**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:** September 17, 2019

**Kind of Meeting:** Special Meeting

**Place:** Sandy Creek Town Hall

**SC Board Members Present:** Ruth E. Scheppard **Others Present:**

Nola J. Gove Tammy L. Miller

Dave Warner Michael C. Kastler

Nancy Ridgeway Brittany M. Washburn

John Wood Rebekah Prosachik

Dustin Clark

**Richland Town Board Present:** Dan Krupke Joseph Bocsor

Kern Yerdon Craig Sternberg

Allen Goodsell Gerald Licourt

**Absent:** Sue Haynes Ron Novak

Donna Gilson Doug Schwalm

Anthony Young

Brett McVoy

Mary Yerdon

Peg Swingle

Norma Newman

Wayne Miller

Cheryl L. Yerdon

Daniel Yerdon

Pete Backus

Joan Ruehle

Bruce Radicello

Ralph Lubinski

Mike Kline

Gary Stevens

CALL TO ORDER:

Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 7 pm. This special joint meeting with the Town of Richland Town Board was scheduled to discuss the current status of the Richland/Sandy Creek Joint Water Project.

Barton & Loguidice Engineer Brett McVoy stated that the CSX railroad permits have been approved and paid for; DOT has given conditional approval; and the Army Corps of Engineers has approved the project. The Army Corps took 14 months on the last joint project. Engineer Dustin Clark explained that the NYS DEC application for this project was submitted in April. A response came back this summer requesting additional information, which is a normal step in the process. B&L met with them in July to address their questions. The current problem area they call a coastal erosion hazard area on N Rainbow Shores Road and S Sandy Pond Inlet. This is the west bank of South Pond. DEC officials do not want to promote infrastructure for the development of the area. However, the land is already developed as a residential area and safe drinking water is needed. Engineer Anthony Young took photos and spoke to property owners on these roads. Mr. Clark has had many conversations with the DEC regarding the issue. Assemblyman Will Barclay is interested in seeing this water project completed as well. B&L will continue to advocate for the project. The many permits and approvals are not easy to obtain. Unfortunately, this delay may prevent the project from going to bid in 2019. NYS DEC officials are concerned and doing their jobs and should not be considered the “bad guys” in this situation. However, the entire project needs approval. It is one permit or no permit as the DEC does not allow “segmenting” of any project.

**Pete Backus** of **N Rainbow Shores Road** expressed his concerns and complaints regarding communication between the Town of Sandy Creek and its water district #3 property owners in regard to the project and the 2019 budget process. **Joseph Bocsor** of **US Rt 11** agreed that he is unhappy with the town’s methods of communication with the public. The water project was anticipated to begin in 2019 and so the budget was established for the anticipated full 30-year loan payment. This also allowed a reserve fund to be established for the district. The Town of Sandy Creek is the lead agency on this joint project. Mr. Clark, Sandy Creek Councilmen, and Town Clerk Miller explained that the expenses incurred so far for this project have been close to $1,000,000. Money had to be borrowed from other town funds and then Bond Anticipation Notes had to be taken out to pay for expenses over the past five years. District formation costs including engineering costs, lawyers’ fees, land and aerial surveys, soil boring and archaeological studies, property easement work, permit applications, etc. were completed and paid for in preparation for water main construction. An interest payment was due this past summer on the BAN for the project. The EDU line of the 2020 tax bill was discussed. It was noted that consistency with tax bill line items is usually preferred, especially with many mortgage holders’ escrow accounts. Supervisor Krupke said that a 50% reduction in the tax line was his initial thought due to the now expected delay in project construction. This project may begin at any time and once started the project will continue year round as it will require two winters of digging. The towns will need to discuss the water EDU billing rate for the 2020 tax bill during their budget meetings to decide how to proceed.

Superintendent Kastler explained that the Town of Sandy Creek is not selling equipment for this project yet. There is new cellular read technology available for the meters. However, the coverage in our area is still spotty. The actual meter that will be used and the pricing is still unknown for this project. Prior to the start of construction, homeowners will be given a blue wooden stake to place where a curb stop will best serve their property. If any culverts are disrupted during construction, they will be replaced. Progress is still being made. Pre-construction photos are currently being taken.

Town of Richland officials left the meeting at 8:17 pm.

**RESOLUTION 76-19**

On motion by Dave Warner, seconded by John W. Wood, Jr, 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 authorizes Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway to sign the agreement with Northern Oswego County Ambulance, Inc. for emergency ambulance services for 2020 for a total cost of $105,739.00.

Supervisor Ridgeway will be interviewing a candidate for the Sole Assessor position on September 20th. It was agreed that the starting salary will be $31,000 per year.

The Snow Removal and Ice Control Agreement with Oswego County remains on hold.

Councilman Wood had some Joint Waterworks paperwork he printed from the internet to share with the Town Board. He would like to see the new Sole Assessor do a revaluation in the near future. He would like the town to do a PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes) for the new solar farm that is being constructed on Seber Shores Road. Currently the Oswego County Industrial Development Agency handles PILOTs. On December 31, 2019 the current labor agreement with Teamsters Local Union 317 expires. Councilman Warner will contact the union steward. The last negotiation took 11 months to settle.

**On motion** by Ruth Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk