

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

**NWMC Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference

MEMBERS

Antioch
Arlington Heights
Bannockburn
Barrington
Bartlett
Buffalo Grove
Deer Park
Deerfield
Des Plaines
Elk Grove Village
Evanston
Fox Lake
Glencoe
Glenview
Grayslake
Hanover Park
Highland Park
Hoffman Estates
Kenilworth
Lake Bluff
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lincolnwood
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
Northbrook
Northfield
Northfield Township
Palatine
Park Ridge
Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
Schaumburg
Skokie
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
West Dundee
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

President
Tom Dailly
Schaumburg

Vice-President
Rodney Craig
Hanover Park

Secretary
Donna Johnson
Libertyville

Treasurer
John Lockerby
Skokie

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

I. Call to Order

President Dailly called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Dailly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

Arlington Heights, Mayor Tom Hayes
Barrington, President Karen Darch
Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski
Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan
Evanston, Manager Luke Stowe
Glencoe, Manager Phil Kiraly
Hanover Park, Mayor Rod Craig
Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering
Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
Lake Zurich, Manager Ray Keller
Lincolnwood, Manager Anne Marie Gaura
Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
Niles, Trustee John Jekot
Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
Park Ridge, Manager Joe Gilmore
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
Skokie, Manager John Lockerby
Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
West Dundee, Manager Joe Cavallaro
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis

Others in Attendance:

Angela Xu, Illinois Environmental Council
Pat Eaves Heard, Nicor Gas
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
Ellen Dayan, NWMC Purchasing Director
Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant
Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 13 meeting was made by Ms. Gaura. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved.

V. President's Report – Tom Dailly, NWMC President and Mayor, Village of Schaumburg

President Dailly presented a plaque to Lincolnwood Village Manager Anne Marie Gaura in recognition of her service as the NWMC Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair from 2021 to 2023. He thanked Ms. Gaura for her leadership and commitment to the organization.

October 17 NWMC Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Ms. Dayan reported that the next NWMC Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction will be held at noon on Tuesday, October 17. She thanked Palatine, Tinley Park, Skokie and Wheaton for participating and said there was still time to participate.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Dan Shapiro, Mayor, Village of Deerfield, Co-Chair and Eric Smith, President, Village of Buffalo Grove, Co-Chair

1. Veto Session Preview

Mr. Bury reported that the veto session will be held Tuesday, October 24 – Thursday, October 26 and Tuesday, November 7 – Thursday, November 9. He said one of the amendatory vetoes under consideration is for House Bill 2507, a property tax omnibus bill that includes a provision to reduce the assessment for for-profit nursing and mental health care homes in Cook County from a commercial to a residential category. He said this would shift the burden on to other taxpayers in the county and therefore the Executive Board recommended approval of a letter urging legislators to support the amendatory veto.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Craig. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gaura and unanimously approved.

2. Paid Leave for All Workers Act

Mr. Fowler discussed efforts to pursue an amendment to the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act during veto session to exempt local governments. He said the Conference formed a working group over the summer which included representatives from six other councils of government in the region. He said the working group met four times and drafted proposed legislative language exempting municipalities, townships and counties from the requirements of the act.

He reviewed the working group's amendment request document which included concerns and potential unintended consequences with implementation of the Act and urged members to share the document with legislators. He said the document had been approved by the members of the working group as well as the IML, Illinois State Association of Counties and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. He said the document will be sent to the membership in the morning as part of a NWMC Action Alert asking members to contact their legislators and request support for legislation to exempt those entities from the act.

3. House Personnel and Pensions Committee Hearings

Mr. Fowler reported that the House Personnel and Pensions Committee held three subject matter hearings over the summer to address issues with state pension systems and possible non-compliance with safe harbor provisions. He said that the public safety unions testified that they need changes to their systems, not necessarily to address the safe harbor provisions, but to bring pension parity for all employees. He said House Bill 4099 has been proposed to essentially revert to the Tier 1 pension systems for police and fire fighters.

Mr. Fowler reviewed written testimony that the NWMC submitted to the committee in advance of the September 28 hearing. He thanked those members who responded to the Action Alert staff sent on the bill. Mr. Bury discussed the union's reported reasoning for requesting changes to their pension systems and said staff was assembling data to refute the arguments. He said that

messaging will be important as will the need to educate lawmakers, most of whom were not in office when the Tier 2 changes were adopted in 2010.

President Dailly requested that members pay attention to this issue and be ready to act as requested by staff. Mayor Rotering recommended that members begin to assess the financial impact of the proposed legislation and be ready to present that data to lawmakers. Mr. Bury replied that actuarial data from members on the potential cost of the legislation, as well as the taxpayer savings from the Tier 2 system will be critical to the effort.

4. Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition Reactivation

Mr. Fowler reviewed the efforts of the Conference beginning in 2009 to address public safety pension issues. He said that, in 2010 the NWMC created and administered the statewide Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition during the push to pass Tier 2 and public safety pension fund investment consolidation. He said that, with a renewed and coordinated effort from public safety unions to enhance Tier 2 benefits and/or reinstate Tier 1 benefits, the Executive Board recommended reactivating the Coalition to develop legislative strategies.

Mr. Fowler said that the framework of the Coalition was still in place as are many of the individuals who originally participated. He said that just over \$25,000 remains in a segregated account dedicated to the Coalition's efforts. Whether additional funds will be necessary will depend on the work plan created by the Coalition and he reminded the Board that the Conference has a special projects fund that could be utilized as well.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Craig. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gaura and unanimously approved.

**B. Finance Committee – John Lockerby, Manager, Village of Skokie, Chair
FY2022-2023 Audit Draft**

Mr. Lockerby reported that Seldon Fox completed a draft of the audit report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023. He said that the auditors reported an unmodified opinion, which is the highest achievable. He noted the Conference remains in a strong financial position and increased its net position by more than \$247,000 over the past year. He said that the Finance Committee and Executive Board recommended acceptance of the audit.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Darch. The motion was seconded by Mayor Craig and unanimously approved.

**C. Transportation Committee – Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair and
Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair**

1. FY 24 Unified Work Program IGA and Budget

Mr. Fowler reported that an annual resolution must be passed to secure Unified Work Program (UWP) funding through the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for support of NWMC transportation planning services. He said these funds are utilized by the Conference for transportation-related salaries and expenses for the councils of mayors and for the Conference's transportation committees. He reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the resolution.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Craig. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved.

2. CMAP's Plan of Action for Regional Transit

Mr. Czarnota reported that the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee approved the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) at their joint meeting earlier in the day. He said report will now be sent to the Governor and General Assembly. He reviewed the components of the plan, which addresses the pending fiscal cliff for regional transit and proposes options for service, funding and governance adjustments.

VII. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Ms. Gaura. The motion was seconded by Mayor Craig and unanimously approved.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler reported that he discussed the Board's desire to adjust its meeting schedule with SWANCC Executive Director Christina Siebert. He said that SWANCC would change the timing of their quarterly meetings to accommodate the Conference's schedule. He said that the Conference would host SWANCC meetings at the NWMC office so as to assist them in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

He said the consensus of the Executive Board was to move the Board meetings to 6:00 p.m. and conduct future meetings via hybrid format. Mayor Dailly asked for a consensus of the Board, and the response was favorable.

IX. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Dailly noted that, in lieu of the December Board meeting, the Conference will again host a holiday celebration on December 13 at the Chateau Ritz in Niles. He noted that members could meet via videoconference at a special meeting should any issues arise that require Board action in December.

X. Next Meeting

President Dailly announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by President Smith. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gaura and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.