**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:** March 9, 2022

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Town Hall

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

Ruth E. Scheppard Michael C. Kastler

Nola J. Gove Tammy L. Miller

Dave Warner Anthony Young

Brittany M. Washburn

**Absent:** John W. Wood, Jr. Brett Tremblay out @ 7:16 pm

Meg Sprague

Nancy Ridgeway

Michael G. Yerdon

Bill Joyce

Pat McDougal

Pete Backus

Nancy Dingman

John Howland @ 7:06 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 22-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Wood

**Resolved** that the minutes of the February 9th meeting are approved as written.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The monthly financial report of the Supervisor for February was filed in the Town Clerk’s office and copies were delivered to Town Board members’ mailboxes.

Brian Tremblay, P.E. of Barton & Loguidice was present to discuss the proposal to replace the Skinner Road culvert over Blind Creek. Superintendent Kastler applied for a Bridge NY grant for this project and it was not selected. Mr. Tremblay offered to guide the Town Board through the steps necessary to re-apply in the fall. The Bridge NY funding consists of three rounds with the next to be awarded in 2023. The culvert needs work and if the town is willing to front some of the money needed, it will help the project get selected for funding. The size of this funding program has doubled. They now award a total of $1billion. Superintendent Kastler would like the Town Board to consider using some of the unallocated fund balance to start this project. B&L will look into costs of alternatives. B&L will not charge the town to re-apply to the Bridge NY funding program. They supplied Superintendent Kastler with a written proposal dated February 9, 2022. The proposal uses 2022 billing rates with a fee cap of $23,300. This will not be reimbursable by the grant. Town Clerk Miller will get a copy of the proposal to distribute to the Town Board. The funding is capped at $1 million for culvert projects. This project is estimated at $800,000 for construction and will be close to a $1million application. It would likely be constructed in 2024. Mr. Tremblay left the meeting at 7:16 pm.

**REPORTS:**

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler read his highway and water department reports for February. Mr. Kastler reported that the department will be filling potholes with cold patch. The Sunset Lane project is progressing. He would like to replace all Badger water meters with Zenner in the near future. On March 15th there will be a construction meeting to discuss rock drill pricing and the work schedule with WD Malone.

Supervisor Ridgeway introduced his new Bookkeeper Meghan Sprague.

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

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

Historian – Peggy Rice was out for a few days after falling on the ice. She submitted her monthly report today.

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

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon shared an information packet regarding ARPA funds with the Town Board. The funding is more flexible now. He also shared maps and information on the new Congressional, Assembly and Senatorial districts in Oswego County.

Library – Library Director Jessica Godfrey e-mailed a copy of the library’s newsletter and calendar to the town.

NOCA – Northern Oswego County Ambulance representative Nancy Dingman reported that they have two towns with no representative on their board. They are seeking and interviewing candidates.

Planning Board – Bill Joyce reported that the minutes from the March 2nd meeting have been filed. They are discussing a moratorium on solar farms in the Village of Sandy Creek. They will look up information on one that the Town of Richland recently did.

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s report for February is filed in the Town Clerk’s office. He will be attending an in-person training April 5th – 7th. He has a meeting to discuss our ISO rating next Thursday.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of February totaled $1,528.00 of which $1,408.04 was town income. The report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. As of March 1st over 82% of all town and county taxes had been collected with 2,624 tax bills processed. On March 21st the Town Clerk and Deputy will attend a regional NYS Town Clerk Association meeting and training at Tailwater Lodge. They will also be attending the NYS Tug Hill Commission 31st Annual Local Government Conference on April 19th at Turning Stone Event Center.

