department participates in many educational activities for students including festivals and a job shadowing program. There are also internships available for college students and apprenticeships with guaranteed job offers upon completion of the program. He is actively recruiting for jobs in the water industry. Anyone interested should check the website [H2OMICH.ORG](http://H2OMICH.ORG).

He made us aware of programs available for financial assistance. The Hardship Assistance Program can assist with plumbing repairs, pay water bills for up to three months and help residents recover from water bill debt. The phone number to call for help is 844-211-4994. The other program offering assistance for low income households is called WRAP (Water Residential Assistance Program). Their phone number is 248-983-5656 or website <https://uwsem.smapply.org/prog/utilities/>.

Finally Mr. Nash discussed Rainsmart Rebates, a program that gives residents rebates for implementing storm water infrastructure to manage rainwater. Examples would include rain gardens, rain barrels, trees with large root systems to improve water quality and aid in climate resiliency.

Mr. Nash gave his cell number in case anyone had any water concerns. 248-842-6185.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.  
Minutes submitted by Julie Finn, COHA secretary