

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

President
Gerald Turry
Lincolnwood

Vice-President
Kerry Cummings
Glenview

Secretary
Jill Brickman
Northfield Township

Treasurer
Robert Kiely
Lake Forest

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

*Affiliate Member

NWMC BOARD MINUTES
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Hotel
2875 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Northbrook, IL

I. Call to Order

President Turry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Turry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Diane Kopterski called the roll.

Members Present

Arlington Heights, Manager Bill Dixon
Barrington, President Karen Darch
Buffalo Grove, President Elliott Hartstein
Carpentersville, Manager Craig Anderson
Cary, Mayor Tom Kierna, Administrator Cam Davis
Deerfield, Manager Kent Street
Des Plaines, Mayor Marty Moylan
Elk Grove Village, Trustee James Petri
Evanston, Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl
Fox River Grove, Trustee Duane Figurski
Glencoe, President Scott Feldman
Glenview, President Kerry Cummings, Manager Todd Hileman
Hanover Park, Trustee William Cannon
Highland Park, Mayor Michael Belsky, Trustee Steve Mandel
Hoffman Estates, President Bill McLeod
Lake Forest, Manager Bob Kiely
Lincolnwood, Mayor Jerry Turry
Morton Grove, Administrator Joe Wade, Trustee Larry Gomberg
Mount Prospect, Mayor Irvana Wilks
Niles, Trustee Louella Preston, Manager George Van Geem
Northbrook, President Sandy Frum
Northfield, President Fred Gougler
Park Ridge, Alderman Joseph Sweeney
Prospect Heights, Mayor Dolly Vole, Administrator Pam Arrigoni
Rolling Meadows, Mayor Ken Nelson, Manager Sarah Phillips
Roselle, Administrator Jeff O'Dell

Skokie, Trustee Randall Roberts
Streamwood, Manager Gary O'Rourke
Wheeling, President Judy Abruscato
Wilmette, President Chris Canning
Winnetka, President Jessica Tucker, Trustee Gene Greable,
Manager Doug Williams

Members Absent

Antioch	Lake Barrington
Bartlett	Lake Zurich
Crystal Lake	Libertyville
Golf	Lincolnshire
Grayslake	Northfield Township
Hawthorn Woods	Palatine
Inverness	Schaumburg
Kenilworth	Vernon Hills

Others in Attendance

Janet Bright, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Larry Bury, NWMC Policy Analyst
Kristi DeLaurentiis, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)
Marina Durso, NWMC Program Associate
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
Adam Gross, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI)
Don Klaff, Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI)
Diane Kopterski, NWMC Executive Secretary
Chris Staron, NWMC Program Associate
Mike Walczak, NWMC Program Manager
Mary Wells, Metro Strategies
Larry Widmer, NWMC Deputy Director

IV. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2009

Motion to approve the May 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes was made by President Hartstein.
It was seconded by Trustee Preston and approved.

V. President's Report – Jerry Turry, NWMC President and Mayor, Village of Lincolnwood

A. September Board Meeting Presentation – Addressing Foreclosures

President Turry introduced Dan Klaff from Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) a small non-profit organization which works on housing issues. Mr. Klaff stated that in order to address problems resulting from the growing rate of property foreclosures, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus has partnered with CMAP and BPI to develop a property maintenance legislative agenda.

Mr. Klaff stated that the major problems communities have is finding owners and knowing where foreclosed and abandoned properties are in their community. BPI has crafted legislation (SB268) would provide notice to local governments when a foreclosure action is initiated and completed, and a tax sale occurs. The bill would also authorize local governments to enact ordinances holding lenders

responsible for maintaining such properties, and would authorize local governments to recover from lenders the costs of maintaining and securing abandoned properties. SB268 passed the House in Spring and it is anticipated that it will pass the Senate in October. Mr. Klaff stated that he is reaching out to members for support and asking them to engage their legislators and make this legislation a priority.

Mr. Klaff also stated that BPI is working with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus on a Best Practices document for addressing vacant properties.

B. NWMC Golf Outing Ahrens Cup Presentation

President Turry presented the Ahrens Cup trophy to Mayor Nelson and Manager Phillips of Rolling Meadows for their victory at the NWMC Golf Outing on August 20.

C. FY09-10 NWMC Board Meeting Schedule

President Turry stated that a list of the NWMC monthly board meeting dates and locations through May of next year was included in the board packet. Members requested that the November 11 Board meeting be moved to November 18 due to the Veterans Day holiday.

D. NWMC Committee Assignments

President Turry stated that a list of NWMC Committee assignments was included in the board packet.

E. Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Committee Appointments

President Turry stated that the Executive Board recommended the appointment of Glenview Village President Kerry Cummings to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Education Reform Committee and Barrington Village President Karen Darch to the Service Delivery Task Force.

Motion to approve the Executive Board recommendations was made by Mayor Nelson. It was seconded by Mayor Vole and approved.

F. Regional Water Supply Planning

The eleven county Northeastern Regional Water Supply Planning Group is scheduled to approve its plan in November. President Darch gave an update on the Draft COG Water Supply Planning Group Position Statement. She stated that the intent is to strengthen and clarify municipal positions on pending and future regional water supply initiatives. She asked that members review the Position Statement and contact her or Chris Staron with any questions. President Darch stated that approval of the Position Statement will be sought at the next board meeting.

G. Infrastructure Maintenance Fee Litigation Update

Mr. Fowler reported that a total of approximately \$116,000 was refunded to NWMC municipalities who participated in the joint defense of the telecommunications infrastructure maintenance fee class action litigation and that the matter is now closed.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Al Larson, President, Village of Schaumburg, Co-Chair, Chris Canning, President, Village of Wilmette, Co-Chair

1. *Call for Legislative Proposals*

President Canning requested that members respond to the staff request for 2010 legislative proposals. Input from the membership is critical in determining which initiatives to pursue in the coming year.

2. *NWMC Pension Issues Subcommittee*

President Canning stated that the Pension Issues Subcommittee was established to address the immediate impact of pension increases on municipalities and to work on a long-term sustainable pension system.

Mr. Fowler stated that, based on the NWMC organizational analysis and past director's review, members expressed the desire that the Conference provide a leadership role in terms of legislation. He stated that currently public safety pensions are the top issue and a Conference wide commitment is needed in order to take an aggressive approach on this issue. He stated that while SB2011 provides temporary relief for the pension contributions, a long term structural solution is needed.

Mr. Kiely, chair of the Pension Subcommittee, stated that the committee was charged with developing a long term strategy for legislative success regarding the pension crisis. A newsletter article was prepared that members could use for their residents, and the committee is also developing a white paper with the options municipalities have as they struggle with their levy increases. Mr. Kiely stated that as they discussed the legislative side, it became clear that something had to be done quickly; that a unified voice is needed in Springfield; and that the Conference needs to take a leadership role and be more proactive. Mr. Kiely stated that towns must educate the public and force a public dialog on pensions. Municipalities must inform the public of the impact increased pensions will have on them and legislators must be engaged so they are part of the solution.

With that in mind, Mr. Kiely stated that he and staff prepared a draft commitment with the steps needed to make the effort successful. He stated that municipalities must allow the crisis to unfold and that the police and firefighter pension levies must be placed on the property tax roll or on a referendum. He added that the public must be informed as to the scope of the crisis by giving it a constant focus at municipal board meetings and utilize the crisis to leverage legislative support by inviting legislators to tax levy public hearings and municipal board meetings.

Mr. Kiely stated that in order to succeed, the full membership needs to implement the steps outlined in the document and the Executive Board strongly recommended adoption of the "Commitment" document and local implementation of the required actions.

President Feldman stated that there may not be enough time for members to adopt the document or to place a referendum on the ballot.

He also urged members to contact their representatives and senators for their feedback on the pension issues.

Mayor Vole stated that a referendum may not work for non-home rule municipalities.

Mr. Kiely stated that this is a multi-year issue and cuts cannot continue to be made in city services. Municipalities need to articulate to residents how the pension issue will affect the future quality of city services.

Several mayors and managers expressed support for the strategy while others wanted to discuss it with their boards.

President Frum stated that some members may want to discuss the strategy with their boards before making a commitment. President Turry suggested that some towns can abstain from the vote and take the information to their boards and then make a commitment.

President Hartstein stated that there may be some value in not taking a vote on the strategy but asked each member to make a commitment to put the discussion on their own board agendas and also try to get the media involved in the issue. President Cummings stated that everyone is at a different place with their budgets, but expressed concern with this particular strategy. Mayor Belsky stated that members need to showcase what cuts or services are being made or will need to be made to fund these pensions.

Manager Van Geem stated that the pension problem is an unsustainable system and it needs to be solved now or else it will be a bigger problem in the future. He felt that citizens and legislators need to be engaged in the problem.

Manager Hileman stated that legislators should be brought together and given a unified plan and that the media editorial boards should be utilized.

Mr. Kiely reiterated that a presence is needed in Springfield and that a unified front should be presented. Mr. Bury stated that unless the pension issue becomes a crisis, it won't be at the forefront. What is needed is a long term pension program that is sustainable.

Members discussed the pension Commitment document and President Cummings stated that she could not agree with the statement in the Commitment document that the entire increase in the police and fire pension levy must be placed on the property tax roll. President Belsky suggested re-wording the document and making it a recommendation rather than mandatory. He suggested that the legislators be pushed for long term relief and suggested the need for pooled assets for pensions and a two-tier system for people coming into the plans.

Trustee Preston stated that members have a window of opportunity since legislators are up for election in 2010 and have a fiduciary responsibility to their constituents to move forward for the long term on the pension issue.

Mr. Kiely addressed President Darch's concern about placing the matter on a referendum in February. He stated that Advisory Referendum language is being drafted. He stated that from the remarks of the members tonight it appears that they are in full agreement with steps 2 and 3 of the Commitment document, but there is some disagreement about the terminology in step 1 with placing the police and firefighter pension levies on the property tax roll or on a referendum on the February 2 ballot. Mr. Kiely suggested that under step 1 Action Required, that the first sentence be struck and adding "that the council or board or each municipality must publicly debate placing a referendum on the ballot to increase the pension tax levy or other appropriate funding source recognizing there are some communities that do something other than a tax levy for the pension requirements". Then if there is consensus by the membership, the pension subcommittee can draft both advisory and binding referendum language and communities can then decide which action they want to take.

Trustee Mandel felt that members must energize their residents in conversations on pensions, but additional taxes are in opposition to the platforms many newly elected officials ran on.

President Canning suggested that members speak with one voice in order to be strong and suggested that the document be sent back to the pension subcommittee for amendment.

Manager Dixon supported sending the document back to the pension committee to re-work step one, but he expressed concern about a referendum and what it might do in terms of larger communities.

Mr. Fowler stated that the committee had discussed previously putting together a white paper with a list of options. Mr. Kiely reiterated that what the members are saying is that they are not opposed to the referendum question and perhaps the committee could come back with some alternatives to the referendum language by the October meeting.

Motion was made by Mayor Nelson to send the document back to the pension committee to re-write and clarify it with the suggested changes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Figurski and approved. The document would then be brought back to the October board meeting for consideration.

B. Utility Regulation Committee – Joe Wade, Administrator, Village of Morton Grove, Chair

ComEd Vegetation Management Program

Administrator Wade stated that in June, ComEd applied herbicide along the right-of-way surrounding the transmission lines through a number of north shore communities without providing prior notification to the affected municipalities.

A response was received from ComEd by the Village of Northfield about their vegetation management activities citing a national standard to maintain the transmission rights of way. Mr. Wade stated that ComEd provided information regarding the safety of the herbicide and has made a commitment to provide advance notification of future planned vegetation management. Mr. Fowler stated that the Conference will continue to hold ComEd to their commitment.

VII. Consent Agenda

Motion was made by Manager Phillips to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Preston and approved. The following items were approved on the Consent Agenda:

- Monthly Budget Report and Warrant List for May 2009
- Monthly Budget Report and Warrant List for June 2009
- Changes to the Northwest Council of Mayors Surface Transportation Program

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Fowler thanked everyone for their participation in the pension discussion at the meeting.

Ms. DeLaurentiis of the Metropolitan Planning Council reminded members of their annual luncheon on September 17 where three federal U.S Secretaries will discuss a new initiative for sustainable communities.

IX. For the Good of the Order

None.

X. Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Northbrook.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Figurski. It was seconded by Mayor Vole and approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.