**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:** February 14, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Town Hall

**Board Members Present:** Timothy D. Ridgeway  **Others Present:**

Ruth E. Scheppard Tammy L. Miller

John W. Wood, Jr. Michael Kastler-left $ 7:19 pm

Nola J. Gove Michael G. Yerdon, Legislator

Dave Warner Meg Sprague

John Howland- left @ 6:11 pm

Bill Joyce-left @ 7:19 pm

Wayne Miller

Peggy Rice

Mike Soluri

Maria Hilton

Charles Skellen

David Swarthout

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 13-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the minutes of the December 28h and January 10th meetings are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s report for January is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. He plans to attend code school in April.

Three members of the Sandy Creek Little League’s board of directors were present to request a portion of the town’s ARPA funds. Oswego County is not accepting any more ARPA requests, but in-kind services at the fields may be possible. The town may also be able to perform in-kind services, such as grass or road work. A discussion of the needs and the lack of volunteerism followed. The Little League officers are requesting $10,000 from town funds. They need to maintain at least three playing fields. Mrs. Hilton, Mr. Soluri and Mr. Swarthout left the meeting following the discussion.

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler read his highway report. He would like to replace the 2016 pick-up truck. It has about 87,000 miles on it. He would keep and re-use the cap and sell the truck at auction. He has a quote from Ford for approximately $57,000 on fleet pricing for a new pick-up truck. The new plow truck will be built in May. It will then take two or three months to get the plow equipment installed. He plans to attend the Tug Hill Local Government conference. He will be in Albany on March 6th to lobby for CHIPS funding. The county will be providing mine safety training for the highway department. He read his water report next. A joint meeting was held with the Town of Richland. Late payments for water bills are still being collected.

**RESOLUTION 14-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to allow Superintendent Kastler to purchase a new pick-up truck.

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell’s monthly report has been filed in the Town Clerk’s office. A help wanted ad was prepared for a part-time clerk in the Assessor’s department.

Dog Control Officer – Anne Derr prepared a report for the Town Board and it is filed in the Town Clerk’s office.

Town Justice- The monthly reports of the Town Justices have been received by the Town Supervisor.

Historian - Peggy Rice has been working with Meg Sprague on a quote for a new digital community sign. The sign would be shared by the town, two villages and the library. It is hoped that the cost of $38,700.00 can be split among the municipalities and the library. The quote is on Sourcewell contract #020323-DAK. It would require 15-20 ampere service. Adam Snyder, a representative of Toth’s Sports of Victor, NY met with town, village and library officials and visited the proposed site on town/library property. He has sold signs to our school and other municipalities in the area.

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that the county legislature will meet on February 15th. They will vote on an 18-hole frisbee golf course at Camp Zerbe. A youth program for ages 6 to 12 is held there for 6 weeks each summer. Legislator Yerdon will attend the spring legislative conference in Albany February 26 -28th. The county stopped accepting ARPA fund applications in September of 2023. Six applications in the Town of Sandy Creek were funded amounting to over $500,000. The YMCA bridge project is not happening. They were not in favor of taking private property to do it and the DEC was not cooperative with the county’s alternate plan. The county repaired the existing bridge.

Planning Board – Bill Joyce reported that members completed more training at their meeting on February 7th. The revised solar law has been reviewed by Attorney Hills. Larry Rice has been re-appointed to the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board by the Village of Sandy Creek.

**RESOLUTION 15-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek shall hold a public hearing on March 13, 2024, at 6:00 pm to consider proposed Local Law #2 of 2024, a local law providing for the regulation of Solar Energy Systems in the Town of Sandy Creek.

**RESOLUTION 16-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Abstain Wood

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek reappoints Frank Dixon to the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board for a 3-year term beginning 3/01/2024 and expiring 2/28/2027.

Board of Appeals - Chairman Michael Kastler reported that the variance application #23-0098 by Gretchen & Jeffrey Cochrane of 64 Albro Tract (027.18-01-62.02) to build a new home and garage on a parcel that does not meet minimum lot size requirements was approved unanimously. No one attended the hearing to speak against variance approval. It is a condition that the home be connected to public water and that the proper building permits are obtained.

It was noted that the Zahler property that the town gave to Lacona many months ago has not been transferred into the village at this time.

Michael C. Kastler and Bill Joyce left the meeting at 7:19 pm.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of January totaled $1,128.50 of which $1,022.26 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. The full town tax levy has been collected and paid to Supervisor Ridgeway to fund the 2024 town budget. Megan Sprague, Brittany Washburn, and Mrs. Miller plan to attend the 2024 Training School and Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns February 18th – 21st in NYC. The Town Clerk, Tax Collection and Water Clerk’s books from 2023 are ready for audit. The 2024 NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Local Government Conference will be held May 2nd at Turning Stone Event Center. Town officials need to give their class choices to the Town Clerk’s office before March 13th to have the town pay the registration fee directly.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was none at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 17-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Abstain Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek reappoints PathFinder Bank as its official bank.

The Town Board was asked to review updates to the Employee Handbook and send all comments and corrections to Councilwoman Gove. Although there has been no clarifications added to the union contract, Superintendent Kastler plans to hire a water operator trainee in March. It is believed that Attorney Mike Fogel is reviewing the final draft of the CEHA variance application.

**RESOLUTION 18-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will request a two month extension to submit the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program grant application, revising the application deadline to May 4, 2024, and giving the town more time to gather quotes.

**RESOLUTION 19-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek designates Meg Sprague as the Town of Sandy Creek’s Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise Liaison and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Business Liaison responsible for administering M/WBE/SDVOB-EEO program for the Skinner Road over Blind Creek culvert replacement project and authorizes Town Supervisor Timothy Ridgeway to execute the Policy Statement.

**RESOLUTION 20-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the Polling Site Agreement with the Oswego County Board of Elections for April 2, June 25, and November 5, 2024 elections.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 21-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED – 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the Agreement to Spend Highway Funds for 2024 with work to be completed on Miller Road, Kehoe Road, and Punkin Hook Drive.

**RESOLUTION 22-24**

On motion by John W. Wood, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED – 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the Cooperative Service Agreement for the sharing of the bus garage fuel station facilities of the transportation department of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

**RESOLUTION 23-24**

On motion by Dave Warner, seconded by John W. Wood, the following resolution was

ADOPTED – 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the Legal Services Agreement with the Law Offices of Courtney M. Hills, PC for the water project.

**RESOLUTION 24-24**

The following resolution was offered by Ruth E. Scheppard who moved its adoption, seconded by Nola J. Gove, to‑wit:

**RESOLUTION** OF THE TOWN BOARD, TOWN OF SANDY CREEK, OSWEGO COUNTY, NEW YORK, accepting Revisions to the “Town of Sandy Creek and Richland Joint Water Project”, Capital Project as administered through USDA Rural Development. The Town Board hereby modifies the following Administrative and Construction Direct Expenditures budget items to the upcoming **Form E #27**:

A.12: Legal – Law Office of Courtney M. Hills, PC - move $24,900 from contingency.

The reason for this modification is to add new legal services to finish the easements needed and to assist with closing out the project.

**tHis BUDGETARY modification** RESULTED IN a TOTAL DECREASE of CONTINGENCy BY $24,900, making total CONTINGENCY, $35,435.02 on the upcoming form E #27.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Sandy Creek, Town Board has reviewed the Form E Capital Outlay Budget category and,

**NOW, THEREFORE**, THE TOWN OF SANDY CREEK, TOWN BOARD HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The following vote was taken and recorded in the public or open session of said meeting:

Timothy D. Ridgeway, Supervisor VOTING AYE

Ruth E. Scheppard, Council Member VOTING AYE

Nola J. Gove, Council Member VOTING AYE

Dave Warner, Council Member VOTING AYE

John W. Wood, Jr., Council Member VOTING AYE

Internet problems at the Town Hall were discussed. Service keeps dropping and there are times of very slow speeds. Councilman Gove suggested looking into Spectrum for internet service.

**RESOLUTION 25-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED – 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the sales quote from Advanced Business Systems Incorporated for the installation, setup, and configuration of a Dream Machine, bracket, and output connectors for a total of $890.98.

Councilman Warner asked questions about the $5,000 grant and would like to reopen discussion about a solar farm at the landfill site. He will ask his contact to attend the April meeting. He also wants to pursue the sewer project due to the information found through the algal studies.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 26-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #2 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 831.77

Trust & Agency $ 22,058.28

**AND** on Abstract #3 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 81,587.51

Highway Fund $ 49,056.85

Water District #3 Project $ 10,610.53

N Sandy Pond Shoreline $ 2,650.00

Water District #1 $ 465,339.69

Water District #2 $ 440.54

Water District #3 $ 3,320.98

Trust & Agency $ 14,828.85

The ARPA funds were discussed and tabled. There is approximately $119,000 left. We must have a spending plan by 12/31/2024.

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk