

**NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL
CONFERENCE**



***Celebrating 50 Years of
Excellence in Local Government Service***

**NWMC Board
Minutes**

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

7:00 p.m.

**Sheraton Chicago Northwest
3400 W. Euclid Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL**

MEMBERS
Antioch
Arlington Heights
Barrington
Bartlett
Buffalo Grove
Carpentersville
Cary
Crystal Lake
Deerfield
Des Plaines
Elk Grove Twp.
Elk Grove Village
Evanston
Fox River Grove
Glencoe
Glenview
Golf*
Grayslake
Hanover Park
Harwood Heights
Hawthorn Woods
Highland Park
Hoffman Estates
Inverness
Kenilworth
Lake Barrington
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lincolnwood
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
New Trier Twp.
Niles
Northbrook
Northfield
Northfield Twp.
Palatine
Park Ridge
Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
Roselle
Schaumburg
Skokie
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

President
Anthony Arredia
Des Plaines

Vice-President
Karen Darch
Barrington

Secretary
Jill Brickman
Northfield Township

Treasurer
James H. Norris
Hoffman Estates

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

*Affiliate Member

I. Call to Order

President Arredia called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Arredia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Diane Kopterski called the roll.

Members Present

Arlington Heights, Mayor Arlene J. Mulder
Barrington, President Karen Darch
Bartlett, President Cathy Melchert
Buffalo Grove, President Elliott Hartstein
Carpentersville, Manager Craig Anderson
Crystal Lake, Manager Gary Mayerhofer
Des Plaines, Mayor Tony Arredia
Elk Grove Township, Trustee Lou Petrone
Elk Grove Village, Asst. Manager Beth Jacobsen
Hoffman Estates, President Bill McLeod
Lincolnwood, Mayor Jerry Turry
Morton Grove, President Rick Krier
Mount Prospect, President Irvana Wilks
Niles, Trustee Louella Preston
Palatine, Mayor Rita Mullins
Park Ridge, Manager Tim Schuenke
Prospect Heights, Administrator Pam Arrigoni
Rolling Meadows, Asst. Manager Barry Krumstok
Roselle, Administrator Jeff O'Dell
Schaumburg, President Al Larson
Skokie, Asst. Manager John Lockerby
Winnetka, Trustee Sandra Berger

Members Absent

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Antioch | Kenilworth |
| Cary | Lake Barrington |
| Deerfield | Lake Forest |
| Evanston | Lake Zurich |
| Fox River Grove | Libertyville |
| Glencoe | Lincolnshire |
| Glenview | New Trier Township |
| Golf | Northbrook |
| Grayslake | Northfield |
| Hanover Park | Northfield Township |
| Harwood Heights | Streamwood |
| Hawthorn Woods | Vernon Hills |
| Highland Park | Wheeling |
| Inverness | Wilmette |

Others in Attendance

Myles Berman, Canadian National Railroad
Larry Bury, NWMC Policy Analyst
Kristi DeLaurentiis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
Diane Kopterski, NWMC Executive Secretary
Jim Kvederas, Canadian National Railroad
Laurie Roche, Cook County Sheriff's Office
Karen Romano, Metro Strategies
Chris Staron, NWMC Program Associate
Jim Tansor, Nicor Gas
Christine Tromp, Elk Grove Village
Mike Walczak, NWMC Program Manager
Larry Widmer, NWMC Deputy Director
Lerisa Wilkins, NWMC Program Associate

- IV. Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2008**
Motion to approve the January 9, 2008 Meeting Minutes was made by President Larson. It was seconded by Mayor Mullins and approved by membership.
- V. President's Report – Anthony Arredia, NWMC President and Mayor, City of Des Plaines**
- A. February Board Meeting Presentation – CN Purchase of the EJ&E**
President Arredia introduced Canadian National Senior Manager for U.S. Public and Government Affairs Jim Kvederas who discussed CN's proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railroad Company and the impact on the NWMC area. Mr. Kvederas updated members on the status of the Surface Transportation Board's public meetings on the CN sale. He stated that there is a lot of public concern regarding the impact of the

acquisition on various communities. The comments will be compiled by the STB and a draft environmental impact statement will be prepared and reviewed. Mr. Kvederas stated that CN is holding individual community meetings to uncover local concerns and hopes to have them completed by the end of February. Mr. Kvederas also addressed the effect the sale would have on other train route carriers and in particular the STAR Line.

Mr. Kvederas then answered questions from the membership regarding CN and federal funding for local improvements, the establishment of quiet zones and the effect of increased traffic on the Wisconsin Central and Metra North Central lines.

B. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus 2008 Legislative Priorities

President Arredia stated that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Board approved their list of legislative priorities and the councils of government were asked to ratify the list of priorities. President Arredia stated that the Caucus has left intact the proposal regarding the education funding and accountability reform that was addressed by the NWMC Conference Board in a special meeting on May 23, 2007. At that time the Conference made significant changes to the Caucus proposal as attached to the end of the MMC document. The Executive Board recommended approval of the MMC Legislative Priorities with the caveat that the Conference reiterate its proposal regarding educational funding reform and that the Caucus further define the disbursement of federal dollars under the CREATE plan.

Due to the fact that the Caucus proposal includes dollar amounts for projected taxes and that some communities are not comfortable with that position, President Hartstein moved to divide the question, vote on the MMC legislative priorities minus the education reform proposal and then vote on the education portion separately. The motion was seconded by President Wilks and approved by membership.

