**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 10, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Town Hall

**Board Members Present:** Nancy Ridgeway  **Others Present:**

Ruth E. Scheppard Michael C. Kastler

Nola J. Gove Tammy L. Miller

John W. Wood, Jr. Brett McVoy

Dave Warner Brittany M. Washburn

Michael G. Yerdon

John Howland

Pat McDougal

Wayne Miller

Jim Burrows- left @ 7:39 pm

Dave Geurtsen - left @ 7:39 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 07-21**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the minutes of the January 13th meeting are approved as written.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The monthly financial report of the Supervisor for January 2021 is not finalized. The Town Board received a draft copy tonight. The December report and the January draft have been filed in the Town Clerk’s office.

**REPORTS:**

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell’s report has been filed in the Town Clerk’s office. Supervisor Ridgeway reported that all exemption applications are due March 1st. NYS is again making changes to the Enhanced STAR program.

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

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler read his highway and water department reports. A few water bills from November are still due. We are still installing services and selling equipment in Water District #1. Equipment has been ordered for Water District #3 to keep a good supply of stock on hand for spring.

Historian – Peggy Rice filed a written report. Mrs. Rice opened the Historian’s department at 6 pm this evening for Town Board members to see what projects she has been working on.

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

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that the county’s sale tax revenue from NYS will be reduced this year. However, NYS has not notified the county in writing of the reduction. The county will distribute the same percentage to the towns as usual. Oswego County’s sales tax revenue has actually increased this year. Online sales are now taxed. The Oswego County Health Department is holding Covid19 vaccination clinics for those in the 1a eligibility group at their Bunner Street location and in Fulton. The clinics are held on the weekends. Mr. Yerdon asked the county to consider doing a clinic in the northern part of the county. The vaccine supply needs to increase. The county has a budget and hiring freeze until April. The petitions and paperwork for the upcoming election season will be available later this month. Due to the pandemic the total number of signatures needed has been reduced. The county legislature has set goals for the year. They are hoping that NYS will restore funding for EMS so that it can be put back into the budget. In March the county meetings should be back in-person. Large meetings via the internet are difficult. Legislator Yerdon will pick up election paperwork for town officials when it becomes available. He also noted that Historian Peggy Rice has done a wonderful job with her displays.

Library – The annual wine gift basket drawing will be held on February 12th.

NOCA – Representative Nancy Dingman was excused from this meeting.

Planning Board – No one was present from the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board.

**RESOLUTION 08-21**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Warner, Scheppard, Gove

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 3/01/2021 and expiring 2/29/2024.

The decommissioning agreement with the Ontario Sun solar project needs to be finalized.

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s report for January 2021 is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. It includes a list of permits and one violation notice issued. He gave town board members a copy of an article from the November/December 2020 issue of *Talk of the Towns* magazine entitled “Zombie Properties: Victory for Towns in NY’s Highest Court”. Towns will once again be able to levy unpaid bills for property maintenance on the property owners January tax bill.

Supervisor Ridgeway introduced Attorney James A. Burrows of Conboy, McKay, Bachman& Kendall, LLP. He is interested in becoming the town’s attorney and introduced one of his partners, David B. Geurtsen. Their firm has an office in Watertown and specializes in municipal law. Approximately 10 to 15 attorneys and even more paralegals are available to assist the 12 towns, 6 villages and 2 cities that they currently represent. Services are billed in 1/10 hour increments. The Town Board discussed current projects and issues with the two attorneys. Mr. Burrows and Mr. Geurtsen left the meeting at 7:39 pm.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of January totaled $1,551.00. Of this total, $1,433.88 was paid to Supervisor Ridgeway for town revenue. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. The town’s total tax levy for 2021 was paid to Supervisor Ridgeway on Friday, January 29th. Eighty percent of all of the taxes have been collected for 2021. Information on the 2021 Training School and Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns is available in the Town Clerk’s office. No one from the town is planning to attend this year.

Engineers – Brett McVoy, I.E. of Barton & Loguidice was present to update the Town Board on current projects. The B&L agreement amendment on the sewer project was approved by REDI. DEC comments were received and B&L will respond. On January 15th WD Malone shutdown the water project for the rest of winter. Approximately 42% of the total length of water main for the project has been installed. Approximately 360 curb stops or 61% of total services in the two towns have been installed. The Contractor’s Pay Application #7 is in tonight’s bills for approval. The railroad crossing at Co Rt 28 in Richland failed twice by conventional bore. WD Malone has submitted a price increase of $26,000 for their two attempts. A directional drill bore can be attempted for approximately $49,000. B&L recommends that the loop be completed. Having two dead ends is not ideal. There is some time to make this decision. Superintendent Kastler suggested the two towns may want to schedule a joint meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: John Howland** commented that the Town of Lorraine had an issue with an attorney from the aforementioned firm not returning calls in the past.

**BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 09-21**

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

ADOPTED - 5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, 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 the purpose of conducting elections on June 22 and November 3, 2021 from 5 am to 9:30 pm each day.

**RESOLUTION 10-21**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the February 8, 2021 quote from Advanced Business Systems, Inc. for a new Kyocera TASKalfa 3553ci copier lease for the town and authorizes Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway to proceed with signing the necessary paperwork.

**RESOLUTION 11-21**

On motion by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway to sign the Richland-Sandy Creek Joint Water Project Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Variance Request.

**APROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 12-21**

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

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

0 No

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

General Fund $ 290.44

Trust & Agency $ 15,707.46

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

General Fund $103,188.36

Highway Fund $ 36,594.54

Water District #1-SW $472,068.01

Water District #2-SW $ 1,483.35

Water District #3-SW $ 3,524.49

Water District #3- H3 $285,678.67

REDI Grant- H5 $ 2,127.50

Trust & Agency $ 10,659.68

If the second variance application is denied for the CEHA area, Superintendent Kastler believes it will become a civil litigation matter between the homeowners and the NYS DEC.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held March 10th at 7 pm

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk