



City of
SANDWICH, ILLINOIS

144 E. Railroad St – Sandwich, IL 60548

Phone: (815) 786-9321 Fax: (815) 786-7012

Finance Committee Minutes
Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Finance Chairwoman Killey called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

Roll call was taken:

Present: Mayor Olson, City Clerk li, Aldermen Dell, Killey & Redden,
and Budget Director Barker

Alderman McMahon arrived at 9:05 AM

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Alderman Dell, and seconded by Alderman Redden, approving the finance committee minutes from January 4, 2016. Motion carried on voice vote.

Review of Semi-Monthly Bills: Bills reviewed to be submitted for payment approval at the Regular Council Meeting on January 25th, 2016. Question was posed if the City was still paying the vet invoices for stray dogs. Response was the vet invoices have been adjusted to conform to the \$75.00 fine that the City imposes for stray animals. A request has been made pertaining to the IT invoices to bill by the project as opposed to billing for time and material.

New Business: It was noted that FVOA is still experiencing financial problems because of the impasse on the State's budget.

Budget Update: Budget Director Barker said he needs numbers to start the budget process. Health costs are down this year, and he anticipated that revenues will stay flat during the next fiscal year. Reference was made that the FOP contract offers better incentives than offered to non-union employees that include longevity, educational incentive, service years and vacation time. The CPI (consumer price index) is 0.8% and any preliminary salary increases will be based on 1%.

Telecommunication Tax: Clerk li had tabulated the municipal telecommunication tax for neighboring towns. The City collects the minimum of 3.25% whereas the average is 6%. The availability to increase the telecommunication tax is allowed twice a year via Ordinance. Ordinance must be filed prior to March and September. Mayor Olson would like to investigate this tax further as an additional source of income for the City.

Water Invoices: In reviewing the City's water / sewer rates and late charges, Clerk li advised that the City is on the low side of comparable cities with the same population. The City of Genoa

compiles this information annually, and the information is shared with the participating communities. She said that Sandwich is at the lower spectrum with their water / sewer rates and that the \$10.00 late charge is the lowest of any surrounding community. Budget Director Barker explained several options to increase the late charge, and advised that the number of late notices has been increasing over the past month. Late notices and shut-off notices are mailed, and compounded with time spent and material, the \$10.00 late charge is not cost effective. Residents have voiced that they would prefer a monthly billing as opposed to the quarterly billings.

Audience Comments - None

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Committee, **motion made by Alderman Dell and seconded by Alderman Redden to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 9:57 AM. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

/s/ Denise Li, City Clerk