

**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
- South Barrington
- Streamwood
- Vernon Hills
- West Dundee
- Wheeling
- Wilmette
- Winnetka
  
- President*
- Donna Johnson
- Libertyville
  
- Vice-President*
- Eric Smith
- Buffalo Grove
  
- Secretary*
- Paul Hoefert
- Mount Prospect
  
- Treasurer*
- Scott Anderson
- Barrington
  
- Executive Director*
- Mark L. Fowler

**NWMC Board**

**Minutes**

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

**6:00 p.m.**

**NWMC Offices and Via Videoconference**

**I. Call to Order**

President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

Ms. Durso called the roll.

Members Present:

- Arlington Heights, Manager Randy Recklaus
- Barrington, Manager Scott Anderson
- Bartlett, President 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
- Mount Prospect, Mayor Paul Hoefert
- Niles, Trustee Ajay Mody
- Northbrook, Manager Cara Pavlicek
- Northfield, Trustee Matt Galin
- Prospect Heights, Administrator Peter Falcone
- Schaumburg, Mayor Tom Dailly
- Skokie, Mayor Ann Tennes
- South Barrington, Mayor Paula McCombie
- Streamwood, Manager Sharon Caddigan
- West Dundee, Trustee Andy Yuscka
- Wheeling, Manager Jon Sfondilis
- Wilmette, President Senta Plunkett
- Winnetka, Deputy Village Manager Hannah Lipman

Others in Attendance:

- 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

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2026**

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 11 meeting was made by Mayor Hoefert. The motion was seconded by Mayor McLeod and unanimously approved.

**V. President’s Report – Donna Johnson, NWMC President and Mayor, Village of Libertyville**

**A. FY 2026-2027 NWMC Officer Nominations**

President Johnson reported that the NWMC Nominating Committee met on March 23 and recommended the following individuals to serve as NWMC officers for FY 2026-2027:

President: Eric Smith  
President, Village of Buffalo Grove

Vice-President: Paul Hoefert  
Mayor, Village of Mount Prospect

Secretary: Senta Plunkett  
President, Village of Wilmette

Treasurer: Scott Anderson  
Manager, Village of Barrington

She asked if there were any additional nominations from the floor. There were none and President Johnson therefore closed the nominations. She said that, per the NWMC Bylaws, the election of the officers will occur at the May 13 Board meeting.

**B. NWMC Spring Surplus Vehicle & Equipment Auction**

Ms. Dayan reported that the first live NWMC Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Auction of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at America’s Auto Auction in Crestwood. She thanked the thirteen municipalities scheduled to participate, including NWMC members Glenview, Lincolnshire, Palatine and Skokie. She announced the other live auction dates for the year and said that members can also dispose of vehicles and equipment via America’s Auto Auction online service at any time.

**C. NWMC Annual Gala**

President Johnson reported that invitations have been sent for the NWMC Gala, scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, at the Independence Grove in Libertyville. She encouraged members to RSVP their attendance with Marina Durso by May 22 and reported on the sponsorship commitments to date.

**VI. Priority Issues**

**A. Legislative Committee – Eric Smith, President, Village of Buffalo Grove, Co-Chair and Paul Hoefert, Mayor, Village of Mount Prospect, Co-Chair**

**1. Legislative Update**

Mr. Staron reported that both chambers of the General Assembly have passed their deadlines to move bills out of committee and reviewed upcoming deadlines in advance of the scheduled May 31 adjournment. He highlighted a number of active bills including HB1429 (unsheltered homelessness), HB4835 (adaptive reuse in commercial zones), HB5198 (Affordable Housing Planning and Appeals Act threshold changes), SB3644 (trailer bill to SB1742 to limit low, sloped roof inspection mandate) and HB3762 (extreme workplace temperature safety act). Among the bills that did not advance out of committee, Mr. Staron highlighted HB4840, the e-mobility legislation drafted by the Conference working group. He said that staff is engaged with the Secretary of State’s office regarding their e-mobility legislation, working to make sure that the legislation aligns with the legislative principles developed by the NWMC working group. Mr. Staron concluded his report by noting that legislation to increase the 9-1-1 surcharge (HB4066) was not called in committee but may reemerge during the state budget process.

## **2. NWMC Housing Legislative Strategy**

President Johnson gave an overview of the organization's efforts and activities to address the Governor's BUILD agenda said the aim of the seven proposed alternatives is to address housing supply and affordability goals while preserving local land use and zoning authority. She listed each alternative in the document.

Mr. Staron said that none of the bills that comprise the BUILD agenda have yet been assigned to committee. That said, he reported that the Governor has been promoting the agenda via roundtables and conducting polling designed to convince legislators to take action on housing issues. He said feedback from the Conference lobbying team is that legislators want to be educated on the issues, but do not want to just hear no from local governments. He reviewed responses to the Conference's housing survey, noting how each community is addressing housing affordability and supply. He also reviewed tools developed by staff for the membership including the customizable factsheet.

President Johnson said that while the seven alternatives are a good starting point, the premise of maintaining land use and zoning authority should remain with municipalities. Mayor Patel said the alternatives provide something that is demonstrable and outlined the discussions of the working group. He noted that the BUILD proposal lacks measures which makes it difficult to achieve the goals and also does not directly address affordability. President Plunkett summarized discussions held with legislators, who encouraged municipalities to reach out individually with their concerns while offering viable alternatives. Mayor Dailly outlined efforts and visualization conducted by Schaumburg staff to illustrate impacts of the proposed changes. Ms. Pavlicek noted discussions held with local school districts on the impact of BUILD based on the Elrod Friedman summaries. Mr. Staron said that discussions with non-traditional stakeholders will be effective.

Motion to approve the recommended alternatives was made by Mayor Craig. The motion was seconded by Mayor Tennes and unanimously approved.

## **3. Legislative Positions**

Mr. Staron reported that the Executive Board and Legislative Committee recommended approval of the legislative positions contained in the attachment.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Smith. The motion was seconded by Mayor Hoefert and unanimously approved.

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

### **1. Proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget**

Mr. Anderson gave an overview of the proposed budget and said that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval. He said the budget includes a long-term financial analysis as called for by the strategic plan. Recognizing the strong financial position of the Conference, he said that the committee was comfortable not proposing a dues increase. He noted that the budget does incorporate a policy to ensure a strategic draw down of reserve balances and outlined the conditions that trigger a discussion on future dues scenarios.

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

### **2. Budget Reports and Purchase Journals**

President Johnson reported that the Executive Board and Finance Committee recommended approval of the Budget Report and Purchase Journal from February 2026.

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

**VII. Other Business**

No report.

**VIII. For the Good of the Order**

No report.

**IX. Next Meeting**

President Johnson announced that the next NWMC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 6:00 p.m. at the NWMC Offices and via videoconference.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mayor Craig moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dailly and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.