

## **NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE**

1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
(847) 296-9200 • Fax (847) 296-9207  
[www.nwmc-cog.org](http://www.nwmc-cog.org)



*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, January 15, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**NWMC Office and Via Videoconference**

#### **I. Call to Order**

Vice President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. She reported that President Craig was absent due to his attendance at the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference legislative dinner.

#### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice President Johnson to lead 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  
Deer Park, President Greg Rusteberg  
Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski  
Elk Grove Village, Village Manager Matt Roan  
Fox Lake, Mayor Donny Schmit  
Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering  
Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod  
Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake  
Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson  
Lincolnwood, Trustee Jean Ikezoe-Halevi  
Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer  
Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert  
Niles, Trustee John Jekot  
Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek  
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin  
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen  
Park Ridge, Mayor Marty Maloney  
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo  
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly  
Skokie, Manager John Lockerby  
Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan  
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis

Others in Attendance:

Pat Eaves-Heard, Nicor  
Nancy Firfer, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus  
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 Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2024 and December 11, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 13 and December 11, 2024 meetings was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved.

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

**A. 2025 NWMC Legislative Days in Springfield**

Mr. Bury said that the Executive Board and Legislative Committee recommended that the NWMC hold its annual Legislative Days during the week of the Governor's budget address, February 18-20. He said planning for the event was underway and highlighted a few scheduled events. Pending approval, he said that registration forms will be sent to the membership.

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

**B. FY 2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan – Q2 Update**

Mr. Fowler presented the second quarter update to the FY 2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan. Among the highlights he noted were: a decision to seek additional proposals to conduct the Strategic Planning process; a new approach to developing the Legislative Program; working with Rep. Katz Muhl on a non-home rule legislative initiative; Pension Coalition work, including messaging, NWMC Action Alert sent during veto session and preparation for veto/lame duck sessions; regional transit discussions and meetings; new Sourcewell contract; and, hosting the NWMC Holiday Celebration on December 11.

**C. Board of Directors Meeting Schedule**

Vice President Johnson reported on a recommendation to reschedule the April NWMC Executive Board and Board of Directors meetings. She said the April 2 IML Lobby Day conflicts with the Executive Board meeting scheduled for that morning, which would require both meetings to be pushed back one week.

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

**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 reported that the 103rd General Assembly met in lame duck session from January 4 to January 7, with the 104th General Assembly sworn in on January 8. He reviewed legislation considered during the lame duck session, including intoxicating hemp, energy issues and firearm control for orders of protection, otherwise known as "Karina's Bill." Board members discussed this legislation, including concerns about local law enforcement responsibilities, and requested that staff provide additional information.

Mr. Bury reviewed the bill introduction deadlines for the spring session and said thousands of bills will be filed. Of importance, he said staff will be looking for legislation dealing with pensions, transit and revenue. He noted the state's projected \$3.1 billion budget deficit and competing interests seeking additional funding for items including transit, pensions and lead line service replacement.

**2. 2025 NWMC Legislative Program & Rollout**

Vice President Johnson reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the draft 2025 NWMC Legislative Program. President Smith presented the Legislative Program components and thanked the committee and staff for their work on the issues presented for consideration.

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

**3. Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities (PFIC) Coalition Update**

Mr. Fowler reported that the Coalition met December 11 to discuss website development and messaging for the lame-duck session. He noted that the Invest In Communities website will host information and a section dedicated to pensions. He said a letter to the editor from President Craig on behalf of the Coalition was posted in the December 7 Daily Herald.

Mr. Fowler said that staff testified at the House Personnel & Pensions Committee subject matter hearing on December 13 and reviewed the event and coverage received. He thanked Anderson Legislative Consulting and staff for securing the opportunity to testify and preparing the testimony. He also thanked Mayor Dailly for submitting written testimony. Finally, Mr. Fowler reported that staff was working with DMMC on a new agreement for public relations assistance for the spring session on behalf of the Invest in Communities Coalition.

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

**1. Budget Reports and Purchase Journals**

Mr. Lockerby reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Budget Reports and Purchase Journals from September and October 2024.

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

**2. NWMC Financial and Investment Policies**

Vice President Johnson reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Financial and the Investment Policies. Mr. Lockerby added that this was an annual review of the policies and no substantive changes were recommended.

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

**3. Financial Procedures and Controls**

Vice President Johnson reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommend two amendments to the Financial Procedures and Controls: amending the section on investing in CDs (page 2) to better align with the Investment Policy and deleting the petty cash policy (page 5). Mr. Lockerby noted that staff no longer utilizes the petty cash fund.

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

**4. NWMC Auditor/Tax Preparation Service Recommendation**

Vice President Johnson reported that the Conference received two proposals in response to the RFP issued for auditing and tax preparation services. After review of the proposals, she said the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended the approval of Seldon Fox as the NWMC auditor. Mr. Lockerby added that Seldon Fox has served the Conference for a number of years and was the lowest cost respondent to the RFP. He noted that, at the Finance Committee's request, Seldon Fox agreed to assign a new audit manager to the Conference should they be selected.

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

**VII. Other Business**

Mr. Fowler noted and apologized for the confusion surrounding the Governor's Op Ed letter and expressed appreciation for those mayors who signed on to it. While he said he was pleased to see that it was ultimately sent under Mayor Rotering's name, it only included a few other mayor's signatures, including President Smith's. He said staff has and will again address this with the Governor's staff and would seek more clear details should the organization and multiple members be asked to participate in future efforts.

**VIII. For the Good of the Order**

No report.

**IX. Executive Session (Attachment – Separate emailed PDF documents)**

Mayor Hoefert moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 to determine the employment and compensation of specific employees. Mayor Rotering seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Board convened Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

The Board reconvened regular session at 6:53 p.m. Motion to approve the recommended staff compensation adjustment was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved.

**X. Next Meeting**

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

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Hoefert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rotering and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.