

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
Kathleen O'Hara
Lake Bluff

Vice-President
Joan Frazier
Northfield

Secretary
Dan Shapiro
Deerfield

Treasurer
Ray Keller
Lake Zurich

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Via Teleconference

I. Call to Order

President O'Hara called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President O'Hara led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Karol Heneghan called the Roll.

Members Present:

Arlington Heights, Mayor Thomas Hayes
Bannockburn, Assistant to the Village Manager Ryan Mentkowski
Barrington, President Karen Darch
Buffalo Grove, President Beverly Sussman
Deer Park, Acting Village President Greg Rusteberg
Deerfield, Trustee Dan Shapiro
Evanston, Acting Deputy City Manager Sharon Johnson
Glencoe, President Larry Levin
Hanover Park, President Rod Craig
Highland Park, Mayor Nancy Rotering, Manager Ghida Neukirch
Hoffman Estates, Manager Eric Palm
Lake Bluff, President Kathleen O'Hara
Lake Zurich, Manager Ray Keller
Libertyville, Administrator Kelly Amidei
Lincolnwood, Trustee Jean Ikezoe-Halevi, Manager Anne Marie Gaura
Morton Grove, Administrator Ralph Czerwinski
Mount Prospect, Mayor Arlene Juracek
Niles, Trustee John Jekot
Northbrook, President Sandy Frum
Northfield, President Joan Frazier, Trustee Charles Orth
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Prospect Heights, Manager Joe Wade
Rolling Meadows, Manager Barry Krumstok
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
Skokie, Trustee Randy Roberts, Assistant Village Manager Nicholas Wyatt
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis
Wilmette, President Bob Bielinski, Manager Michael Braiman

Members Absent:

Antioch
Des Plaines
Fox Lake
Grayslake
Bartlett
Elk Grove Village
Glenview
Kenilworth

Lake Forest
Northfield Township
Streamwood
West Dundee

Lincolnshire
Park Ridge
Vernon Hills
Winnetka

Others in Attendance:

Barb Cornew, Special Assistant to Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton
Meribeth Mermall, Director, Corporate Affairs, ComEd
Patricia Eaves-Heard, Regional Manager, Community Affairs, Nicor
Steve Brown – NWMC Communications Consultant
Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
Ellen Dayan, NWMC Purchasing Director
Marina Durso, NWMC Program Associate for Administrative Services
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
Karol Heneghan, NWMC Executive Administrative Assistant/Office Manager
Matt Pasquini, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of February 10 was made by President Levin. It was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

V. President’s Report – Kathleen O’Hara, NWMC President and President, Village of Lake Bluff

A. COVID-19/NWMC Here to Help Update

Mr. Fowler reported that Congress approved the American Rescue Plan earlier in the day and it would be sent to President Biden’s desk for his signature. He said that the relief fund allocations that he forwarded to members from Congressman Schneider’s office were confirmed by Mayors Caucus Executive Director Dave Bennett. Mr. Fowler said municipalities with a population of 50,000 or more will receive a modified CDBG allocation directly from the Treasury Department and municipalities with fewer than 50,000 residents would receive funds from the state. He noted that the state could not withhold any portion of the funding nor attach any additional restrictions on the use of funds.

Mr. Fowler reported that distribution of funds would be in two payments. The first payment would be sent 60 days after President Biden signs the bill and second payment would follow twelve months later with the funds to be spent by December 31, 2024. He said funds can be used for COVID expenses, negative economic impact, non-profits, small business, lost revenues and investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. Finally, he noted that the funds could not be used for pensions or tax cuts and thanked Mr. Krumstok for sending that reminder.

Mr. Fowler reviewed information on vaccine distribution efforts and issues as well as mass vaccination sites including the United Center, Northfield campus of New Trier High School and in Des Plaines. He said the Mayors Caucus Task Force met March 2 and discussed enhanced communication efforts and possible modifications to Phase 4 mitigations in the Restore Illinois plan. He said the Task Force will be meeting with the Governor’s staff on March 12 to review and discuss the modifications. Mayor Dailly said that he was very hopeful with the recent announcement that the Auto Show may take place in July. Board members further discussed vaccine distribution and efforts to reach more vulnerable populations.

B. FY2021-2022 NWMC Officer Nominations

President O’Hara reported that on February 22, staff emailed the FY2021-2022 NWMC Officer Nomination Form to the Conference’s chief elected officials. She said nominations are due back to Mark Fowler by Friday, March 12. She also stated that the NWMC Nomination Committee would present a recommended slate of candidates at the April 14 NWMC Board meeting at which time nominations from the floor may also be accepted. The Board will formally vote on

the slate of officers at the May 12 meeting. Mr. Fowler reported that 7 submissions had been received and encouraged everyone to submit their nominations.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Joan Frazier, President, Village of Northfield, Co-Chair and Nancy Rotering, Mayor, City of Highland Park, Co-Chair

1. 2021 Legislative Program Rollout

President Frazier reported that the subregional events held to roll out the 2021 NWMC Legislative Program were very successful. She said all five sub regions had met and thanked the members who participated in the events. She reviewed the topics discussed and said feedback from the legislators was very positive. She said that these events were better attended than the brunches in the past and Mr. Fowler thanked the Conference leadership and legislative co-chairs for their commitment and noted that legislator participation was higher than the last three years of the Legislative Brunches.

2. Legislative Update

Mr. Bury reported that the state Senate will meet this week and the House one day next week. He said there are 4,000 bills introduced in the House and 2,900 in the Senate so far, with the deadline to move bills out of committee scheduled for March 26 followed by a two week spring break. Mr. Bury reviewed the status of a number of bills that were moving through the legislative process.

Mr. Fowler provided an update on the Governor's budget address and reviewed details of a meeting with Senator Elgie Simms and the NWMC leadership on the Criminal Justice Reform legislation (HB3653) and possible trailer bill. Mr. Bury reviewed the items of interest to the NWMC membership, including the cost of body cams and storage as well as the elimination of qualified immunity.

Mr. Fowler reported that the region's councils of government and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus are working together on a joint effort to prevent the ten percent cut to the Local Government Distributive Fund as outlined in the Governor's budget proposal. He said the group is in discussions with Serafin and Associates to provide public relations assistance and that staff would present additional information shortly. Finally, he noted that a lawsuit had been filed seeking class action status to challenge the recently passed public safety pension fund consolidation.

3. Legislative Positions

Mr. Bury reviewed the recommended positions on legislation as approved by the Legislative Committee and Executive Board. Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Frum. It was seconded by President Levin and unanimously approved.

4. NWMC Legislative Days

Mr. Fowler said the Conference is exploring options to create a virtual Legislative Days event during the spring session. He said that legislator's schedules and the fluid nature of the session have caused staff and Anderson Legislative Consulting to look at different alternatives to engage legislators and the membership. Mr. Fowler said the staff more likely may ask members to submit witness slips or contact their legislators when needed. He asked members to submit witness slips for House Bill 315, which will be heard on Thursday. HB315 ramps up the Local Government Distributive Fund to 100% by 2025.

B. Finance Committee – Ray Keller, NWMC Treasurer and Manager, Village of Lake Zurich, Chair

NWMC Auditor/Tax Preparation Service Recommendation

1. Employee Assistance Program Contract Extension

President O'Hare said that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the fourth of four (4), one-year contract extensions of the NWMC Employee Assistance Program contract with Morneau Shepell. She said the extension would run from

May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022 with no increase in the annual rate. Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Levin. It was seconded by Mayor Craig and unanimously approved.

2. NWMC Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction Agreement

Ms. Dayan reviewed details of the new contract with America's Auto Auction which goes from February 15, 2021 through February 14, 2022. She said the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended offering the first of four possible, one-year contract extensions for Auctioneer Services. Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Levin. It was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

VII. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Mayor Craig. It was seconded by President Levin and unanimously approved.

VIII. Other Business

None.

IX. For the Good of the Order

None.

X. Next Meeting

President O'Hara said that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. via videoconference.

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by President Levin. It was seconded by Mayor Craig and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.