

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
Glenoe
Glenview
Golf*
Grayslake
Hanover Park
Highland Park
Hoffman Estates
Kenilworth
Lake Forest
Lake Zurich
Libertyville
Lincolnshire
Lincolnwood
Morton Grove
Mount Prospect
Niles
Northbrook
Northfield
Northfield Twp.
Palatine
Park Ridge
Prospect Heights
Rolling Meadows
Schaumburg
Skokie
Streamwood
Vernon Hills
Wheeling
Wilmette
Winnetka

President
Kerry D. Cummings
Glenview

Vice-President
Chris Canning
Wilmette

Secretary
Jill Brickman
Northfield Township

Treasurer
Robert Kiely
Lake Forest

Executive Director
Mark L. Fowler

*Affiliate Member

**NWMC Board
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel
2875 North Milwaukee Avenue
Northbrook, IL**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

President Cummings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Diane Kopterski called the roll.

Members Present:

Arlington Heights, Mayor Arlene J. Mulder
Barrington, Trustee Tim Roberts
Buffalo Grove, President Elliott Hartstein, Asst. Manager Ghida Neukirch
Carpentersville, President Ed Ritter, Manager Mark Rooney
Crystal Lake, Manager Gary Mayerhofer
Des Plaines, Mayor Martin Moylan
Elk Grove Village, Manager Ray Rummel, Trustee James Petri
Evanston, Mayor Liz Tisdahl
Fox River Grove, President Robert Nunamaker, Trustee Duane Figurski
Glenview, President Kerry Cummings
Highland Park, Manager David Limardi
Hoffman Estates, Mayor Bill McLeod
Kenilworth, Manager Brad Burke
Lincolnwood, Mayor Jerry Turry, Administrator Tim Wiberg
Morton Grove, President Dan Staackmann, Trustee Larry Gomberg,
Administrator Joe Wade
Mount Prospect, Assistant Manager David Strahl
Niles, Manager George Van Geem
Northbrook, President Sandy Frum
Northfield, President Fred Gougler
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen
Prospect Heights, Administrator Anne Marrin
Rolling Meadows, Manager Barry Krumstok
Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis
Wilmette, President Chris Canning

Members Absent:

Antioch	Lake Zurich
Bartlett	Libertyville
Cary	Lincolnshire
Deerfield	Northfield Township
Glencoe	Park Ridge
Golf	Schaumburg
Grayslake	Skokie
Hanover Park	Streamwood
Lake Forest	Vernon Hills
	Winnetka

Others in Attendance

Ellen Dayan, NWMC Program Manager
Marina Durso, NWMC Program Associate
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director
Diane Kopterski, NWMC Executive Secretary
Chris Staron, NWMC Program Associate
Mike Walczak, NWMC Program Manager
Larry Widmer, NWMC Deputy Director

IV. Proposals to Reduce Local Government Revenues

President Cummings discussed ongoing threats to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and stated that several groups have called for cuts to this fund amounting to \$300 million to local governments, \$30 million of which would be to NWMC municipalities. The latest proposal came from the senate republicans through their report entitled “Facing Fiscal Reality.” She stated that a special meeting of the legislative committee and executive board was called on March 23 to discuss a plan of action. The conclusion was that if the NWMC doesn’t come out strongly to present the case that municipalities have already made budget cuts while the state has not, that this is effectively passing another tax increase to Illinois residents. Mr. Fowler stated that the executive board and legislative committee directed staff to do the following: issue a press release (which was done on March 25); explore hiring a public relations firm; discuss negotiations; and, call a special meeting of the membership.

President Canning discussed the history of the LGDF and stated that the Conference must re-frame the argument. He stated the need to educate legislators, the public and the press that the LGDF is state collected revenue that, by law, belongs to the municipalities. Secondly, he stated that we must develop our message in order to refocus the terms of the debate and to execute that message by reaching out through press conferences, press releases and resolutions.

President Canning stated that the GOP proposal is also vague on other state shared revenues, including sales and use taxes, Motor Fuel Tax and the personal property replacement tax. President McLeod stated that municipal government is the front line of defense for people and we need to make that case to the legislators in arguing against the cuts. President Canning suggested educating legislators on what the result would be of reducing the funding to local government. He said that the top line message to get across to legislators and

editorial boards is that the General Assembly cannot balance the state's budget and solve the state's problems on the backs of municipal taxpayers.

Mr. Limardi suggested establishing a grass roots effort with residents to educate them as to what service cuts would have to be made on a local level and get them to contact their legislators. He also suggested assembling a committee of managers and finance directors to create a white paper outlining financial data and the impact of lost revenue. President Ritter stated that the action the state wants to take really amounts to a second tax increase which towns will have to impose on their residents to make up for lost revenue sources from the state. President Canning stated the need to focus on the three topics of education, message, methods and how we execute it. President Cummings stated that members seem unified on this issue and requested that staff prepare talking points to bring these ideas together.

Mr. Fowler stated that staff would also like to put Conference wide numbers together on ways municipalities have made cuts to their budgets to educate the legislators. He stated that we need to identify legislators who are supportive, those who need education on this issue and those who support cuts to local government revenues. He stated that staff wants to run a roll call of Conference legislators and requested that members call them to find out whether or not they support the cuts. Mr. Fowler stated that IML will hold a press conference next week during their lobby days. He stated that members need to maintain the pressure on legislators by sending letters, making calls and emailing their offices on this issue.

Mr. Fowler said he spoke to Dave Bennett of the Mayors Caucus who will organize a conference call with the other COG directors to discuss a joint response. He stated that proposals were obtained from public relations firms, but he does not feel that the Conference at this time should engage a firm until the education needs are more clearly defined.

Mr. Fowler stated that success on the pension issue was due to all groups marching in unison with a clearly defined message and said that other groups must be vested in this effort in order to have a successful conclusion. He stated that we have a short window to launch a public relations initiative if members so desire. He stated that, by the April 20 board meeting, staff should know if the IML and other COGs are conceptually on board, and the matter of hiring a public relations firm could be discussed at that time.

President Cummings summarized member suggestions. Staff will put together a tool kit gathering the ideas presented, framing the message and sending it to the membership with a request to contact their legislators. Additional steps would be to prepare for the press conference with IML next week and approach local government partners to participate in a joint public relations effort. She stated that we need to continue to gather information about budget cuts made by local governments so we have statistics available about what has been done.

V. Other Business

None.

VI. For the Good of the Order

None.

VII. Next Meeting

President Cummings stated that the next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Northbrook.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by President Canning. It was seconded by Mayor McLeod and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.