

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
(847) 296-9200 • Fax (847) 296-9207
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

Donna Johnson
Libertyville

Vice-President
Eric Smith
Buffalo Grove

Secretary
Paul Hoefer
Mount Prospect

Treasurer
Scott Anderson
Barrington

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board**Minutes**

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:04 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

Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith

Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski

Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan

Glencoe, President Howard Roin

Hanover Park, President Rod Craig, Trustee Jenni Broccolino

Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering

Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod

Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake

Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson

Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefer

Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin

Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen

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

Winnetka, President Bob Dearborn, Manager Kristin Kazenas

Others in Attendance:

Pat Eaves-Heard, Nicor Gas

Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director

Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director

Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Manager for Transportation

Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant

Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

Chris Staron, NWMC Policy Director

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 8, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 8 meeting was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved.

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

A. NWMC Holiday Celebration

President Johnson reminded members to RSVP for the NWMC Holiday Celebration, scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 6:00 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz in Niles. She noted that forty-five attendees registered their attendance to date.

B. IMRF Executive Trustee Election

President Johnson reminded members to respond to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund election ballot for Executive Trustees. Mr. Fowler said Schaumburg Village Manager Brian Townsend is running uncontested for a five-year term and that Lake in the Hills Finance Director/Treasurer Peter Stefan is recommended for re-election to a three-year term of office. He said ballots were mailed to the authorized agent on file and are due back via mail by December 11.

C. NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction Recap

Mr. Fowler reported on the results of the October 21 NWMC Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction. He thanked Deerfield, Lake Bluff and Palatine along with other participating local governments for making the auction a success and said that forty-six units were sold totaling \$254,000. He reminded members to take advantage of America Auto Auction's online sales platform between live auction events.

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. Veto Session Recap

President Johnson reported that the Illinois General Assembly concluded its veto session early in the morning on Friday, October 31. Before adjourning, she said the House and Senate passed major transit reform legislation, SB2111. Additionally, she said Senate Bill 1937, which contains various enhancements to Tier 2 pensions for police, firefighters and the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), advanced out of the House Executive Committee.

Mr. Staron highlighted bills of interest to the membership and reviewed staff's detailed analysis of the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA) transit legislation. President Roin expressed concern with the parking requirements included in the legislation and requested that the Conference take action to address this issue. Mr. Fowler noted that the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference sent a letter to Governor Pritzker requesting an amendatory veto of the parking minimums included in the bill. President Craig expressed concerns around the zoning components of the legislation and urged members to review local ordinances to ensure that protections are in place. After further discussion, President Craig moved approval to direct staff to draft a letter to Governor Pritzker seeking changes to the legislation. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

Mr. Fowler provided an update on SB1937, which seeks to make changes to Tier 2 public pensions. He said the Conference executed the veto session strategy with seven weeks of pension messaging sent to COGs, legislators as well as targeted digital marketing strategy thru Yellow Box. He thanked members who responded to the Action Alert and filed slips on SB1937. He reported that he testified on the bill at the October 29 House Executive Committee hearing along with the Better Government Association and the Civic Committee. He said that the committee advanced the bill to the floor with a commitment to hold it on second reading. He cautioned that final action could occur as soon as January. With that backdrop, he said staff met with the staff of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference to draft a strategy to engage the regional councils of government prior to, and during, the spring session. Part of the strategy, he reported, will include meetings with legislators and emphasized that the participation of member elected

officials in this effort will be crucial. Mr. Staron concluded by reporting on Senate Bill 25, the energy omnibus bill, and Senate Bill 1911, which decouples Illinois from certain provisions of the federal budget bill.

2. 2026 Legislative Program Development

Mr. Staron reported on development of potential legislative priorities for inclusion in the 2026 NWMC Legislative Program. He thanked the eighteen members who responded to the legislative issues survey and said that pensions and local revenues topped the responses. He said the committee will review the survey and recommend issues for consideration by the Board in January.

3. Spring 2026 General Assembly Calendar

Given the spring calendar of the General Assembly, President Johnson reported that staff is targeting a joint legislative dinner with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference on January 28 in Schaumburg. She said staff will also recommend to the Legislative Committee to conduct NWMC Legislative Days on February 17-19, noting that the Governor's Budget Address will be held on February 18.

B. Finance Committee – Scott Anderson, Manager, Village of Barrington, Chair

1. 2024-2025 Federal 990 Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax

President Johnson reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the 990 Form - Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax and the AG990-IL form. Mr. Anderson noted that there were no significant variances from last year's filings and no concerns were raised by either the Finance Committee or Executive Board.

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

2. Budget Report and Purchase Journal

Mr. Anderson reviewed the budget report and purchase journals for August and September. He said there were no unexpected revenues or expenses and reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval.

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

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

Surface Transportation Program Call for Projects Open Now Through December

Mr. Larson reported that the Northwest and North Shore Councils of Mayors are accepting applications for the 2027-2031 Surface Transportation-Local (STP-L) Call for Projects. He said the North Shore Council call will be open until December 19 and December 30 for the Northwest Council. He noted staff will hold office hours for members of the councils to discuss projects and application processes.

VII. Other Business

No report.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

President Johnson reported that the Illinois Commission on Diversity & Human Relations will hold their 56th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Dinner on Saturday, January 17 at the Cotillion in Palatine. She encouraged members to attend.

Mr. Fowler thanked Mayor Rotering for her successful year as Chair of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. President Johnson expressed her gratitude on behalf of the organization and thanked her for having Caucus meetings throughout the region.

IX. Next Meeting

President Johnson reminded members of the December 10 NWMC Holiday Celebration and announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC office and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor McLeod moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.