

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, March 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Office and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Craig called the meeting to order at 6:01 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, Manager Scott Anderson
Buffalo Grove, Manager Dane Bragg
Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski
Elk Grove Village, Village Manager Matt Roan
Hanover Park, Mayor Rodney Craig
Hoffman Estates, Manager Eric Palm
Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake
Lake Zurich, Manager Ray Keller
Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer
Niles, Trustee John Jekot
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Park Ridge, Mayor Marty Maloney
Prospect Heights, Administrator Joe Wade
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
Streamwood, Assistant Manager Lisa Scheiner
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis

Others in Attendance:

Nancy Firfer, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Pat Eaves-Heard, Nicor
Albert Stefan, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
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 – February 12, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 15 meeting was made by Mayor Hayes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

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

A. Membership Request – Village of South Barrington

Mr. Fowler reported that staff was contacted by the Village of South Barrington seeking membership in the Conference. He noted that South Barrington was a member from 1963-1972 and 1998 to 2001. He said the Executive Board recommended approval of the membership petition; however, per the NWMC Bylaws, final action would occur at the April 16 NWMC Board meeting.

B. FY2025-2026 NWMC Officer Nominations

Mr. Fowler reported that the nomination form was sent to the organization's Chief Elected Officials and is due back to him by Wednesday, March 19. He said he has received four responses to date and will send a final reminder email after the meeting.

C. NWMC Spring Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Mr. Fowler reported that the next auction would be held on Tuesday, April 22 at America's Auto Auction (AAA) in Crestwood. He thanked Evanston, Lake Bluff, Lincolnshire, Lincolnwood, Palatine and Skokie for registering vehicles to be sold.

D. NWMC Annual Gala

Mr. Fowler reported that save-the-date postcards have been sent for the Northwest Municipal Conference Annual Gala, scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, at the Chicago Marriott Northwest in Hoffman Estates. As this is the organization's only fundraising event, he asked members to forward potential sponsors and contact information to Marina Durso.

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 / FY2026 State Budget Proposal

Mr. Bury reported on the bills in committee emails sent by staff and reviewed upcoming committee deadlines in the House in Senate. He said the session has been extremely busy, with hundreds of active and shell bills posted for committee hearings. He said that over one hundred bills were included in the emails sent to members this week and thanked those who filed witness slips and/or contacted legislators. Mr. Bury noted that Speaker Welch created new working groups on pensions and property tax relief. He listed the legislators on the committees who represent NWMC members and discussed the issues expected to come before them.

Mr. Bury reviewed Governor Pritzker's proposed budget and changes to the estimated revenue figures since the budget was unveiled. He said the budget continues to take funds from the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax but does not appear to cut the Local Government Distributive Fund. He noted significant expense items including the mass transit deficit, which is not included in the budget. Mayor Dailly asked about the prospects of the accessory dwelling unit legislation moving forward. Mr. Bury replied that the bill is moving through the process and staff is closely monitoring.

2. 2025 NWMC Legislative Days

Mr. Bury thanked the sixteen members who attended the Legislative Days and reviewed meetings with key legislators, including House and Senate leadership. President Craig stated his preference for the timing of the event.

3. NWMC Legislative Positions

Mr. Bury reported that the Executive Board and Legislative Committee recommended positions and actions for priority legislation as outlined in the attachment.

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

4. 2025 NWMC Legislative Program Presentation

Mr. Fowler reported that, despite multiple efforts, legislator responses to the proposed NWMC Legislative Program Presentation dates were very low. He said that the Executive Board and Legislative Committee recommended that, due to timing, the Conference not host an online presentation this year and plan for an in-person legislative program presentation in 2026.

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

5. Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities (PFIC) Coalition Update

Mr. Fowler reported that the PFIC Partners met on March 4 to review pending legislation, public relations strategies and messaging for the spring session. He said the partners reviewed the digital messaging campaign proposal that the NWMC Board approved on February 12 and agreed to send a solicitation to COGs and municipalities to defray costs. He said the pension section of the Invest in Communities website is live and contains the taxpayer and safe harbor messaging developed by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference to distribute to legislators. Finally, he said the Coalition Partners agreed to meet every two weeks for the remainder of session.

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

1. Budget Reports and Purchase Journals

Mr. Bury reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the January 2025 Budget Report and Purchase Journal.

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

2. NWMC EAP Contract Extension

Mr. Fowler reported that the NWMC Employee Assistance Program (EAP) vendor TELUS Health proposed significant cost increases over the current contract. Due to the timing of the contract renewal, he said the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended the following: approval of a one-year contract extension, holding the participant cost to the current rate and rebidding the program in fall 2025. Mr. Fowler thanked Ms. Dayan for negotiating the pricing downward to a more reasonable increase.

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

C. Transportation Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair
CMAP Releases Memorandum on Federal Activities

Mr. Czarnota reported on the CMAP memorandum updating partners on key federal developments impacting transportation funding, grant disbursements, regulatory changes and project approvals. He said staff will continue to monitor for any impacts on council of mayors or other local projects and inform the membership as appropriate. Mr. Palm asked about potential impacts on EECBG funding. Mr. Czarnota said he would investigate it and respond back to Mr. Palm.

President Craig reported on a tour hosted by Metra with members of the Senate Transportation Committee.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler thanked Mr. Sabo for forwarding an article on the potential elimination of the tax exemption for municipal bonds and said staff will investigate. Mr. Sabo said that IML has been monitoring this issue and noted that this would be a detriment to any municipality looking to use this financing mechanism for projects.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Ms. Eaves-Heard requested that members listen in on ICC events regarding proposed bans on natural gas. She also discussed legislation pending in Springfield, including energy stretch codes, and said that she would forward information to staff for dissemination to the membership.

IX. Next Meeting

President Craig announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference. He noted that, due to April 2 IML Lobby Day, the NWMC Executive Board and Board meetings are pushed back one week.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Sabo moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Maloney and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Eric Smith, NWMC Secretary
and President, Village of Buffalo Grove