

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 Hoefert
Mount Prospect

Treasurer
Scott Anderson
Barrington

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board

Minutes

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

6:00 p.m.

NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
Des Plaines, Manager Dorothy Wisniewski
Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan
Evanston, Manager Luke Stowe
Highland Park, Manager Ghida Neukirch
Hoffman Estates, Manager Eric Palm
Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake
Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson
Morton Grove, Administrator Chuck Meyer
Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
Niles, Trustee Ajay Mody
Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Prospect Heights, Administrator Peter Falcone
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
Schaumburg, Manager Brian Townsend
Skokie, Mayor Ann Tennes
South Barrington, Mayor Paula McCombie
Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis
Wilmette, President Senta Plunkett
Winnetka, Manager Kristin Kazenas

Others in Attendance:

Cory Poris Plasch, CP2 Consulting
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

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 10 meeting was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved.

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

A. NWMC Strategic Plan Rollout

President Johnson introduced NWMC Strategic Plan consultant Cory Poris Plasch from CP2 Consulting to discuss the strategic plan process, opportunities for member input and project timeline. Ms. Poris Plasch said that the process will include a member survey, interviews and a full day retreat. She said that staff is working on an environmental scan and organizational profile, which will inform the SWOT analysis and retreat. She reviewed the timeline of deliverables and quarterly check-ins after completion of the plan.

President Johnson asked for more detail on the quarterly check-ins. Ms. Poris Plasch noted that she would work with staff and key leaders as desired. President Johnson requested that staff and Ms. Poris Plasch include as many members as possible to help determine the direction for the entire organization and ensure that input is received along the way. Ms. Poris Plasch commented that once the goals, outcomes and performance targets are decided, there will be additional engagement via a feedback loop with the membership and staff.

B. NWMC Fall Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction

Mr. Fowler reported that the final live NWMC Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction of the year is scheduled for October 21 at America's Auto Auction in Crestwood. He thanked Deerfield, Lincolnshire and Palatine along with six other non-member entities for participating and noted that vehicles and equipment can be listed for sale right up to the morning of the auction day.

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. Fall Veto Session

President Johnson noted the dates of the upcoming veto session and asked staff to preview the items expected to be considered. Mr. Staron reported that staff was monitoring the energy omnibus legislation and focusing on protection of municipal regulatory authority and siting of energy storage facilities. Regarding transit legislation, he said revenue remains the sticking point and noted that the RTA issued a downward revision of the fiscal cliff to just over \$200 million. In response to President Johnson's question, Mr. Staron replied that there was no new information regarding the land use and zoning provisions of the transit legislation.

Mr. Staron reported that there could be legislation introduced in response to recent federal actions, which may impact municipal operations. He said it is unlikely the state will need to adjust its budget at this point in response to the federal budget bill and also noted that it does not appear likely that the General Assembly will take up legislative changes to public pensions.

2. Pension Strategy and Legislator Outreach Plan Update

Mr. Fowler reviewed the weekly messages created by staff, and thanked Mr. Staron for developing and executing the outreach plan. He said that staff continues to release the weekly posts to members and legislators as well as posting them on Facebook. He requested that members like and share the posts or otherwise amplify the messages to legislators and residents. He reviewed the status and positive results from the targeted digital ads through Yellow Box and noted that the experience will help inform efforts should this issue carry over to the spring session of the General Assembly. He thanked members who have completed and shared actuarial studies in response to Senate Bill 1937, the results of which have proven that any changes to municipal Tier 2 pensions will be extremely costly.

3. NWMC Legislative Program Event

President Johnson reported on past efforts and events to roll out the NWMC Legislative Program. She highlighted discussions held with the Legislative Committee and Executive Board, who recommended hosting an in-person Legislative Dinner in January 2026. She further said that discussions have been held with the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference on the potential of conducting a joint legislative event.

Ms. Kazenas stated her support for an in-person, joint event and moved approval to move forward. Mayor Tennes seconded the motion. President Smith asked if there was any downside to having a joint event. Mr. Fowler and staff noted that, since the organizations generally share the same legislative priorities, combining the preferred formats of each organization could pose a challenge, but it can be addressed. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

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

1. FY2024-2025 Audit Draft

Mr. Bury reviewed the audit report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025. He said the audit was very positive and noted that the organization was in a strong financial position. President Johnson reported the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommend acceptance of the audit.

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

2. Budget Report and Purchase Journal

Mr. Bury reviewed the budget report and purchase journals for May, June and July. 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 President Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Tennes 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

E-Mobility Devices Legislation Working Group

President Johnson reported that, as a follow-up to the NWMC e-Mobility Devices Summit on September 22, the Executive Board and Transportation Committee recommended formation of a working group to focus on legislative recommendations that would provide needed clarity in e-mobility regulations. Mr. Fowler thanked the summit panelists and said the intent of the working group proposal was to address the patchwork of regulations which has led to confusion by all involved. He said the goal would be to craft a legislative proposal to address the myriad regulations and provide uniform rules and regulations on a statewide basis.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by Ms. Neukirch and unanimously approved.

VII. Other Business

No report.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

Mr. Fowler congratulated and welcomed new Winnetka Village Manager Kristin Kazenas to the Conference and thanked her for attending the Board meeting in person.

IX. Next Meeting

President Johnson announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor Hoefert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by President Smith and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.