Mayor Mulder made a motion that the Conference re-state its previously adopted position on education funding reform. It was seconded by President McLeod and approved by membership. Barrington, Buffalo Grove and Winnetka abstained.

Motion was made by President Hartstein to approve the MMC 2008 Legislative Priorities without the education proposal. It was seconded by Mayor Turry and approved by membership.

C. New Appointment to the Metra Board of Directors

Mr. Fowler stated that one of the elements of the mass transit funding bill calls for creation of a new Metra board seat representing the townships in north and northwest Cook County (Northfield, New Trier, Maine, Niles, Evanston, Leyden, Norwood Park, River Forest, and Oak Park). Staff will forward a letter to NWMC members in those townships

seeking candidates for the position. Any mayors in the Conference who would like to be considered for this Metra board seat are asked to contact staff so a recommendation can be made for the March meeting.

D. Resolution Honoring Park Ridge City Manager Tim Schuenke

President Arredia stated that the Executive Board recommended approval of a resolution honoring Park Ridge City Manager Tim Schuenke, who is retiring on February 29.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Mullins. It was seconded by President Larson and approved by membership.

President Arredia then presented the resolution to Mr. Schuenke who expressed his appreciation to membership for the opportunity to work with the Conference.

E. NWMC 50th Anniversary Planning Committee Update

Mr. Fowler stated that the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee met and changed the date of the NWMC Annual Banquet at Café La Cave to Friday, June 6, 2008. The move to June 6 provides for an extended celebration of the Conference's 50th Anniversary and considers the travel plans of former NWMC presidents and staff who will be invited to attend.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Karen Darch, President, Village of Barrington, Co-Chair and Rick Krier, Mayor, Village of Morton Grove, Co-Chair

1. Legislative Brunch

President Darch thanked members for their participation in the Legislative Brunch on February 9 at the Radisson in Northbrook. There were many legislators in attendance. The primary focus of discussion was on preserving the long-term solvency public safety pensions; defining “catastrophic injury” in PSEBA, and the proposed STAR Line.

2. Legislative Day in Springfield

President Darch stated that the Executive Board recommended that the Conference conduct its Legislative Day in conjunction with the IML Lobby Day on April 8 and 9. Mr. Bury stated that there will be an NWMC Briefing on Tuesday afternoon followed by dinner that evening with legislators. Information will be sent to membership.

B. Transportation Committee – Bill McLeod, President, Village of Hoffman Estates Co-Chair and Kerry Cummings, President, Village of Glenview, Co-Chair

CN's Proposed Acquisition of the EJ&E

President McLeod stated that NWMC staff prepared comments in response to the draft Scope of Study for the Environmental Impact Study required by the Surface Transportation Board. The comments focus on the purchase's impact on the STAR Line and other Metra services, the need for mitigation efforts and the impact on quiet zones. He reported that the Transportation Committee and Executive Board recommended approval of the comments.

Motion to approve the comments was made by President Larson. It was seconded by President Krier and approved by membership.

C. Attorney's Committee Terry Hoffman Liston, Village of Morton Grove, Chair

1. *Cook County Deadly Weapons Dealer Control Ordinance Amendment*

Mr. Bury reported that the Attorneys Committee reviewed the proposed amendment to the Cook County Deadly Weapons Dealer Control Ordinance which would place additional regulations on gun shops in Cook County. The concern the committee addressed is that it would violate the Illinois constitution dealing with home rule powers as the Cook County ordinance would supersede any local municipal home rule ordinances that are less restrictive. The committee determined that the Illinois Constitution is clear in that when a conflict exists between municipal and county home rule power, municipal home rule power takes precedent. The concern is that the county is trying to chip away at municipal home rule authority. The Board directed staff to draft a letter to the Cook County Commissioners opposing the preemption of home rule powers by the county.

2. *Illinois Supreme Court Mundelein v. Wisconsin Central Railroad Decision*

Mr. Bury stated the Attorneys Committee reviewed the opinion filed in the Mundelein v. Wisconsin Central Railroad case, wherein the Illinois Supreme Court judged that the municipal ordinance imposing a fine to a railroad operator for blocking an at-grade railroad crossing for more than ten minutes is preempted by the Federal Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994. Several NWMC members impose such fines and the Attorneys Committee and Executive Board recommended drafting a letter to the Illinois congressional delegation seeking their assistance to remedy the issue.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Mulder. It was seconded by Mayor Mullins and approved by membership.

VII. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Mayor Turry to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Assistant Manager Krumstok and approved by membership. The following items were approved on the Consent Agenda:

- Monthly Budget Report and Warrant List for December 2007

VIII. Other Business

Trustee Preston suggested recording the comments of the legislators from the Legislative Brunch for future use by the Legislative Committee.

President Hartstein thanked Presidents Darch, McLeod and Krier for their presentations at the Legislative Brunch.

IX. For the Good of the Order

Mayor Mullins stated that Palatine is hosting a seminar on March 25 and 27 for local government officials to discuss strategic and executive level issues related to disaster preparedness and she urged members to sign up.

Mr. Krumstok thanked the Conference for the PSEBA information.

X. Next Meeting

President Arredia stated that the next monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m., at the Radisson Hotel, Northbrook.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Mullins. It was seconded by Mayor Mulder and approved by membership. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.