

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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

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*
- Rodney Craig
Hanover Park

- Vice-President*
- Donna Johnson
Libertyville

- Secretary*
- Eric Smith
Buffalo Grove

- Treasurer*
- John Lockerby
Skokie

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board

Minutes

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Office and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Craig 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, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski
- Elk Grove Village, Village Manager Matt Roan
- Glencoe, Manager Phil Kiraly
- Hanover Park, Mayor Rodney Craig
- Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering
- Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
- Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake
- Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson
- Lincolnwood, Mayor Jesal Patel
- Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer
- Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
- Niles, Trustee John Jekot
- Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
- Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
- Northfield Township, Supervisor Shiva Mohsenzadeh
- Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
- Park Ridge, Manager Joe Gilmore
- Prospect Heights, Administrator Joe Wade
- Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
- Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
- Skokie, Manager John Lockerby
- Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan

Others in Attendance:

- Pat Eaves-Heard, Nicor
- Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
- Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
- Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
- Ellen Dayan, CPPB, NWMC Purchasing Director

Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant
Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

IV. Approval of Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 15 meeting was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved.

V. President’s Report – Rodney Craig, NWMC President and Mayor, Village of Hanover Park

A. Shared Public Relations Proposals with Serafin

Mr. Fowler reviewed the proposed agreements with Serafin to promote the joint NWMC/DMMC legislative programs thru end of the spring legislative session and conduct a 6-week targeted digital campaign on pension issues. He said this represents a somewhat different approach through joining forces and consistent messaging with DMMC and likely other councils of government on legislative issues as well as a modernized approach to try and move the needle on pension messaging.

He said the cost per organization to promote the joint legislative programs would be \$1,850 per month, for a total cost to NWMC of \$7,400 and the cost of the pension digital campaign would be \$20,000-\$25,000. He said the Executive Board recommended approval of both proposals and directed staff to work with the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition to equitably share the cost of the digital campaign.

Mr. Fowler said staff proposes to utilize the NWMC Special Projects fund for both efforts, with moving funds to the pension coalition account for the digital campaign and returning any net/excess funds back to the Special Projects fund. He said staff will submit a formal request to utilize the Special Projects fund after financial commitment discussions with the Pension Fairness Coalition Partners.

Motion to approve the recommendations was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

B. FY 2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan – Q3 Update

Mr. Fowler presented the third quarter update to the FY 2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan. He reviewed the status of the strategic plan update, noting that the membership directed staff to solicit additional proposals. He said staff received an additional proposal, which was also well above the planned cost. Given cost estimates and timing of the upcoming municipal elections, Mr. Fowler said that staff recommended moving this item to the 2025-2026 Work Plan and incorporating the cost into budget. Board members concurred.

Mr. Fowler reviewed other notable items including: working with DMMC on a joint Newly Elected Officials Workshop; Board approval of the 2025 NWMC Legislative Program; staff issued a bill analysis and Action Alert during veto/lame duck sessions on Tier 2 pension legislation (HB5909); work with DMMC on the public relations proposals; launched the pension portion of the Invest in Communities website; President Craig published a letter to the editor on pensions in the December 7 Daily Herald; staff testified on Tier 2 pension legislation at the December 13 House Personnel and Pensions Committee hearing; Brian Larson was appointed to the Cook County Safety Action Plan Steering Committee; the Conference approved a resolution regarding Mass Transit legislation; President Darch published a letter to the editor on transit in the December 19 Chicago Tribune; the Board approved all documents leading to development of the budget; staff continued to work with Omnia for additional purchasing opportunities; planning for the 2025 SPC Supplier Showcase; held the NWMC Holiday Celebration on December 11, with 77 members, legislators and guests in attendance; planned the NWMC legislative days in Springfield; and, Board approval of a new auditor agreement.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Eric Smith, President, Village of Buffalo Grove, Co-Chair and Greg Lungmus, President, Village of Northfield, Co-Chair

1. Legislative Update

Mr. Bury provided an update on the General Assembly’s spring session. He said that, one month into session, General Assembly members have introduced 6,379 bills and noted that staff is

working to determine the bills that impact municipalities. He reviewed upcoming committee deadlines, noting the tight timelines to move bills through the committee process.

He reviewed legislation regarding pensions and said that the House and Senate established new committees to consider these bills. He reviewed a package of five housing related bills proposed by the Realtors Association, including one regarding crime free housing previously discussed by the Conference. He said that new and reintroduced transit reorganization legislation has been proposed, including the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act and a labor backed bill that proposes modernization but keeping the existing RTA/Service Board structure. Members of the Executive Board discussed a meeting held the previous day with proponents of the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act.

2. 2025 NWMC Legislative Days

Mr. Bury reported that the NWMC Legislative Days are scheduled for Tuesday, February 18 to Thursday, February 20 in Springfield and said there was still time to attend. He reviewed the schedule of meetings for the trip, noting Governor Pritzker's State of the State/Budget address on Wednesday, February 19.

3. 2025 NWMC Legislative Program Rollout Meetings

Mr. Fowler reported that there was low legislator registration for the first round of dates and times proposed for the Legislative Program virtual presentation. He said that staff will poll legislators for Saturday, March 8 at 9:00 a.m. and ask the Legislative Committee to discuss future roll out efforts.

4. Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition

Mr. Fowler reported that the next Coalition Partners meeting will likely be held on Tuesday, March 4 and will focus on the website, legislation introduced to date and public relations efforts.

B. Finance Committee – John Lockerby, Manager, Village of Skokie, Chair

1. Budget Reports and Purchase Journals

Treasurer Lockerby reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Budget Reports and Purchase Journals from November and December 2024. He said that the Conference's finances are in good order and highlighted revenue and expense items from the reports.

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

2. NWMC Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction Agreement

Mr. Lockerby reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended renewing the contract for Auctioneer Services with America's Auto Auction. He said the new contract would cover 2025, with four possible, one-year contract extensions with all contract terms remaining the same. He said the proposed auction dates for 2025 are April 22, July 22 and October 21.

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

**C. Transportation Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair
Resolution in support of Pace's ReVision Plan**

Mr. Fowler reported that the Executive Board and Transportation Committee recommended approval of a resolution supporting Pace's ReVision Plan Plus 50 concept, with an emphasis on reinstating and expanding fixed bus route service within the NWMC service area. He said that this was similar to the RTA's request for support that resulted in the NWMC approved resolution in December and noted that Metra and CTA have yet to request NWMC action. If received, Mr. Fowler said that those requests would be put through similar review processes.

Mr. Fowler reported conversations held with some members who expressed concern about specifying a dollar amount in the resolution as it conflicts with competing requests pending before the General Assembly, notably LGDF, other state shared revenues and pensions. Mr. Ottesen recommended an amendment to strike reference to a specific dollar amount. Mayor McLeod expressed support for the amendment. Mr. Sabo expressed support for the amended resolution and discussed Rolling Meadows' need for Pace service and concerns for implementing service where there is little infrastructure to support it.

Motion to approve the recommendation as amended was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hayes and unanimously approved.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler reviewed a request from the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus to consider a statement on the pause of federal grants for the Chicago region. He said the Caucus is facing a pause on roughly \$17 million in previously approved grants, affecting many projects in the NWMC service territory. He said the Caucus is seeking support of the statement from the regional councils of government and noted that the Caucus has accepted recommended changes from NWMC leadership.

Mayor Rotering, as Mayors Caucus Chair, said the organization felt it important to provide a response to the pause and ensure that the projects are completed as promised. President Craig and other members of the Board expressed support.

Motion to approve support of the statement was made by Mayor Rotering. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Rotering noted that the next Metropolitan Mayors Caucus quarterly meeting will be held on Friday, March 28 in Highland Park and invited mayors to attend.

IX. Next Meeting

President Craig announced that next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor McLeod moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rotering and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.