

# BUDGET MEETING

Sandwich City Hall Council Chambers  
128 E. Railroad Street – Sandwich, IL 60548

April 12, 2015

## MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Mayor Olson.

In attendance: Mayor Olson, City Clerk Ii, Aldermen Fraser Killey, Redden, Robinson & Scheidecker. Also in attendance was Budget Director Barker, Department of Public Works Tom Horak, Sewer / Street Supervisor Pruski, & Water Supervisor Brian Voelkel.

Topic of discussion was personnel. The FOP contract will be re-negotiated next year and consideration will be made at that time due to less revenue coming into the City. Overtime for the police department was discussed at length noting that overtime should not be created because an officer wants time off. Chief Bianchi was not present at the meeting to offer insight. Alderman Fraser questioned if additional officers should be hired, but the problem seems to be a scheduling issue according to Mayor Olson.

Public Works Department requested a part-time employee be hired for mowing and possibility snow plowing. The proposed salary has been factored into the new 2016-2017 budget. Several aldermen voiced they are against hiring a part-time employee in this budget.

A 1% raise for non-union employees has been factored into the proposed budget that is showing a deficit balance. Alderman Redden challenged the proposed raise and the City's insurance contribution saying a message needs to be sent to the residents that the City is doing their fair share to cut costs. Currently, the City pays 85% of an employee's health insurance premium. Budget Director Barker said by eliminating the 1% raise, eliminating the hiring of a part-time employee for public works, and increasing the employee's contribution share for insurance would save the City approximately \$80,000 annually. Unionized employees would continue to contribute 15% toward their insurance premiums.

Alderman Redden expressed a desire to eliminate the City's longevity program as another means to increase revenue. Noting that the program had been around for over twenty (20) years, the general consensus was not to eliminate longevity at this time.

As an additional means to increase revenue for the City, Council proposes to increase the sales tax by 1%, increase the telecommunications tax, and to create an adjudication program keeping revenue derived from Court fines in the City as opposed to splitting with the County.

The proposed budget reflects a \$1.5 million carryover. Budget Director Barker reminded the City to try and keep that balance at a constant saying a lesser amount will lower the City's bond rating and will increase the interest rate on the City's borrowing power.

The meeting ended with an impassioned speech by Water Supervisor Voelkel asking the Council to reconsider their plans to increase the employee's insurance contribution by 5%. He said staff had been warned about no salary increases in the new budget but to cut their paycheck might be a shock when it appears that there are no budget cuts affecting the police department. Voelkel added that it has taken months to build a team attitude among the staff, and he fears such a drastic move on the part of the Council may jeopardize the staff's morale.

City Clerk li reminded the Council that the public hearing on the budget will be Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. The next budget meeting will be held on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> following the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting and Finance Committee Meeting.

**Motion was made by Alderman Robinson, and seconded by Alderman Fraser, to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Motion passed on unanimous voice vote.**

/s/ Denise li – City Clerk