NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE
1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700
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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
Eric Smith
Buffalo Grove

Vice-President
Paul Hoefert
Mount Prospect

Secretary
Senta Plunkett
Wilmette

Treasurer
Scott Anderson
Barrington

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

NWMC Board
Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 2026
6:00 p.m.
NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

Bartlett, Mayor Dan Gunsteen
Buffalo Grove, President Eric Smith
Des Plaines, Mayor Andrew Goczkowski
Elk Grove Village, Manager Matt Roan
Hanover Park, President Rod Craig
Highland Park, Manager Ghida Neukirch
Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
Kenilworth, Manager Kathy Thake
Libertyville, Mayor Donna Johnson
Lincolnwood, Mayor Jesal Patel
Northbrook, Interim Manager Jim Hawkins
Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Prospect Heights, Administrator Peter Falcone
Rolling Meadows, Manager Rob Sabo
Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
Skokie, Mayor Ann Tennes, Trustee Keith Robinson
South Barrington, Administrator Mike Dropka
Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
West Dundee, Trustee Andy Yuscka
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis
Wilmette, President Senta Plunkett
Winnetka, Manager Kristin Kazenas

Others in Attendance:

Pat Eaves Heard, Nicor Gas
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
Larry Bury, NWMC Deputy Director
Eric Czarnota, NWMC Program Manager for Transportation
Ellen Dayan, NWMC Purchasing Director
Marina Durso, NWMC Executive Assistant
Brian Larson, NWMC Program Associate for Transportation
Chris Staron, NWMC Policy Director

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 9 meeting was made by Mayor Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved.

V. President's Report – Eric Smith, NWMC President and President, Village of Buffalo Grove

A. IMRF Executive Trustee Election

Mr. Fowler reported that the Executive Board recommended that the Conference support the candidacy of Hoffman Estates Village Manager Eric Palm for election as Executive Trustee of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor McLeod. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sabo and unanimously approved. Mr. Fowler noted that IMRF employers will soon receive ballots which are due by December 10.

B. NWMC Holiday Celebration

President Smith encouraged members to RSVP for the NWMC Holiday Celebration, scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Niles. Mr. Fowler said that invitations will be sent by the end of the week.

VI. Priority Issues

A. Legislative Committee – Donna Johnson, Mayor, Village of Libertyville, Co-Chair and Ann Tennes, Mayor, Village of Skokie, Co-Chair

1. Legislative Update: Veto Session Preview

Mr. Staron noted that the General Assembly will convene for the fall veto session on November 17 to 19 and December 1 to 3 (both weeks Tuesday to Thursday). He said that, while there are no vetoed bills under consideration, other issues may emerge including data center regulations and mega projects legislation. He said staff is also watching for any movement on housing issues and guardrails for automatic license plate readers.

In anticipation of veto session Mr. Staron reported that NWMC leadership scheduled a series of meetings with legislative leaders. He recapped a meeting held earlier in the day with House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel and said that additional meetings have been scheduled with House Leader Bob Morgan and Senate Leaders Laura Murphy and Cristina Castro. President Smith thanked members who are participating in the legislator meetings.

2. Legislative Action Alert Response Strategy

Mr. Staron reported that this initiative is included in the NWMC Strategic Plan and calls for increasing member response rates to NWMC Legislative Action Alerts. He detailed the strategy's five components and said that the Executive Board and Legislative Committee recommended approval.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

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

1. FY 2025-2026 Audit Draft

Mr. Bury reported that Seldon Fox completed a draft of the audit report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2026. He said the Finance Committee was pleased to report that the auditors gave an unmodified opinion, which is the highest possible. He noted that the Conference's net position increased by over $183,000 and that the organization is in a very healthy financial position. He said that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended acceptance of the audit.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Craig. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

2. Budget Reports and Purchase Journals

Mr. Bury reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Budget Reports and Purchase Journals from May, June and July 2026. He noted that all revenues and expenses were trending as expected.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mayor Tennes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved.

C. Transportation Committee – Paul Hoefert, Mayor, Village of Mount Prospect, Co-Chair and Lara Sanoica, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows, Co-Chair

Northern Illinois Transit Authority Update

Mr. Larson provided an update on the Northern Illinois Transit Authority (NITA), including the agency's first board meeting and the appointment of leadership for NITA, Metra, Pace and CTA. He said the Conference submitted questions and comments seeking clarity on implementation of the People Over Parking Act. He said NITA is requesting feedback in preparation of its first operating budget and listed the dates of regional budget presentations in the NWMC membership area. Finally, he said NITA is accepting applications to participate on a riders advisory council and an Americans with Disabilities Act advisory council.

VII. Other Business

No report.

VIII. For the Good of the Order

No report.

IX. Next Meeting

President Smith announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mayor McLeod moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Johnson and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.