

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, October 9, 2024
7:00 p.m.
Oakton College
Rooms 1604 and 1606
1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL**

I. Call to Order

President Craig called the meeting to order at 7:03 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
- Deer Park, President Greg Rusteberg
- Deerfield, Manager Kent Street
- Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski
- Elk Grove Village, Village Manager Matt Roan
- Hanover Park, Mayor Rod Craig
- Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
- Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson
- Lincolnwood, Mayor Jesal Patel
- Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
- Niles, Trustee John Jekot
- Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
- Northfield, Mayor Greg Lungmus
- Northfield Township, Supervisor Shiva Mohsenzadeh
- Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
- Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
- Skokie, Trustee Khem Khoeun, Manager John Lockerby

Others in Attendance:

- Darren Boundy, ComEd
- Ed Sitar, ComEd
- Sean Reynolds, Jones Lang LaSalle
- Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
- Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
- Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
- Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant
- Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 11 meeting was made by Mayor Hayes. 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. October Board Meeting Presentation – ComEd: Locating Data Centers

Ed Sitar and Darren Boundy from ComEd and Sean Reynolds from JLL gave a presentation on the challenges and issues related to locating and constructing data centers. They gave a historic perspective and noted the rapid expansion of data centers since 2020. Mr. Sitar and Mr. Reynolds discussed the ideal location characteristics of a data center which include access and proximity to large power, water and fiber optic resources. They reviewed the power requirements of data centers and the ComEd infrastructure within the NWMC service territory.

Mayor Johnson asked what ComEd is doing to secure enough electricity to handle current and future loads. Mr. Sitar responded that they are working with all partners and legislators to ensure that demand will be met and that reliability will be maintained for the entire grid. Mr. Sitar concluded the presentation by encouraging interested municipalities to contact ComEd Economic Development or External Affairs representatives to receive preliminary feedback on potential data center sites. Board members directed staff to forward the presentation to the membership after the meeting.

B. NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Mr. Fowler reported that there was still time to register vehicles and equipment for sale at the October 22 NWMC Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction. He thanked Deerfield, Evanston, Glenview, Lincolnwood and Palatine for signing up and said that vehicles and equipment could be listed for disposal on the day of the auction.

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. Veto Session

Mr. Bury reported that there are no vetoes to be addressed by the General Assembly and that the veto session may be truncated as a result. He said that Speaker Welch previously said several major issues, including transit funding/reform and pensions, were still in the discussion stages and were more likely to be addressed in the spring. He said staff will continue to monitor for movement on other issues, including crime free housing, DROP and firefighter paid family leave bills.

2. LGDF Strategy

Mr. Fowler reported on an August 14 meeting in Springfield held by the IML to discuss a new strategy for LGDF increases. He said that COG Presidents, executive directors and IML board members and staff attended. At the meeting, he said IML CEO Brad Cole outlined discussion he had with legislative leaders on the issue and proposed that IML be the sole negotiator on the issue. He said Mr. Cole suggested a target increase to 7.5% with a ramp up to that level subject to negotiations. After significant discussion, Mr. Fowler reported that IML President Mark Kupsy confirmed the consensus of the attendees to set 8% as the target and leave it to Mr. Cole to negotiate the ramp. He said the issue was discussed at the September IML Board meeting and the consensus of that body was to proceed with this strategy.

Mr. Fowler identified a number of questions and concerns regarding the strategy, including communications with mayors/COGs, how progress on negotiations will be communicated, the expected roles of the Mayors/COGs, makeup of the negotiating team and the status of the Invest in Communities Coalition, established years ago to work on this issue. He noted that the Legislative Committee has invited Mr. Cole to participate in the October 23 meeting to address these issues.

Mayor Johnson expressed concern with a ramp up to the LGDF target of longer than five years as well as how progress on the issue will be communicated. She noted the need to give clear direction of expectations if the IML is going to speak on behalf of all municipalities on this issue.

3. Pension Fairness Coalition Update

Mr. Fowler reported staff and lobbyists have been working with Serafin and Associates to further refine data and messaging on this issue in preparation for veto, lame duck and spring sessions of the General Assembly. He said that the Coalition Partners would meet soon to discuss these efforts and finalize message delivery.

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

1. FY2023-2024 Audit Draft

Mr. Lockerby reported that Seldon Fox completed a draft of the audit report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024 and noted that it was a clean audit with no issues raised.

Motion to approve the FY2023-2024 NWMC Audit was made by Mayor Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Patel and unanimously approved.

2. Budget Report and Purchase Journal

Motion to approve the budget report and purchase journals from May, June and July 2024 was made by Mayor Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Goczkowski and unanimously approved.

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

Senate Transportation Committee Transit Subject Matter Hearings

President Craig and the Board thanked President Darch for testifying on behalf of the Conference at the September 19 Senate Transportation Committee subject matter hearing and at the September 30 House Working Group on Transit meeting as well as her ongoing leadership on this issue. President Darch noted ongoing concerns with the proposed Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act, including regional representation, local control over development authority and the lack of a supermajority for major decisions. President Craig reported that a meeting was scheduled on October 21 between the COG presidents and the RTA and service board executive directors to discuss positions on how to strengthen the RTA.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler reminded the Board that there is still time to RSVP for the October 26 Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Gala at Wrigley Field.

Mr. Fowler reported that the Mayors Caucus Asylum Seeker Working Group has transitioned to an ad hoc group and thanked Mayor Johnson for representing the NWMC on the working group.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Mr. Fowler reported that the Conference will again host a Holiday Celebration in lieu of the December Board meeting. It will be held on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz in Niles. He said invitations will be sent later this week.

IX. Next Meeting

President Craig announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Patel. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hoefert and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.