**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:** August 9, 2023

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Sandy Creek Town Hall

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

Dave Warner Michael G. Yerdon, Legislator-left @7:43pm

Nola J. Gove Tammy L. Miller

Michael C. Kastler

**Absent:** John W. Wood, Jr**.** Pat McDougal @ 7:04 pm

Ruth E. Scheppard Bill Joyce

Ron Fisher

Jessica Godfrey

Eric Pappa

Ashley Babcock

**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 78-23**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the minutes of the July 12th meeting are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

**Highway/Water Superintendent** - Michael C. Kastler read his highway report. He plans to pave and chip seal Upton Road. However, the cost has increased significantly and in order to complete the entire road the highway budget is approximately $30,000 short.

**RESOLUTION 79-23**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will allocate up to $30,000 of ARPA funds for the paving and chip sealing of Upton Road.

On August 7th a committee of five Highway Superintendents and two Town Supervisors met with Oswego County representatives to discuss the annual snow and ice agreement. This was the first meeting since April. The county said that they cannot afford the committee’s proposal. A new proposal of a three-year contract with a May 1st end date includes payment at $8,500 per mile with a fuel stipend if the cost of fuel should rise to over $5.00 per gallon is now on the table.

The SCADA communication system is now operational in the Town of Sandy Creek. Sandy Creek water department personnel will be notified directly of any alarms involving our public water system. We are currently in the warranty period of the water project. Superintendent Kastler reported that he has not hired a water operator trainee. He did four interviews. He believes we need some added language to the union contract regarding the new position. An amendment should include a probationary period of six months to one year during which the employee should obtain their CDL and water operators license. Supervisor Ridgeway should arrange a meeting with union representatives to discuss an amendment.

**RESOLUTION 80-23**

On motion by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will add a $100 curb stop connection fee to the water department’s fee schedule.

**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 July.

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

**Legislator** - County Legislator Michael Yerdon reported that the Oswego County Legislator will be meeting on Thursday, August 10th at the courthouse in Pulaski at 2 pm. All are welcome to attend. A public hearing will be held on a local law giving volunteer fire and EMT workers an exemption of 10% on property taxes. A copy of this law will be shared with the towns, villages, and school districts. The county is beginning work on the 2024 budget.

**Library** - Library Director Jessica Godfrey was present to update the board on various activities at the Annie Porter Ainsworth Memorial Library. The library was busy this summer and one day over 70 people visited. Zoo NY of Watertown will visit the library at 11 am on August 19th. The drawing for the summer reading program will also be held that day. The High Adventure Band will play on the lawn on August 26th at 6:30pm. Ms. Godfrey is looking for historians and other speakers to do a local talk series in October and November. Councilman Warner asked about the genealogy program. The genealogy room at the library is open on Thursdays from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Ancestry.com is available to the public at the library and at the Town Hall. Ira Marcks and Anthony Rolando are alumni of SCCS that have written children’s books. They will be featured at the library in the future.

**Planning Board** – Bill Joyce reported on the August 2nd meeting of the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board. Best Furiends Doggie Daycare of 180 Edwards Road was granted permission to open on the condition that they obtain a building permit for the 14 x 20 shed that they will be using. The Comprehensive Plan was discussed. Planning board members are interested in updating the plan. S&R Automotive in the village may need to modify their site plan.

**Code Enforcement Officer** – John Howland’s list of permits and violations for July has been filed. The Kent property violation case on August 4th in State Supreme Court was decided in favor of the town.

**RESOLUTION 81-23**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will hold a public hearing at 7 pm on September 13th on the Town of Sandy Creek Local Law No. Three (3) of the year 2023, A local law for Flood Damage Prevention as authorized by the New York State Constitution, Article IX, Section 2, and Environmental Conservation Law, Article 36.

**Town Clerk** – Town Clerk Tammy Miller reported that the total receipts and disbursements for the month of July totaled $1,725.00 of which $1,309.17 was town revenue. On August 1st hunting and trapping licenses became available for the 2023- 2024 hunting season.

**Upstate Freshwater Institute**- Ron Fisher was present to give an update on recent studies. The first harmful algal bloom (HAB) was reported in North Pond on August 5th. It was minor and along the shore. On August 7th it was gone temporarily due to the heavy rain. UFI will begin sampling next week for 5 weeks.

Supervisor Ridgeway reported that there is nothing new with the CEHA issue. Pete Backus emailed the NYS DEC.

**PUBLIC COMMENT –** Pat McDougal asked if we knew exactly what work was being done at the stop light in the village. The town did not receive notification from the NYS DOT about that project.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Councilman Gove is working on updates to the employee handbook.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 82-23**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town Sandy Creek authorizes Supervisor Ridgeway to sign an engagement agreement appointing Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC of Syracuse asspecial counsel to represent the Town of Sandy Creek in the tax certiorari case brought by Creekside Associates of CNY, LP.

**RESOLUTION 83-23**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will issue a Request For Proposals (RFP) to audit the Town of Richland water department per our IMA with proposals due September 13th at noon.

Amanda Mazzoni of the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board will attend the September monthly meeting to talk to the board about an energy survey.

**RESOLUTION 84-23**

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

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves Barton & Loguidice Engineering Amendment No 4 reducing the engineering budget by $47,500 and agrees to move $47,500 from Technical Services (Engineering) to Contingency on Form E.

A committee of town representatives must meet with a representative of Barton & Loguidice in the next two months for the Oswego Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Town Clerk Miller will set up a meeting for the suggested planning team members.

Ron Fisher asked about the new flood maps. The town is in the process of updating the local law regarding local flood prevention and insurance requirements to protect local property owners.

Superintendent Kastler reported that the state will be working on the Maple Ave bridge in the Village of Lacona and may need to hold a public hearing at the Town Hall.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 85-23**

On motion by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, the following resolution was

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Gove, Warner

0 No

2 Absent Wood, Scheppard

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #14 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 9,560.54

Trust & Agency $ 8,085.50

**And** on Abstract #15 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 26,794.39

Highway Fund $ 34,367.12

Water District #3- H3 $ 16,949.00

Water District #1-SW $ 4,142.57

Water District #2-SW $ 386.46

Water District #3-SW $ 2,816.02

Trust & Agency $ 7,703.26

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

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, and seconded by Timothy D. Ridgeway, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk