**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 25, 2019

**Kind of Meeting:** Special Meeting

**Place:** Sandy Creek Town Hall

**Town 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, Esq.

Dustin Clark, P.E.

**Village Trustees Present:** Grant Rohrmoser Lynn H. Miller

Kenney LaRue Lorraine Lautenbacher

Sharon Turo Jack Dodson, P.E.

Jill Mattison

Joe Russell, Esq.

CALL TO ORDER:

Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. This special joint meeting with the Village of Sandy Creek was scheduled to discuss the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) for Water District #2 made on October 14, 2015. No water advisory committee members were in attendance.

Supervisor Ridgeway turned the meeting over to Attorney-for-the-Town Rebekah Prosachik. She stated that it was time to review the IMA and consider some adjustments. The agreement is in effect for 39 years, but shall be reviewed every two years. Our main concern is with the calculation of the rate charged to the town’s Water District #2. The town is interested in an easier formula to calculate the town’s water rate.

Village Engineer Jack Dodson explained the history of how the water charge was determined. The current IMA was negotiated over a long period of time. The rate calculation that is stated in section 3.3 of the IMA was determined after multiple meetings between Engineers Clark and Dodson. Mr. Dodson stated that when you run the numbers using the equation, it comes out exactly as it should. However, if the formula is off, the village uses a proportion calculation.

Councilman Wood asked how the Village of Lacona can sell water to a private water hauler for $4.50 per thousand gallons of water, but the Village of Sandy Creek sells bulk water to a municipality for $8.23 per thousand gallons when the source of water is the same. Mr. Dodson explained that the Joint Water Works consists of two distribution systems, one in each village. We should only be concerned with the Village of Sandy Creek’s domestic water. The system is designed to supply water for fire protection and the rate reflects that.

Village Clerk Jill Mattison stated that the village still has outside users on Kersey Drive and in Green Haven Mobile Home Park. These users are charged double the village rate for water.

The Town Board requested to see the financial books and accounts of the village that relate to water many months ago. They were provided last week. The village charges the town’s Water District #2 based on the master meter readings minus any water used for the purpose of fire protection. Also the village cannot charge the town for their debt service, so that is why the rate formula is the way it is.

The village set a minimum fee of $60 for village residents. This is the cost of water production. The Joint Water Works was formed to provide a source of water, storage of water and it now provides a manganese removal treatment plant. Both villages are contributors at a 60/40 split. Each village budgets for its distribution system. The cost to produce water is $6.30 to $6.40 per thousand gallons of water. This number is multiplied by 1.2 or 1.3 to get the rate the village charges the town. The rule of thumb is to multiply the rate by 1.2 to 1.5. If there is a 34% increase in the village bills, then the town gets a 34% increase. Town officials believe that the formula and the proportional increase can’t be followed and is a source of contention in the IMA. Village engineer Dodson maintains that the equation is spot on and the Town is wasting approximately $900 on attorney fees, etc. on this issue while not allowing the village to connect to Water District #2’s new 8 inch water main on US Rt 11 south.

Superintendent Kastler addressed a letter from the village regarding the 8 inch water main and a leak that occurred at the Hurd property in the village. He stated that the Village Mayor and the Village Water Operator were on site and that the Town Supervisor was also consulted before the leak was repaired.

Village officials left the meeting at 8:39 pm.

**RESOLUTION 77-19**

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 authorizes Town Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway and Highway Superintendent Michael C. Kastler to sign the County of Oswego Highway Department Snow Removal and Ice Control Agreement effective October 1, 2019 through May 30, 2020.

**RESOLUTION 78-19**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek appoints Rebecca Trudell as Sole Assessor to the term of office beginning October 1, 2019 and expiring September 30, 2025.

The possibility of purchasing the Cazenovia Equipment building was discussed. Lynn Miller asked if the Town had considered renovating the current Town Barn rather than taking another parcel of property off the tax rolls.

The Highway Department’s union contract expires on December 31, 2019. Proposing a one year extension of the current contract was discussed.

The North Pond Resiliency Project was discussed. The project will dredge the north side of the channel. Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association plans to dredge the south side of the channel beginning Monday, September 30th. The Association has hired Brian Wallis to do the work.

Brittany Washburn left the meeting at 9:07 pm.

The budget meeting scheduled for October 2nd is rescheduled to October 10th.

**On motion** by Ruth Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk