**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:** April 10, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Town Hall

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

Ruth E. Scheppard Tammy L. Miller

John W. Wood, Jr. Brittany M. Washburn

Nola J. Gove Ron Fisher

Dave Warner @6:02 PM John Howland

Jessica Godfrey

Matt McGregor

Pat McDougal @7:04 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 37-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by John W. Wood, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Gove

0 No

1 Absent Warner

**Resolved** that the minutes of the March 6th and 13th meetings are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s report for March is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. He attended codes school this week.

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler was absent this evening. His highway department and water department reports are on file.

**RESOLUTION 38-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, 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 assigns the following EDU’s:

**Former Assigned**

**Tax ID EDU EDU Property Location Property Owner**

037.00-02-11.02 1.00 1.50 180 Rainbow Shores Rd Sucapani

037.00-01-05.02 2.50 1.50 260-266 Rainbow Shores Rd Sunshine Charters LLC

027.00-05-07 ----- 1.00 161 Ouderkirk Rd Wallis Jr

007.19-02-09.01 Split 1.50 93 Chipman Ln Newcomb

007.19-02-09.02 Split 1.00 Chipman Ln Hartough/Reiter

039.00-01-02.01 Split 2.00 204 Upton Rd Ackerman

039.00-01-02.02 Split 0.50 Upton Rd Wilson

028.00-01-12.46 Split 1.00 10 Ouderkirk Rd Narish

028.00-01-12.47 Split 0.50 Ouderkirk Rd Narish

**RESOLUTION 39-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, 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 Highway Superintendent Michael Kastler to sign the acceptance of a written contract from Allen Chase Enterprises, Inc. for two herbicide applications supervised by a NYS DEC applicator for a total cost of $2,194.66.

Two written quotes were received for pressure washing the outside of the Town Hall as follows:

Master Blasters of Pulaski, NY $575.00

Pete’s ProWash of Richland, NY $600.00

**RESOLUTION 40-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, 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 accepts the quote from Master Blasters for $575.00 to pressure wash the exterior of the Town Hall building.

**RESOLUTION 41-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, 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 accepts the quote from New York Underground, Inc. for 2” directional drilling labor at $27.50 per foot for the 2024 calendar year.

Matt McGregor, Director of Policy and Planning for Solarbank of Toronto, Canada was present to speak to the Town Board about solar development on the former landfill site on County Route 15. His corporation also has an office in Rochester, NY called Abundant Solar Power, Inc. He distributed a paper presentation and map for the town board showing the site plan for this property. His company develops solar projects all over NYS. They manage about 100 solar plants and power over 5,000 homes in NYS. They have been working with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board since 2018. They are a full-service turn-key solar developer. If the town signs a lease, they will be here 25 to 35 years as a resident business. This project would be 5MW (5.4 MW DC and 3.2 MW AC) and they would go through the permit process with the town and the DEC. The Community Solar program provides a 10% discount to all electric users that sign up. The Town of Sandy Creek can sign up for this program and would also receive a first-year lease payment of approximately $16,000. A Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement was discussed. A utility grade meter will measure output. There will be technology onsite to monitor the system continuously. Therefore, if something malfunctions or breaks it will be repaired as soon as possible. Degradation will be accounted for. It should still be about 80% functional at decommissioning. A decommission plan and bond will be filed. It will increase with inflation. There will be no onsite battery storage. If sold, it will be under the same terms of the lease. Councilman Wood believes that a PILOT may be negotiated with the Oswego County IDA or the town itself. He asked questions about the clearing of the land. A building permit and site plan approval will be needed. The vegetation will be cleared with zero penetration of the surface of the landfill. Mr. McGregor and Councilman Warner toured the site just before this meeting. Flat concrete slabs are not used for the base of the solar arrays. A basket-like trough is built to the correct angles for the base of each rack. A proposed lease can be sent to the town by the end of the week.

Councilman Wood remembered an email received back in June of 2021. The NYS DEC had contracted with Parsons to investigate the site and install three monitoring wells to assess groundwater quality. They want to be sure the solid waste site is not causing contamination of a drinking water source. Eric Felter is the current contact for this matter.

**RESOLUTION 42-24**

On motion by John W. Wood, 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 approves the installation of monitoring wells by Parsons at the landfill site on Co Rt 15.

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

**RESOLUTION 43-24**

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 will hire Kristine Benedict as a Clerk to the Assessor with a regular, part-time schedule of Monday through Wednesday from 9 AM to 3 PM at an hourly rate of $18.00 per hour with paid time off available after one year of service.

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 prepared a written report and it is filed in the office of the Town Clerk.

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

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon asked to be excused this evening.

Library – Director Jessica Godfrey reported that the library was extremely busy distributing approximately 850 solar glasses. Leftover glasses can be sent to South America for viewing a future eclipse there. Keep Music Alive from Philadelphia, PA came to the library for the Eclipse Party on April 8th to set up their musical instrument petting zoo. The public was invited to try playing several musical instruments on the library lawn. Activities are planned for screen-free week beginning April 22nd. Yoga and chair yoga will be offered at the library next month. A floral design workshop will be held on April 13th for a $25 fee. Ongoing activities include the Cookbook Club, card making, a book club, and a needle-felting class. They will be making an owl this month out of felt. Ms. Godfrey would like to schedule Stanley Steamer to clean the carpets at the library.

NOCA – There was no report from Northern Oswego County Ambulance this month.

Planning Board – Bill Joyce filed the minutes of the April 3rd meeting in the office of the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of March totaled $2,041.25 of which $1,854.41 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. Local tax collection ended April 1st with nearly 92% of taxes collected. Less than 200 bills will be returned as delinquent and 15 bills are half-paid. Mrs. Miller will be attending the NYS Town Clerks Association school April 21st - 24th in Albany and the 2024 NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Local Government Conference May 2nd at Turning Stone Event Center.

Ron Fisher is home from the south and came to update the Town Board on the water study. The contract with Upstate Freshwater Institute begins again in July. The water quality study of the Sandy Creek watershed is on the Tug Hill Commission’s website. This study was a larger stream study in Jefferson and Oswego counties. It found low solids, relatively low nitrogen and relatively low phosphorus, the limiting nutrient. This shows again that the tributaries are not really contributing to contamination of Sandy Pond. Septic upgrades and a public sewer system would help the Pond area. More results are needed. There are multiple studies going on.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was none at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 44-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove , 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 rescind resolution #41-23, a resolution allocating the rest of the ARPA funds to the needs of the town.

**RESOLUTION 45-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will gift $10,000 to each of the following: the Lacona Fire Department, the Agricultural Society of Oswego County, Cable Trail VFW Post #8534, Sandy Creek Little League, and to Oswego County for the broadband internet project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 46-23**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, 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 accepts the agreement with All Pest of Adams, NY for spider spraying this season.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 47-24**

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 bills be paid on Abstract #6 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 828.30

Trust & Agency $ 16,640.01

**AND** on Abstract #7 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 63,272.54

Highway Fund $ 33,084.26

Water District #3 Project $ 7,024.00

Water District #1 $ 10,466.35

Water District #2 $ 3,011.29

Water District #3 $ 8,278.70

Trust & Agency $ 12,986.68

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk