

# BUDGET MEETING

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

April 18, 2015

## MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Mayor Olson.

In attendance: Mayor Olson, City Clerk Ii, Aldermen Dell, Fraser Killey, McMahon, Moran, Redden, Robinson & Scheidecker. Also in attendance was Budget Director Tim Barker, Department of Public Works Tom Horak, Water Supervisor Brian Voelkel, Public Works Jeremy Moss, and Chief Bianchi.

Continued topic of discussion was personnel: A straw poll reflected that Alderman Frazer was the sole alderman in favor of a 1% salary increase for non-union employees. He stated the it was difficult to give unionized personnel a salary increase and deny non-union employees a raise. Under the FOP contract, the salary increase for patrol officers is 3% plus a step-up salary increase to those applicable officers that would add an additional 5-6% increase. Elimination of the 1% salary increase for non-union employees would decrease the proposed deficit budget by \$16,000.00.

With the exception of Alderman Redden, the Council was in favor of reversing their original decision to increase the employees' insurance contribution. The current co-pay is 85/15, and by decreasing the City's contribution to 80%, the increased cost to non-union employees would create less take-home pay by an average of \$2,000 annually. Alderman Redden felt that the 85/15 co-pay was non-standard and too high for the industry.

Showing a \$269,000 deficit, Alderman Moran stressed the budget as presented as a 'truthful' budget. Additionally, Council stressed that their decision on the salary freeze was 'nothing personal' but that it has to be done or there will be some major cuts during the upcoming fiscal year. Majority of the Council voiced in favor of passing a deficit budget at next week's regular council meeting.

Emphasis was placed on generating more revenue as previously discussed. This would include raising the sales tax by 1% and increasing the telecommunication tax. Alderman Redden reminded the Council that there is talk of ongoing discussions that DeKalb County community schools will request a 1% tax sale increase on the November ballot.

Finance Director Tim Barker addressed the Council asking if they would consider eliminating donations as a means to provide a salary increase to non-union employees. \$10,350 has been earmarked for donations in the proposed budget. Alderman Robinson remarked that the donations have nothing to do whether or not there is a raise to non-union employees. He further added that it is the Council's decision if money will be donated to a specific organization.

**Motion was made by Alderman Robinson, and seconded by Alderman Redden, to adjourn at 8:32 PM. Motion passed on unanimous voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li – City Clerk