

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
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

NWMC Office and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Craig called the meeting to order at 6:05 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
 Bannockburn, Administrator Stephanie Hannon
 Barrington, President Karen Darch
 Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
 Elk Grove Village, Village Manager Matt Roan
 Hanover Park, Mayor Rod Craig
 Highland Park, Manager Ghida Neukirch
 Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
 Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake
 Lake Zurich, Manager Ray Keller
 Lincolnwood, Mayor Jesal Patel
 Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer
 Mount Prospect, Manager Mike Cassady
 Niles, Trustee John Jekot
 Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
 Park Ridge, Manager Joe Gilmore
 Prospect Heights, Administrator Joe Wade
 Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
 Skokie, Manager John Lockerby
 Streamwood, Mayor Billie Roth, Manager Sharon Caddigan
 Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis

Others in Attendance:

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 Regular and Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2024

Motion to approve the regular and executive session minutes of the June 12 meeting was made by Mayor Dailly. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved.

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

A. Consideration of Local Grocery Tax

Mr. Bury said that staff surveyed the membership regarding potential consideration of enacting local grocery taxes. He reviewed the results and said that the Managers Committee and the councils of government had discussed potential coordination of efforts. He also referred members to the IML model ordinance and information on their website for additional guidance.

B. NWMC Strategic Plan Preparations

Mr. Fowler reported that he and Mr. Bury met with members of Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies to solicit a proposal for the strategic planning process. He said staff reviewed and commented on the proposal and received a revised version earlier in the day. He said components of the plan include a membership survey, targeted focus group discussions and a strategic planning workshop. Pending agreement, Mr. Fowler said the process would begin in late fall, with issuance of final report in Spring 2025.

C. FY 2023-2024 NWMC Annual Report

Mr. Fowler presented the FY 2023-2024 Annual Report to the Board. He noted the significant accomplishments for the year, including: welcoming Brian Larson to staff; reactivation of the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition; work on LGDF through the Invest in Communities Coalition; protecting tax increment financing (TIF); advocacy on the grocery tax issue; hosting the SPC Supplier Showcase; analysis of the Plan of Action for Regional Transit and Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act legislation; and, passing the FY24-25 NWMC budget without a due increase for the 11th straight year. Mr. Fowler thanked the membership and especially the NWMC staff for another successful year.

D. FY 2024-2025 NWMC Work Plan – Q1 Update

Mr. Fowler reported progress on the work plan during the first quarter, including: issuing the first Suburban Purchasing Cooperative (SPC) Newsletter; beginning the strategic planning process; conducting sub-regional mayors meetings in Grayslake, Glencoe and Lincolnwood; keeping members updated during the close of the spring legislative session; analysis of the Metropolitan Mobility Authority legislation and attendance at the Senate Transportation Committee hearings; and, conducting the SPC showcase in July.

E. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Committee Appointments

Mr. Fowler reported that, traditionally, the Conference has appointed the organization's Past President to serve as the delegate with the current President serving as the alternate delegate to the Mayors Caucus. However, he noted that former NWMC President Nancy Rotering is currently the Second Vice President of the Caucus and is expected to become Caucus chair. Therefore, he reported that the Executive Board recommended the appointment of Mayor Rotering as the NWMC delegate and Schaumburg Village President Tom Dailly as the alternate delegate to the MMC.

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

F. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Annual Gala

Mr. Fowler reported that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus will host its Annual Gala on Saturday, October 26 at Wrigley Field and encouraged members to RSVP.

G. October 9 Oakton College Open House and NWMC Board Meeting Location/Time Change

President Craig reported that Oakton College is hosting an Open House for legislators and municipal elected and appointed officials prior to the NWMC Board meeting on October 9. Mr. Fowler requested that members RSVP to him or Oakton College Director of Communications and External

Relations Steve Butera. President Craig noted that the NWMC Board meeting will therefore be held in person at Oakton College and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

H. ComEd Data Center Location Presentation

Mr. Fowler reported that ComEd representatives will present to the Conference membership at the October 9 NWMC Board meeting on issues related to locating and constructing data centers. President Dailly noted questions about the ability of the grid to handle current and future electric needs.

I. FY 2024-2025 NWMC Board Meeting Dates

President Craig reviewed the membership meeting schedule for FY 2024-2025.

J. FY 2024-2025 NWMC Committee Assignments

President Craig reported that the Executive Board recommended approval of the FY 2024-2025 NWMC Committee Assignment list. Mr. Fowler reported that 109 individuals have volunteered to serve on the organization's six main committees with nearly 400 serving on all of the committees managed by the Conference. He thanked the committee chairs and everyone for serving.

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

K. NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Mr. Fowler reported that the fall NWMC Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22. He requested that members participate and noted that a portion of the proceeds help support the operations of the Conference.

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 the General Assembly will convene for the fall veto session from Tuesday, November 12 to Thursday, November 14 and Tuesday, November 19 to Thursday, November 21. He said that, while there are no vetoes for the legislature to consider, other issues may be considered during veto session or more likely during a lame duck session in January. Mr. Bury outlined legislation that may be considered including the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) for firefighters, which passed the House and is pending in the Senate. Other pending issues include Crime Free Housing, firefighter paid leave, and transit consolidation legislation. President Dailly reported that he recently met with Schaumburg area legislators who indicated that they didn't foresee an active veto session.

2. LGDF Strategy

President Craig reported that on August 14, the Illinois Municipal League convened a meeting to determine a statewide approach to legislative advocacy in support of an increase to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). He said the consensus of the attendees was to pursue an 8% LGDF target in the 2025 spring session.

Mr. Fowler gave an overview of the meeting, which included the Presidents and Executive Directors of Councils of Government from throughout the state. He also reviewed the work on this issue over recent years through the Invest in Communities coalition. He said that, knowing likelihood of getting to 10% was remote, the purpose of the meeting was to look at a different strategy. Mr. Fowler reported IML CEO Brad Cole suggested a target of 7.5% with the ramp to achieve that number subject to negotiations. Mr. Fowler said the consensus of the group was to set 8% as the target with the ramp subject to negotiations. The other portion of the strategy he said was for IML to be the sole negotiator on the issue. As such, he said Mr. Cole told the attendees that there can be "no splintering" of the COGs and their contract lobbyists. Mr. Fowler said that this new approach raises questions including how progress on discussions/negotiations will be communicated, what the role of the Mayors and the COGs will be, the status of the Invest

in Communities Coalition, for example. He said that communication will be essential so that no entity or person unwittingly impacts the effort.

Mayor Patel asked about past efforts to get to the 10% level. Mr. Fowler reviewed legislation previously proposed by Representative Anthony DeLuca that would achieve the 10% level over a number of years. Mayor Patel suggested that, if the goal is to get to 10%, we should ask for that with 8% being the secondary target. President Smith said his legislators suggested differing strategies and stressed the need to keep asking for the LGDF increase. He asked if the Legislative Committee would be discussing the strategy. Mr. Fowler said that the committee would and noted that the IML Board would also discuss at their September Board meeting.

3. Pension Fairness Coalition Update

Mr. Fowler reported that the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition partners entered into an agreement with Serafin and Associates for public relations consulting through the end of the year. He said COG staff and lobbyists met with Serafin to further refine the data and messaging. He said the Coalition Partners would meet later in the month in preparation for veto/lame duck session.

B. Transportation Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and Rodney Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair Senate Transportation Committee Hearings Regarding the Metropolitan Mobility Authority Act

Mr. Fowler reported that the Senate Transportation Committee, Chaired by Senator Ram Villivalam, had hosted four subject matter hearings to date throughout the Chicago area on potential reforms to public transit. He said the hearings have been organized around themes with the rescheduled hearing for Lake County on September 19 would focus on how “transit mitigates climate impact”. He said there was some confusion when northern Cook County representatives would be invited to testify.

Mr. Fowler said that one additional Senate committee hearing is scheduled for October 16 in Springfield and would focus on funding. In addition, he said the House recently announced the formation of a mass transit working group and it is unknown if this working group will also conduct similar hearings. Finally, Mr. Fowler noted that he was working with the other COGs to schedule a meeting with the RTA and service board directors.

VII. Other Business

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Mr. Fowler congratulated new Kenilworth Village Manager Kathy Thake and welcomed her to the Board meetings.

Ms. Pavlicek announced that former Northbrook Mayor and NWMC President Mark Damisch had passed away and said services would be held the following day.

IX. Next Meeting

President Craig announced that the next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 7:00 p.m. at Oakton College, Rooms 1604-1606, in Des Plaines and noted that the meeting would be in person.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Patel. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.