

## **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  
South Barrington  
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, May 14, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference**

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

President Craig called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 Jim Tinaglia  
Barrington, President Mike Moran  
Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith  
Des Plaines, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski  
Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan  
Hanover Park, Mayor Rodney Craig  
Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering  
Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod  
Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson  
Lincolnwood, Manager Anne Marie Gaura  
Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer  
Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert  
Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek  
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin  
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen  
Prospect Heights, Administrator Joe Wade  
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo  
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly  
Skokie, Manager John Lockerby  
South Barrington, Mayor Paula McCombie  
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, NWMC Purchasing Director  
Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant  
Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 16, 2025**

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 16 meeting was made by Mayor Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

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

President Craig welcomed new members to the meeting, including Mayors McCombie, Moran and Tinaglia.

**A. FY2025-2026 NWMC Officer Nominations**

President Craig reported that the NWMC Nominating Committee and Executive Board recommended the following individuals to serve as NWMC officers for FY2025-2026:

President:	Donna Johnson Mayor, Village of Libertyville
Vice-President:	Eric Smith President, Village of Buffalo Grove
Secretary:	Paul Hoefert Mayor, Village of Mount Prospect
Treasurer:	Scott Anderson Manager, Village of Barrington

Motion to elect the FY2025-2026 NWMC officers was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

**B. NWMC Service Resolutions**

President Craig reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the following resolutions recognizing significant contributions to the NWMC by departing members:

RESOLUTION 2025-2 Arlington Heights Mayor Thomas Hayes  
RESOLUTION 2025-3 Barrington President Karen Darch  
RESOLUTION 2025-4 Morton Grove President Dan DiMaria  
RESOLUTION 2025-5 Northfield President Greg Lungmus  
RESOLUTION 2025-6 Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen

He said the resolutions would be presented at the June 11 Gala. Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rotering and unanimously approved.

**C. FY2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan – Q4 Update**

Mr. Fowler provided the fourth quarter highlights from the NWMC Work Plan, including: welcomed South Barrington as the 44th NWMC member; launched the Newly Elected Official Workshop; hosted the March Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Board meeting; provided weekly legislative updates and bills in committee emails; issued Action Alerts on transit and pension issues; leadership met with Speaker Welch on March 18; engaged Serafin/Mercury and Yellow Box for shared public relations campaign; continued work with the Pension Fairness Coalition; presented on pensions to the IGFOA; prepared analysis on housing, homeless bill of rights, crime free housing and transit legislation and the Governor’s proposed budget; informed members about federal transportation funding; monitored and kept members updated regarding transit legislation and related issues; attended the Route 14 Underpass groundbreaking in Barrington; approved the FY2025-2026 Budget; negotiated the lane marking contract extension to providing members the opportunity to lock in 2024 prices; scheduled the SPC Supplier Showcase; hosted the NWMC Legislative Days in Springfield in February; and, scheduled the Annual Gala.

**D. FY2025-2026 NWMC Work Plan**

Mr. Fowler reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the FY2025-2026 NWMC Work Plan. He said the plan includes seven priority areas, with 93 initiatives, many of which are outside of the day-to-day business of the organization. Mr. Fowler highlighted the key items, including: conducting the NWMC Strategic Plan update; engaging new and returning elected officials via the Regional Newly Elected Official Workshop, NWMC New Mayors Dinner and Introduction to the legislative process workshop; welcoming Policy Analyst Chris Staron back to full-time; improving legislative communication vehicles and building legislator relationships; administering the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition; maintaining the organization's leadership role and increasing collaboration with the regional COGs, MMC, IML; ensuring with the Finance Committee that the organization continues to be financially sound; myriad transportation planning and Suburban Purchasing Cooperative activities; and conducting the SPC Supplier Showcase and the Annual Gala. Mr. Fowler also offered to have staff attend local board and council meetings to discuss the work of the Conference.

Mayor Johnson moved approval of the recommendation. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved.

**E. IML Board Recruitment**

President Craig reported that the Illinois Municipal League is seeking applications from mayors and village presidents who wish to be considered for election to the IML Board of Directors. Mr. Fowler said the deadline to apply is Friday, May 16 and thanked Schaumburg Mayor Tom Dailly for applying. He said the Conference has forwarded a letter of support for Mayor Dailly's candidacy and asked other Mayors/Presidents interested in applying to contact staff should a letter of support be desired.

**F. NWMC Annual Gala Reminder**

President Craig reminded members that the Gala will be held on Wednesday, June 11 at the Chicago Marriott Northwest in Hoffman Estates. He said the reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. He asked that members please RSVP by Friday, May 30, to Marina Durso. Ms. Durso provided the attendance and sponsorship numbers to date.

**G. Newly Elected Officials Workshop**

Mr. Fowler reported that the NWMC, in collaboration with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and other regional councils of government, will host a workshop for newly elected officials on Saturday, June 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Hilton Doubletree in Lisle.

He thanked Highland Park Mayor Rotering and Manager Ghida Neukirch for co-presenting a session entitled Establishing a Sustaining Productive Relationships Between Elected Officials and Staff with Naperville Mayor Scott Wehrli and Manager Doug Krieger. He said there will also be a COG specific break out session to discuss the work of the Conference. He noted that invitations were emailed on April 11 and again this morning and asked members to recommend the event to newly elected mayors, alderpersons and council members. President Craig encouraged members to attend.

