

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD

TOWN OF SANDY CREEK
1992 HARWOOD DRIVE, PO BOX 52
SANDY CREEK, NEW YORK 13145-0052

Date: August 13, 2025

Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Place: Sandy Creek Town Hall

Board Members Present: Timothy D. Ridgeway, Town Supervisor
Nola J. Gove, Town Council Member
Ruth E. Scheppard, Town Council Member
John W. Wood Jr., Town Council Member
A. Dave Warner, Town Council Member

Others Present: William Gannon, Scott Gundle, Lisa Gundle (in at 6:03pm), Katrina McDougal, Ron Fisher, Bill Joyce (out at 7:44pm), Jim Jerome, Mike Kastler, Michael Yerdon (out at 6:40pm), Meg Sprague, Jessica Godfrey (out at 7:49pm), Pat McDougal, Peggy Rice, Ralph Kent (in @6:38pm & out @7:56pm), Jimmy Sprague III, and Brittany Washburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Resolution #71-25 Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the minutes of the July 9th and July 29th meetings as written.

REPORTS:

Code Enforcement Officer – James Sprague III, read the CEO report for July. There were eight permits and one violation. This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Sprague has spoken to Ralph Kent regarding the clean-up of his property. Since speaking with Mr. Kent, he has removed thirteen vehicles from his property. Mr. Kent is still actively removing items from his yard. Mr. Sprague gave a brief update on other town matters such as the Brosnan property. This property has a fence that needs to be brought up to code. Mr. Sprague asked if there were any questions or concerns from the audience. Peggy Rice had two items she would like addressed in the Village and the Town. First item was the property next door to the Town Hall. Second item is the Bauer property on County Route 48. Mr. Sprague will speak with the Sandy Creek Mayor regarding the property next door to the Town Hall. He will also check out the Bauer property. There was a discussion regarding rules for tall grass in the Town.

Sole Assessor - Rebecca Trudell's monthly report has been filed with the Town Clerk's office. Rebecca's term expires on September 30, 2025.

Resolution #72-25 Motion made by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek reappoints Rebecca Trudell for a 6-year term as Sole Assessor effective October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2031.

Dog Control Officer – Report for July has been filed with the Town Clerk's office.

Highway/Water Superintendent – Mike Kastler read his Highway report for July. As previously mentioned, we will need to pay for the chassis on the new truck soon. Mike has been working on gathering the information needed for this financing. The Skinner Road project should be done by October.

Mr. Kastler then read his Water report for July. There is one water bill that has not been paid. They have until Friday, August 15, 2025, to pay this bill or their water service will be turned off on Monday, August 18, 2025. The Town Clerk explained that if the water bill remains unpaid that we can relevel the bill onto the January 2026 Town and County Tax Bill.

Mr. Gundle inquired about the drainage issue he has at his property on US Route 11. He reached out to Highway Superintendent Kastler but has not heard anything since. Mr. Kastler will reach out to NYS State again, as this issue is on a state road.

Historian – Report is on file with the Town Clerk’s office. Peggy Rice inquired about when the locks will be added to two closets. She would like locks added to the closets located in the downstairs lobby and in the boardroom. This item has been mentioned several times before. Mr. Kastler said it is on his list, and it will get done.

Judges – Reports are filed with the Town Supervisor.

Legislator – Michael Yerdon – The monthly County meeting will be held tomorrow at the Court House in Pulaski. They are hiring four additional DMV employees. Most of the work at the Campe Zerbe project has been completed.

Mr. Kastler would like to know what is going on with the snow and ice contract meetings. A few of the meetings have been cancelled. Legislator Yerdon will look into this.

Library – Jessica Godfrey – Read a few highlights from the August newsletter for the library. The library will be hosting a car show on August 22nd from 6pm – 8:30pm. They will also be hosting a job fair on the library lawn on September 9th from 1pm to 3:30pm.

NOCA – No report was received.

Planning Board – Bill Joyce – No new business. They had training on short-term rentals. Airbnb’s are becoming more popular. If we were to try and regulate rentals we would need basic regulations. Mr. Joyce supplied the Town Board with a sample subdivision local law from the Town of Granby. Mr. Joyce plans to have budget information at the next meeting.

There was a question from the audience asking if the Village of Lacona has joined the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board. No, they are waiting on Lacona still.

Town Clerk – Brittany Washburn – Monthly reports for the Town Clerk and Water Clerk are on file and available for inspection. The Town now has a Facebook page. The Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended a Tri-County Town Clerk meeting on July 18th. Both clerks will be attending a New York State Town Clerks Association training course in Alexandria Bay on September 22nd. Hunting license sales started on August 1st.

Resolution #73-25 Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the fee proposal for legal representation from The Vincelette Law Firm for Tax Certiorari litigation.

There are four desktop computers and one laptop that will need to be replaced because they will no longer be supported after October of this year. The computers that need to be replaced are for the following offices: two desktops for the Historian, one desktop for the Highway Superintendent, one desktop for the Town Supervisor, and one laptop for the Water Operators.

Historian Peggy Rice would like to replace only one desktop in her office at this time.

Resolution #74-25 Motion made by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts quote #SQ1963 from Advanced Business Systems but would like one less desktop for the Historian's office. We will only need three desktop computers and one laptop computer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Gannon – An Attorney and permanent resident of Sandy Creek for the last 7 years, was present to discuss an issue with neighbors burning garbage and producing excessive amounts of smoke with smokers/grills/fire pits. The DEC has shut down a few of these fires. A few years ago, the Town sent letters to property owners in his area about the leash law. He believes it helped stop the issue of dogs running through the neighborhood. Mr. Gannon suggest that the Town send letters to property owners in this area to help cut down on unnecessary burning and the smoke that comes with it. Mike Kastler suggested that Mr. Gannon and his neighbors create an association for their road similar to the one that North Rainbow Shores Road has. This may help alleviate some of the troubles in the neighborhood.

Ron Fisher – HAB Test results are back for Microcystin which is a toxin found in blue green algae. Test results are from July 30th, and August 4th. Results from today are also available but were not listed in the report yet. Results from this week were four times higher than the previous week. Fecal coliform testing is still low but can change quickly. This project is a service provided to help keep people informed about current conditions.

Scott Gundle – A resident of Sandy Creek for the last 3½ years, is upset with the current Sole Assessor. Mr. Gundle does not agree with her reappointment for another six-year term. He does not agree with the Assessment on his property or how that assessment is obtained by looking at properties from the road. Mr. Gundle did not receive notification of his assessment change in a timely manner and missed the grievance day deadline. Mr. Gundle claims that the pole barn is not livable. It is only used as a mancave/gym. He does not have a certificate of occupancy. He invites anyone to visit his property.

Bill Joyce, from the Planning Board and the Board of Assessment Review, explained the grievance process. Although we understand his complaint, we cannot override deadlines that New York State has set. The Town Clerk also explained that this year the mail has been unreliable. She also recommends adding important due dates to your calendar. Highway Superintendent Kastler also reiterated a few of the same things that Mr. Joyce said regarding disagreements with assessments. Council Member Warner said that we will take Mr. Gundle's concerns into consideration.

Jim Jerome – Inquired about the grant money for the bridge to the state park. The County is not moving forward with this project.

Ralph Kent – Gave an update on his clean up efforts on his property. He would like an extension to continue his progress. Code Enforcement Officer Sprague suggests that we give Mr. Kent until the next meeting to clean up his property. Mr. Sprague also said that there was no permit for the fence and Mr. Kent will need one. Mr. Sprague will work with him on this. Mr. Kent is very appreciative of Mr. Sprague coming to speak with him regarding this matter and happy that he is willing to work with him.

Resolution #75-25 Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to extend Ralph Kent's property cleanup deadline to August 27th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Walczyk's office presented the Town of Sandy Creek with a proclamation to commemorate the Town of Sandy Creek's 200th year. Members from his office also stopped by the Town Hall to snap a photo for their Facebook page.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

RESOLUTION 76-25

On motion by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **ADOPTED** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes the following transfers of funds:

FROM Line #	Description	TO Line #	Description	\$ Amount
DA230	Equipment Reserves	DA5130R	Expenditure Acct to Spend Reserves	\$205,557.93

APPROVAL OF BILLS

RESOLUTION #77-25 Motion made by Dave Warner, seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the bills be paid on Abstract #8 in the following amounts:

General Fund (A&B)	\$	25,118.26
Highway Fund (DA &DB)	\$	382,458.42
Water District #1 (SW1)	\$	3,689.35
Water District #2 (SW2)	\$	429.71
Water District #3 (SW3)	\$	6,050.39
Trust & Agency (TA)	\$	27,423.75
Total Bills:	\$	445,169.88

OLD BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #78-25 Motion made by John W. Wood Jr., and seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will enter executive session at 7:59pm to discuss the collective bargaining agreement. Everyone left the meeting. The Town Clerk, Bookkeeper, and Code Enforcement Officer waited in their offices for the open meeting to resume.

RESOLUTION #79-25 Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, and seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will exit executive session at 8:18 pm.

The Town Clerk, Bookkeeper, and Code Enforcement Officer reentered the meeting.

The Town Board had a few questions for the Bookkeeper regarding pay for a highway employee.

RESOLUTION #80-25 Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, and seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to pay Michael P. Haverlock the \$2 per hour pay increase for completing his Water Operator training. The Town will need to pay Mr. Haverlock his retro pay from when he finished his training.

The next regular Town Board meeting will be on September 10th at 6pm. The next special meeting will be held on August 19th at 5pm to discuss the Teamsters union contract.

On motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, and seconded by Nola J. Gove, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brittany M. Washburn
Town Clerk