

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
South Barrington
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
West Dundee
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

President
Donna Johnson
Libertyville

Vice-President
Eric Smith
Buffalo Grove

Secretary
Paul Hoefert
Mount Prospect

Treasurer
Scott Anderson
Barrington

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board

Minutes

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

Barrington, Manager Scott Anderson
Bartlett, President Dan Gunsteen
Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski
Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan
Glencoe, Manager Phil Kiraly
Hanover Park, Mayor Rodney Craig
Highland Park, Manager Ghida Neukirch
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
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Park Ridge, Mayor Marty Maloney
Prospect Heights, Administrator Peter Falcone
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
Skokie, Mayor Ann Tennes
South Barrington, Mayor Paula McCombie
Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
Wilmette, President Senta Plunkett

Others in Attendance:

Neil James, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Nancy Firfer, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Pat Eaves-Heard, Nicor
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 – May 14, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 14 meeting was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved.

V. President's Report – Donna Johnson, NWMC President and Mayor, Village of Libertyville

A. Strategic Plan Recommendation

Mr. Bury reported that, in response to the RFP for strategic planning services issued earlier in the summer, the Executive Board recommended approval of CP2 Consulting to conduct the NWMC Strategic Plan update. He reviewed the components of the RFP, responses received and the process to review them. Mr. Bury reported that CP2 best addressed the RFP and the proposed timeline best matched that proposed by staff. He noted that CP2 is also working with several NWMC members.

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

B. FY 2024-2025 NWMC Annual Report

Mr. Fowler reviewed the FY 2024-2025 NWMC Annual Report which covers the timeframe of May 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025. He reported the following highlights: welcoming South Barrington as the organization's 44th member; leading the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition to prevent erosion of public safety pension systems; collaborating with the Invest in Communities Coalition, led by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, to advocate for increased local government revenues and other initiatives; presenting testimony and engaging in discussions on the future of the region's public transportation system; identifying and advocating for transportation funding opportunities for members; expanding the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative and conducting the Supplier Showcase; collaborating with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and the region's councils of government in planning for the Newly Elected Officials Workshop; and, approving the FY25-26 NWMC Budget without a dues increase for the twelfth consecutive year.

In addition, Mr. Fowler thanked the nearly 400 NWMC member elected officials, staff and other stakeholders who served on the committees managed by the organization. President Johnson thanked members for their engagement and advocacy on behalf of the organization.

C. FY 2025-2026 NWMC Work Plan – Q1 Update

Mr. Fowler presented the first quarter update to the FY 2025-2026 NWMC Work Plan. He noted that staff released the RFP for strategic planning services and participated in the June multi-COG Newly Elected Officials Workshop, with over 100 officials and 20 NWMC members in attendance. He thanked Mayor Craig, Mayor Rotering and Manager Neukirch for serving as panelists.

Mr. Fowler reported on a significant amount of legislative activity in May, including action alerts regarding proposed pension enhancements and crime free housing bills. He said staff began drafting pension materials for possible use in veto session. He said staff drafted analysis of the transportation legislation, updated the council of mayors methodologies, conducted the bicycle/pedestrian committee field trip along the Rand Road Sidepath in Des Plaines and Mt. Prospect and increased funding for the northwest and north shore councils via the STP redistribution fund. Finally, he noted that the Conference conducted the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Supplier Showcase on July 31.

D. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Committee Appointments

President Johnson reported that traditionally, the past NWMC President serves as the delegate and the current President serves as the alternate delegate to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) Executive Board. She said that due to the fact that Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering is the current Chair of the MMC, the Executive Board recommended the appointment of Mayor Rotering

as the delegate and past NWMC President and Hanover Park Mayor Rod Craig as the alternate delegate.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved. President Johnson thanked Mayor Dailly for serving as the alternate delegate over the past year.

E. FY 2025-2026 NWMC Committee Assignments

President Johnson reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the FY 2025-2026 NWMC Committee Assignment list.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Tennes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Thake and unanimously approved. President Johnson thanked those who have volunteered to serve on committees as well as the new committee chairs for their leadership.

F. FY 2025-2026 NWMC Board Meeting Dates

President Johnson reviewed the NWMC membership meeting schedule for FY 2025-2026 and requested that members mark their calendars. She noted that the NWMC Gala will be held on Wednesday, June 10 at Independence Grove in Libertyville.

G. NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Ms. Dayan reported that the final live NWMC Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction will be held on October 21 at America's Auto Auction in Crestwood. She thanked Palatine and Tinley Park for participating and noted that there is plenty of room to participate. She said that vehicles and equipment can be listed for disposal at the NWMC auction right up to the morning of the auction day or otherwise sold via America Auto Auction's online service.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Eric Smith, President, Village of Buffalo Grove, Co-Chair and Paul Hoefert, Mayor, Village of Mount Prospect, Co-Chair

1. Fall Veto Session Preview

President Johnson thanked President Smith and Mayor Hoefert for co-chairing the committee this year. She said the General Assembly will convene for the fall veto session from Tuesday, October 14 to Thursday, October 16 and Tuesday, October 28 to Thursday, October 30.

Mr. Staron reviewed several potential issues under consideration, including: an energy omnibus bill; federal budget impacts on the state's budget; the transit fiscal cliff; and, pension enhancements.

2. Pension Strategy and Legislator Outreach Plan

President Johnson reported that legislation to roll back Tier 2 pension reforms for all pension systems, including police, fire and IMRF, was introduced during the closing days of the spring session as amendments to [Senate Bill 1937](#). She said there is a push by the unions and the bill sponsors to advance the bill during the fall veto session.

Mr. Staron reviewed the proposed legislation and messaging from the proponents via the We Are One Coalition. He outlined current efforts by the Conference to counteract the union arguments and raise awareness on this issue via weekly messages to members and legislators as well as a targeted digital marketing campaign in specific legislative districts. He noted that the success of the campaign will depend upon amplification of the messages and engagement with legislators by our members. He thanked Prospect Heights for including messages in their latest municipal newsletter and a couple of trustees for sharing the Facebook posts. He asked that members continue to share the messages with residents and legislators as well as engage with legislators personally on this issue to discuss local impacts.

B. Transportation Committee – Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair and Lara Sanoica, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows, Co-Chair

Transit Legislation Update

President Johnson thanked Mayor Craig and Mayor Sanoica for co-chairing the committee this year. She provided an update on efforts through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and other subregional groups to pursue a consensus regional/subregional position on transit legislation.

Mr. Bury provided an overview of efforts to advance transit governance and funding legislation via amendment to House Bill 3438. He discussed the efforts during the summer by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) and others to try to reach a regional consensus position on transit changes. He said that differences with Chicago prevented approval of a formal position by the MMC; however, the Caucus issued a generic statement for further discussion by the regional councils. Mr. Bury said that answers by NWMC members in response to the MMC transit survey provided key insight to member concerns and support for various funding options.

Mr. Fowler discussed efforts by a few of the collar county councils to develop a suburban consensus position. He said the group met on August 28 and discussed the MMC statement and a statement drafted by DMMC for consideration, which included funding considerations. He reported that the NWMC Executive Board met last week and reviewed both statements and unanimously recommended that the NWMC Board approve the DMMC statement as modified by the Executive Board. He said the collar county group met the next day and express preference for a more generic statement without reference to funding and the groups decided to pursue different paths.

Mr. Fowler reported that the DMMC offered two additional changes after the Executive Board meeting and he reviewed those changes. The first was to support maintenance of the existing 50% recover ratio including any fare increases to achieve it within a reasonable time. The second was an additional bullet point under “Commitment to Collaboration” to advance a transit reform package that emphasizes safety and security. He reviewed the options available to the Board, including approving the revised document, referring the issue back to the NWMC Legislative and Transportation committees, or decline to act and refer back to the previously approved NWMC Guiding Principles on Transit Legislation, passed September 11, 2024, and NWMC Resolution passed on December 11, 2024.

Mayor Craig discussed a number of the funding alternatives in the document and ongoing opposition to components of the NITA legislation. President Johnson reviewed the options and asked if members had questions or needed clarity on the recommendation. Upon a question from Mayor Craig, Mr. Fowler clarified the additional items offered by DMMC, noting that the list of revenue items was for further discussion and exploration, not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Mayor Dailly and others expressed support for taking action. After further discussion, Mr. Sabo moved approval of the amended document. The motion was seconded by Mayor Craig and approved, with Mayor Goczkowski voting to oppose.

VII. Other Business

No report.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

No report.

IX. Next Meeting

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

X. Adjournment

President Johnson thanked members for their engagement and discussion on the items before the Board at the meeting. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.