

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: October 29, 2025

Type of Meeting: Special Budget Meeting

Place: Sandy Creek Town Hall

Board Members Present: Timothy D. Ridgeway, Town Supervisor
Ruth E. Scheppard, Town Council Member
John W. Wood Jr., Town Council Member
Nola J. Gove, Town Council Member
A. Dave Warner, Town Council Member

Others Present: Meg Sprague, Ron Fisher, Mike Kastler, Amber Waters, and Brittany Washburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussing the 2026 Budget and any other matters that are brought to the Town Board. Supervisor Ridgeway turned the meeting over to Bookkeeper Meg Sprague.

Bookkeeper Sprague and Superintendent Kastler explained that trending assessments helped the taxable values in the town. Mrs. Sprague explained that the tax rate will be lower in 2026 than it was in 2025. However, we will still be going over the tax cap. The amount budgeted, in 2025, for retirement was not enough to match the salaries. The retirement estimates will be increased for 2026. There is \$200,000 that could be divided up to meet last year's tax cap if the board wanted to do that.

Dave Warner questioned how much we budgeted for SPCMA and the demolition line in the B fund. There was a discussion regarding increasing the schedule of fees in the Code Enforcement Officers office. Our fees are lower than in other surrounding towns. Increasing the fees would help increase revenue in the B fund. Mrs. Gove suggested charging fees for violations.

Mrs. Sprague would like to see at least \$10,000 go into the DA fund and \$5,000 into the DB fund.

Ron Fisher mentioned that although the tax rate may be less, we must remember that all property owners will see an increase in their assessments.

Mike Kastler would like to see \$20,000 go into the B fund, \$20,000 into the DA fund, and \$10,000 into the DB fund. Mike also explained that we may receive money back from the Skinner Road project.

Mrs. Sprague believes we will be adding approximately \$40,000 to the levy and the estimated tax rate will be approximately 5.2%.

Town Clerk Washburn let the board know that we have received all water payments and we will not need to re-levy any unpaid water bills.

Highway Superintendent Kastler would like any extra money in contingency to go towards the principal on the truck loan.

Town Supervisor Ridgeway asked everyone present if they had any questions or concerns regarding the 2026 budget before the public hearing next week. No additional comments were made.

John Wood prefers that if we need to raise taxes that we do it in increments and not all at once. Mr. Wood would like to know exactly how the County calculates its tax bills with each town.

Meg inquired about payroll for an individual, but Town Clerk Washburn had already reached out to the Attorney regarding this matter. The Town Clerk will forward the email from the Attorney to the Bookkeeper.

Supervisor Ridgeway wanted to discuss the ATV club's request for use of certain Town roads. Mr. Ridgeway received a message from the Oswego County Sheriff regarding this matter. Tim has reached out to our insurance company for their feedback on this as well. Mike Kastler is not against this but wants to know what the insurance company has to say. Mr. Kastler would also like clear signage on town roads for the ATVs. John Wood inquired about opening all town roads up to ATV use. He would like Supervisor Ridgeway to ask the insurance company about that option. Mr. Kastler advised Supervisor Ridgeway to reach out to Redfield regarding ATV use in their town. A lengthy discussion followed regarding ATV usage on Town Roads.

Highway Superintendent Kastler has a vacancy he would like to fill in the Highway Department now that Mike Haverlock is working 50/50 in Highway and Water. He would like to offer a part-time position this year at \$25 per hour. This person would then be transitioned to a full-time position in the new year. The Town Board agreed to this plan. There are two highway employees that plan to retire next year, so there will be openings for those spots as well.

RESOLUTION #106-25

Motion made by John W. Wood Jr., and seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will enter executive session at 6:18 pm to discuss the collective bargaining agreement. Everyone left the meeting. The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, and Bookkeeper waited in their offices for the open meeting to resume.

RESOLUTION #107-25

Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, and seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove, and Warner
0 No

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will exit executive session at 6:26 pm.

Town Clerk Washburn reentered the meeting. The Deputy Town Clerk and Bookkeeper stayed in their offices.

On motion made by Nola J. Gove and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brittany M. Washburn,
Town Clerk