Engineers – Anthony Young, P.E. of Barton & Loguidice was present to update the Town Board on the water project. A progress meeting is scheduled as WD Malone plans to resume construction soon. The Department of Health approved the Sunset Lane project. B&L would like a special meeting to discuss a possible Water District #4. The Town Board agreed to a special meeting for this purpose on March 23rd at 7 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Pete Backus** expressed his thoughts on the DEC’s denial of the variance request for the CEHA area. A neutral hearing by a third party is the next step. He asked the town to support the 40 property owners that are being denied access to public water and for Supervisor Ridgeway to write a letter asking for an appeal and a hearing in front of an administrative law judge. He said the residents of the area will walk away from the appeal if this step fails. **Pat McDougal** provided the board with a detailed map and information on the CEHA area. She read a portion of a letter from the Chapman’s. They have done four projects to add riprap to the shoreline of which they have agreed to maintain for 30 years and have spent over $100,000. The last CEHA map is dated 1986 and is supposed to be updated every 10 years. When Claudia Tenney came to Greene Point and spoke, she said that the DEC is supposed to consider the effect that their decisions have on the people. She stated that the people of this CEHA area need drinking water and fire hydrants. They have bad wells. The camps have been there since the 1950’s. She also thanked B&L for their help with all of the possible options they have suggested to try to get the area approved. **Nancy Ridgeway** is concerned about repercussions to town projects if it pursues this appeal.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Councilman Warner stated that he has changed his mind and wants to proceed with one last chance for the CEHA residents to get public water. The Town Board can have others testify for them at the hearing.

**RESOLUTION 23-22**

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

ADOPTED – 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Wood

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway to appeal the NYS DEC’s recent decision by writing a letter officially requesting an adjudicatory hearing regarding the decision by NYS DEC to deny the variance DEC ID 7-3599-00040/00003.

There was discussion about the possible reversal of the decision and what steps would be needed to get the residents back into the project as the EDU charges on their tax bills were refunded. Superintendent Kastler suggested sending a letter to the affected residents.

Past Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway is still helping out with the ARPA funding project. She was present to further discuss ideas to spend the town’s ARPA funding of $253,640.26. Half was received last summer and the other half is due this summer. The board discussed a list of many ideas. Mrs. Ridgeway stated that if money is given to other organizations it must be stated what the town wants the money used for. The funds must be spent by June of 2024. This was tabled for a future meeting.

Councilman Scheppard gave an update on the dredging project. A permit was approved today. SPCMA would like some of the town’s ARPA funding for dredging.

**RESOLUTION 24-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Warner, Ridgeway, Gove

0 No

1 Absent Wood

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the annual audits of Town Justice Crast and Town Justice Stoker for 2021 as completed on February 15, 2022 by Nola J. Gove.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Henry J. van den Heever, CSP, ARM and Senior Risk Control Specialist with New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR) conducted a walk-thru of the Town Barn and Town Hall and is recommending three improvements be made. Supervisor Ridgeway must respond in writing by the end of April. One of his suggestions was updating and separating the fire protection contract with both villages.

**RESOLUTION 25-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Wood

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the updated fire protection contracts, one with the Village of Lacona and one with the Village of Sandy Creek as prepared by Attorney Joseph Russell using the NYMIR recommendations.

**RESOLUTION 26-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Wood

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the annual software support contract for the Building & Codes Enforcement software program from Williamson Law Book Company for March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023 for $475.00.

**RESOLUTION 27-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Wood

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes planting of native species to be carried out under the North Pond Resiliency Project by SLELO PRISM and its contractor, Cardno (now Stantec), in the amount of $5,000. SLELO PRISM will be responsible for development of the planting plan and direction of the contractor in completing the planting.

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION 28-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Warner, Scheppard, Ridgeway, Gove

0 No

1 Absent Wood

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

**From Description To Description Amount**

SW1-1990.4 Contingent SW1-1440.4 Engineering Contractual $10,580.00

SW1-909 Unreserved Fund Balance SW1-8397.22 Sunset Lane Project $70,000.00

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 29-22**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Wood

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #4 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 630.61

Trust & Agency $ 14,899.16

**And** on Abstract #5 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 83,009.38

Highway Fund $ 44,688.22

Water District #3- H3 $1,031,659.04

Water District #1-SW $ 13,202.08

Water District #2-SW $ 3,268.70

Water District #3-SW $ 3,232.36

Water District #4- SW $ 3,750.00

Trust & Agency $ 10,579.55

John Howland will look into finding someone to refinish the wood floors in the Town Hall.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held April 13th at 7 pm.

**On motion** by Ruth E. Scheppard, and seconded by Nola J. Gove, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk