

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL-AS-A-WHOLE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF SANDWICH, ILLINOIS - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
128 E. Railroad Street
December 7, 2009**

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was taken:

Present: Mayor Thomas, Aldermen Beverley, Dannewitz, Hyatt, Keene, Killey, McMahon, Moran & Robinson

LDL Transfer: Dave Luttrell and Linda Zingre were present representing LDL Transfer. Discussion was held regarding LDL Transfer's request that the City refund all fees associated with the Route 34 / IDOT project as well as reimburse the engineering costs incurred by them. This matter will be placed on next week's agenda for a vote.

Proposed Wind Energy Ordinance #2009-13: Mayor Thomas stressed that the modified ordinance was not catering to one specific resident but rather to the residential and commercial areas of Sandwich under a special use. Comments from the audience were heard from Curt Gonnerman and Mark Sondgroth who expressed their disapproval of the ordinance. Attorney Paul advised that under current city ordinance, there can be no windmills in the City of Sandwich unless this proposed wind energy ordinance is passed. This will be placed on next week's agenda for a vote.

Liquor License Request: Mayor Thomas reported a new business may be opening in Sandwich, and the business owners will be present at the December 28th meeting to make a request for an E-2 liquor license. He also mentioned that Walgreens has made a request for a liquor license to sell packaged alcohol.

Replacement Tax Decline: Mayor Thomas reported there will be a 17.3% decline in the Personal Property Replacement Tax allocations for 2010. Replacement tax allocations are estimated to be lower primarily due to the ongoing recession.

Fairwind Subdivision - Update: Mayor Thomas advised that the City has received the two (2) letters of credit from Citizens Bank to be reviewed by Attorney Paul. He said Citizens did agree to increase the letter of credit for Phases 1-A, 2 and 3 to \$400,000.00 as requested by the City.

Attorney Paul explained the new FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) rules effective January 1, 2010. A FOIA officer will need to be appointed by the Council prior to January 1st, and it is his suggestion that two (2) people be designated. Online training will be available via internet.

City Clerk li explained that there are several Verizon bills that will become due in the upcoming days. She requested a motion to pay the Verizon bills as listed: City Hall

\$245.03; Sewer Department \$240.23; Streets Department \$99.89; Water Department \$315.17, and EMA \$30.11, for a total amount of \$930.43.

Alderman Keene made a motion to pay the Verizon bills as presented by Clerk li in the total amount of \$930.43, and seconded by Aldermen Beverley. Aye: Aldermen Beverley, Dannewitz, Hyatt, Keene, Killey, McMahon, Moran and Robinson. Nay:0 Motion carried 8:0

New Sound System: Clerk li reported that the current sound system is antiquated, noting that quality of the recording is often difficult to hear on replay, and more recently the tapings were impaired. li requested Chief Olson to do further investigation on replacing the sound system, and return to the Council with his findings. Alderman McMahon and Mayor Thomas agreed that the current system was approximately ten (10) years old.

Engineer Horak reported that the Plan Commission's regular meeting on Tuesday, December 8th, has been cancelled.

Chief Olson reported that the Police Department building is experiencing furnace issues, noting that it is probably older than the Council's sound system. He suggested that in the Spring, the Council should consider replacing the current furnace.

Superintendent Hake said that Somonauk is interested in purchasing the 2-way radios that are no longer being used because the City now uses Nextel. Discussion followed, and this matter will be put on next week's agenda for a vote.

Alderman Beverley noted that the Council has received a letter from Jenny Sondgeroth requesting the City consider a ban on leaf burning.

Alderman Dannewitz reported that the Finance Committee will meet immediately following this evening's meeting to review bi-monthly bills for December.

Alderman Keene distributed to the Council a map outlining property currently owned by the railroad. The railroad would like to include additional property to the existing lease at no additional expense to the City. Discussion followed indicating that the additional property is not capable for the City's use. Alderman Keene recommended that the City not accept the additional property offered by the railroad.

Alderman McMahon questioned the timeline for the completion of Fairwind Subdivision. Attorney Paul said the Council sets the completion date, and can be any time within the extension period. Council agreed that August 1, 2010 should be the completion date for Phases 1-A, 2 and 3. Unit 4 will have a completion date of November 10, 2010. This matter will be put on next week's agenda.

Alderman Robinson requested that the Chief check Sandhurst Subdivision for RV parking violations. He said he has received several complaints about people parking RV's in their driveways, and added this problem is not limited to Sandhurst Subdivision.

New Business: Joan Moffett questioned why the separate fees for sewer and water cannot be combined into one fee. Mayor Thomas advised the fees must be separate per state statute. Ms. Moffett also questioned why she is charged a sewer fee when she is using only water. Engineer Larry Hake explained that by City ordinance, there is a sewer cost based on the number of gallons of water usage. The only way to eliminate a sewer fee if only water is being used is to buy a separate meter for water usage only.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, **motion made by Alderman Keene and seconded by Alderman Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

_____/di/_____
Denise Li, City Clerk