**H. SPC to Host July 31 Supplier Showcase**

Ms. Dayan reported that the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative Supplier Showcase will be held on Thursday, July 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Oakton College in Des Plaines. She reviewed details of the event and said that Sourcewell will conduct a lunch and learn session eligible for continuing education credits. She said invitations were sent to NWMC members last week and encouraged members to attend.

**I. Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction Recap**

Ms. Dayan reported that the April 22 auction was a success and thanked Deerfield, Lincolnshire, Lincolnwood and Skokie for participating. She noted that upcoming live NWMC Auctions are scheduled for July 22 and October 21 and reminded members that they can dispose of equipment at any time via America's Auto Auction online service.

**J. Authorization to Act During the Summer**

President Craig said that the Executive Board recommended that the membership approve a motion empowering the Executive Board to act on all issues requiring approval during the summer NWMC Board meeting recess which begins following the May 14 membership meeting.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Rotering. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hoefert 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 provided an update on upcoming deadlines, active bills and issues of concern ahead of the General Assembly's May 31 scheduled adjournment. He noted that the Crime Free Housing legislation (SB2264) received a new amendment that was heard in committee earlier in the afternoon. He said the amendment does not alleviate municipal concerns but was advanced out of committee and stands on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the Senate. He encouraged members to contact the senators in opposition as soon as possible.

Mr. Bury gave an update on development of the state budget and noted uncertainty as the May 31 deadline to approve a budget looms. He gave an update on regional transit legislation, noting that a bill has yet to be introduced. He also updated the Board on prevailing wage legislation for federal projects (HB1189), IDOT Municipal Portal bill (SB2129) and lift assistance legislation (SB2336).

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

Mr. Fowler reported that the Coalition has been meeting every 2 weeks and will now meet weekly through end of session. He said that lobbyists are hearing discussion about an omnibus pension bill and that there have been and are active discussions/negotiations on public safety pensions. He reiterated the Coalition's position that no changes are needed for police, fire, IMRF pensions and legislators should remove them from any proposals to fix the state systems.

Should negotiations commence, Mr. Fowler reported that the Coalition identified additional members to communicate/share intelligence thru end of session and, if required, to consult if negotiations/discussions commence. He thanked those who volunteered including Mayor Johnson, Reid Ottesen, Doug Krieger (Naperville), Mayor Phil Suess (Wheaton) and NWMC/DMMC staff and lobbyists.

Mr. Fowler said that President Craig's response to Senator Martwick's April 1 Crain's op ed was published and sent to all members. He reported the digital marketing campaign was launched last week, with ads currently running on X (Twitter), Rumble (Truth Social) and Meta (Facebook) by end of this week. The legislative districts targeted by the ads include Representative Yang Rohr and Senators Martwick, Harris, Holmes and Walker. He said that staff and consultants are meeting regularly to review data and consider adjustments.

Mr. Fowler said that an Action Alert was sent on May 1 asking members to contact legislators with the messages that municipal police/fire pensions comply with Safe Harbor; taxpayers are relying on us to protect them from rising pension costs; this is not the time to negotiate changes/enhancements. He said the Action Alert included two fact sheets (safe harbor, taxpayers fund pensions), a newsletter drop-in article and a link to Serafin Crisis Cast on pensions featuring Mr. Fowler and Doug Krieger. Finally, he noted that recipients of the marketing campaign are being taken to the Invest in Communities website where they can click to send a prepopulated letter to legislators. He asked members to stay tuned as this issue may evolve very quickly.

**B. Finance Committee – John Lockerby, Manager, Village of Skokie, Chair  
Budget Reports and Purchase Journals**

Mr. Lockerby reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Budget Report and Purchase Journal from March 2025.

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

**C. Transportation Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and  
Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair  
North Shore, Northwest Councils of Mayors Seek New Representatives**

Mr. Czarnota reported that the North Shore Council of Mayors and Northwest Council of Mayors are each seeking two mayors/village presidents to serve on the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Council of Mayors Executive Committee following the retirement of each Council's prior representatives. As that process is ongoing, he asked for volunteers to attend the June 3 Council of Mayors Executive Committee in Chicago and said staff will soon send a solicitation to eligible mayors in each council to fill the permanent positions.

**VII. Other Business**

Mayor Johnson thanked President Craig on behalf of the membership and staff for his leadership and dedicated service over the past year as NWMC President.

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

President Craig said that invitations for the NWMC New Mayors Dinner, scheduled for Wednesday, June 4 will go out next week.

Mr. Fowler reported on a meeting held with ComEd staff on April 24 to discuss changes to customer bills beginning in July. He said grid operator PJM is scheduled to pass through a capacity charge increase which will add \$12 per month to average customer bills. He said that ComEd's External Affairs Managers will review the issue at upcoming municipal annual report meetings.

**IX. Next Meeting**

President Craig noted that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

**X. Executive Session**

Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 to conduct the Executive Director's performance evaluation was made by Mayor Rotering. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved. The Board convened Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

The Board reconvened regular session at 7:10 p.m. Motion to approve the recommendation of the Executive Board was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved.

**XI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rotering and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.