**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 8, 2023

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Sandy Creek Town Hall

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

 Ruth E. Scheppard Michael C. Kastler

 Nola J. Gove Meg Sprague

 John W. Wood, Jr. Eric Pappa

 Dave Warner Michael G. Yerdon, Legislator out @7:51pm

 Jessica Godfrey

 Peggy Rice

 Norma Newman

 Wayne Miller

 Mike Brennan

 Brittany Washburn

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 15-23**

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

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

 0 No

**Resolved** that the minutes of the December 29th and January 11th meetings are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

**Highway/Water Superintendent** - Michael C. Kastler read his highway and water department reports. At the next town board meeting, Mike would like to discuss some improvements that need to be done at the town barn. Water Operator Eric Pappa will be reviewing the water prints and tagging the hydrants and valves in numerical order. We will contact WD Malone in the spring to work on any outstanding punch list items.

**Sole Assessor** - Rebecca Trudell’s monthly report has been filed in the Town Clerk’s office.

**Dog Control Officer** - Anne Derr’s monthly report has been filed in the Town Clerk’s office.

**Historian** - Peggy Rice filed a written report for January. Peggy was present at the meeting tonight. She updated the board on the following items. They have been very busy organizing the records room. George Stevens has been uploading photos and sharing them online. They have had luck identifying unknown people from the photos George has shared. Peggy will be walking through the two villages and taking photos of all homes. This will take some time to complete. The last time this was done was in 1984. Peggy received a quote for a gazebo from North Country Storage Barns. The town board would like her to get a couple more quotes.

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

**Legislator** - County Legislator Michael Yerdon reported that their regular legislator meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9th. They have been working on a resolution for exemptions for senior citizens. The county has been having difficulties recruiting new employees. There are several vacancies throughout the county. Due to this lack of staffing, the county has waived civil service testing fees for 2023.

**Library** - Library Director Jessica Godfrey gave copies of the library’s newsletter and calendar to the Town Board. Jessica reviewed the library’s 2022 Community Report with the board. She compared the new data with the last four years’ worth of data. 2022 numbers are rising compared to 2020 and 2021. Wi-Fi use has increased within the last couple of years. Library visits are increasing. Computer usage is down. Jessica explained that this is due to the rise of tablet usage. With a decrease in the need for computers, the library will reduce the number of computers from 11 to 6. The library currently has a raffle for a wine basket. Tickets are $5 each or 3 for $10. The drawing for this raffle will be at noon on Friday, February 10, 2023. Jessica plans to live stream the drawing on Facebook. The library will be closed for renovations from February 27th through March 19th. The library plans to reopen on March 20th. Last month, Historian Peggy Rice, said she wanted to stop in and see if the brick area that the library had planned to paint was anything she was interested in completing. Peggy is not interested. The board will stick with the previously agreed on painter.

**Board of Appeals** – There is one variance request on White Pines Drive. There will be a public hearing regarding this variance on March 8th at 6pm at the Town Hall before the regular town board meeting.

**Town Clerk** – Town Clerk Tammy L Miller was absent due to illness. Deputy Town Clerk Brittany Washburn reported that the total receipts and total disbursements for the month of January totaled $1,095.00 and of that total $1,040.50 was town income.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mike Brennan – Owner of Brennans Bay in the Town of Ellisburg expressed his continued interest in public water to his campground on Renshaw Bay Road. Mr. Brennan’s campground touches the county line and is close to the current water line for Greene Point Marina. He would like permission to connect to the water main through his own private water line. There was a previous meeting between the Towns of Richland, Sandy Creek, and Ellisburg regarding a transmission line from Sandy Creek to Ellisburg. The Town of Sandy Creek cannot sell water to another person or entity without written permission from the Town of Richland. A water agreement would be needed from all parties involved in order for the possibility of water to the campground. Mr. Brennan has spoken with Greene Point Marina about an owner-to-owner easement for a water line to his campground.

Ruth Scheppard spoke briefly about a recent meeting she attended with Town Supervisor Ridgeway, as well as two representatives from the Town of Richland regarding water matters. The two towns have agreed to have a special joint meeting on March 21st.

The Town of Sandy Creek and Town of Richland will receive a project award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) on February 15th. This award is for the joint water project between the two towns.

Not much has changed with the CEHA matter. It will cost approximately $18,200 to re-do the variance. They will need to request an extension for the variance. Neither Mr. Backus nor the town can request the extension. If an extension is needed than the funding agency will need to make the request. The escrow account for the CEHA has about $17,000 left. Dave Warner and Ruth Scheppard both agreed that we must speak with an attorney to help with this matter. Those in the CEHA may need to pay more money towards these costs. This discussion will be tabled until the board has spoken to the attorney.

The Town Board discussed their need for a new attorney. The board would like to hire Courtney Hill as the new Town Attorney.

**RESOLUTION 16-23**

On motion by John Wood Jr, seconded by Ruth 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 appoint Attorney Courtney Hills as Town Attorney.

Dave Warner will call and speak with Ms. Hill with some questions that he has. Attorney Hill has another town meeting on the same night as Sandy Creek’s meeting. Supervisor Ridgeway will reach out to see which day of the week will work best for her to attend our board meetings.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 17-23**

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

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

 0 No

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #2 & #3 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 96,473.41

Highway Fund $ 51,732.46

Water District #3- H3 $ 244,625.10

Water District #1-SW $ 464,525.29

Water District #2-SW $ 430.58

Water District #3-SW $ 2,768.43

Trust & Agency $ 11,553.85

Peggy Rice – Attended the water shed meeting that was held at the Town Hall on January 17th. Mrs. Rice thanked Town Councilman John Wood for attending the meetings that were held on January 17th and 31st. Mr. Wood gave a short explanation of what was discussed at these meetings. They will be collecting samples. They will also be conducting studies to see where chemicals are coming from (farms, septics, etc.). They will be testing at the base of North and South Sandy Creek. More information can be found on the Tug Hill Commission’s website. There will be another meeting in March.

**RESOLUTION 18-23**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth 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 enter executive session at 7:57 pm for the purposes of collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law. Everyone left the meeting, except Deputy Washburn waited in her office for the open meeting to resume.

**RESOLUTION 19-23**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by John 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 will exit executive session at 8:25 pm.

John Wood would like to have a special meeting with our Attorney to update the IMA between the Town of Sandy Creek and Town of Richland. The employee handbook needs to be updated as well.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held March 8th at 7 pm

**On motion** by Ruth Scheppard, and seconded by John Wood Jr., and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany M. Washburn

Deputy Town Clerk