**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:** December 11, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting with bid opening

**Place:** Town Hall

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

Ruth E. Scheppard Tammy L. Miller

John W. Wood, Jr. Michael C. Kastler

Nola J. Gove Bill Joyce

Dave Warner Brittany M Washburn

Meg Sprague

John Howland -left at 6:20 pm

Wayne Miller-left @7:09 pm

Jessica Godfrey

Pat McDougal

Bill Berry

Charles Skellen

Teresa Stowell-Hollis

Todd Bristol

Steve Gove @ 6:17 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**BID OPENING:**

Sealed bids for the purchase of a 2022 or newer, new or used rubber-tracked 18-20,000 lb excavator with less than 1,000 hours were opened by Town Clerk Miller and read aloud as follows:

Mid Country Machinery, LLC of Brewerton, NY Used 2022 LI 80X3 $33,020.90 after trade-in

and a New 2023 LI 80X3 $54,639.02 after trade-in

Monroe Tractor of North Syracuse, NY Used Case CX80 C $45,700.00 after trade-in

Tracey Road of East Syracuse, NY Used 2023 Kobelco $33,400.00 after trade-in

and a New 2024 Hitachi $53,220.00 after trade-in

Phil Hanneman of Upstate Equipment sent a bid in by e-mail for a Bobcat under NYS contract for $111,344.64.

**REPORTS:**

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler filed his highway department and water department reports with the Town Clerk and supplied copies to the Town Board. He read his report and also reported that the highway department’s refrigerator is not cooling properly. He has quotes on three refrigerators from different stores. He would like to purchase one from Home Depot for $648 if we can get the tax-exempt account activated again. The town board had no objections on replacing the refrigerator. He also reported that second notices have been mailed for approximately 140 late water bills. At 6:11 pm Superintendent Kastler left the meeting to review the excavator bids in detail.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilman Warner stated that he doesn’t approve of Town Clerk Miller quoting him in the November 6th minutes without the rest of his words. He wants the minutes changed or that portion struck.

**RESOLUTION 114-24**

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

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Scheppard, Warner, Gove

0 No

Councilman Wood and Town Supervisor Ridgeway remained silent.

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek wants the two lines of the November 6th minutes that refer to Councilman Warner’s quote to be struck from the minutes.

Councilman Warner then read an excerpt that he said came from the state that a Town Clerk’s duty is record the minutes of the meeting and should not actively participate in meetings other than when invited by the Town Board to bring information or to clarify a point. When the Town Clerk asked for a copy of what he read, Councilman Warner said to look it up and when she asked for the reference, he told her to talk to the hand.

**RESOLUTION 115-24**

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

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Scheppard, Warner, Gove

0 No

Councilman Wood and Supervisor Ridgeway remained silent.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the October 30th and November 6th and 13th meetings are approved with two lines regarding Councilman Warner’s quote struck from the November 6th minutes.

**REPORTS** continued**:**

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s monthly report is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. He filed for NYS retirement. Ralph Kent has until December 31st to clean up. Koslowski was issued a stop work order. Mr. Howland left the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell filed her November monthly report in the office of the Town Clerk where it is available for public inspection.

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

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon was excused this evening due to the weather.

Historian - Peggy Rice filed a monthly report and it is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Town Justice- The monthly reports of Town Justices Crast and Stoker were received by the Town Supervisor.

Library – Director Jessica Godfrey was present to give her monthly report and supply the Town Board with the monthly newsletter. She spoke about the library construction grant. The confusion has been clarified. The sidewalk work must be referred to as “walkways”. The grant match is back to the original $13,500 now. Ms. Godfrey thanked Mike and the town for the holiday lighting around the library building and grounds. She reviewed the events from the December newsletter.

Planning Board – The minutes from the December 4th meeting have been filed and copies given to the board members. Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board Secretary/Treasurer Bill Joyce reported that the review of the Comprehensive Plan is moving forward. He stressed that he is the point person on the Comprehensive Plan and all comments, issues and questions should be directed to him. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan is an important document and that moving forward with its update is a good idea. He is not sure why there is negativity about this. NYS recommends that the document be routinely updated. Data is being collected and a survey should be done in the community. Participation from the town and both villages is necessary. The SCRPB serves the Town and Village of Sandy Creek. Lacona had its own planning board in the past. Steve Gove stated that Lacona’s 15 to 16 local laws do not handle village issues. Other municipalities think Lacona needs zoning. He also stated that zoning protects you from your neighbor and your neighbor from you.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of November totaled $2,519.75 of which $1,959.50 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. She received a legislative update that explains the printing fee for DECALS that towns may now charge. Oswego County is updating their Comprehensive Plan and has asked for local government contact information for those involved in the local Comp Plan. Quotes were received from Frontier and Spectrum to update the town’s phone and internet systems. The board needs to review the quotes for decision at a future meeting.

Highway Superintendent Mike Kastler re-entered the meeting at 6:35 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Charles Skellen** read a statement to the board regarding behavior from fellow Board of Assessment Review member Steve Gove that he believes to be threatening and raises safety concerns for himself and his family. This incident occurred while traveling throughout the Village of Lacona reviewing the area for Comprehensive Plan updates. He also spoke about past issues with Mr. & Mrs. Gove. **Steve Gove** responded with his account of the recent events. **Theresa Stowell- Hollis** spoke up suggesting mediation between the two gentlemen.

Councilwoman Scheppard asked to move the meeting forward as this was not the time or place for mediation.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 116-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will spend ARPA funds to pay for the welcome sign revisions and $82.99 for ground anchors for the holiday trees of light.

**RESOLUTION 117-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will spend the remaining ARPA funds to pay back Water District #1 for the second water operator’s salary and any remaining ARPA funds will go to Water District #3 budget shortages.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A decision regarding the upgrade of the Town’s phone and internet system has been tabled so the board members can review the two proposals and vote on their recommendation**.**

**RESOLUTION 118-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the Williamson Law Book Payroll and Water Software Support Contracts for December 1, 2024 – November 31, 2025, for $1,051.00 and $1,857.00 respectively.

Superintendent Kastler reviewed the excavator bids with the Town Board.

**RESOLUTION 119-24**

On motion by Dave Warner, seconded by John W. Wood, Jr., the following resolution was

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the bid from Tracey Road Equipment for a used 2023 Kobelco excavator for $33,400 after trade-in contingent on visual inspection and acceptance by Highway Superintendent Kastler.

**TRANFER OF FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION 120-24**

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

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

0 No

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FROM Line # | Description | TO Line # | Description | $ Amount |
| A7110.1 | Parks/Personal Services | A7110.4 | Parks/Contractual | $731.96 |
| A1355.2 | Assessor/Equipment | A1355.4 | Assessor/Contractual | $289.37 |
| A1410.2 | Town Clerk/Equipment | A1410.4 | Town Clerk/Contractual | $279.89 |
| A1640.4 | Town Barn/Contractual | A1640.45 | Clothing Allowance | $500 |
| B8666.4 | Demolition | B8686.4 | Site Plan Review | $185.36 |
| DA5140.4 | Brush Weeds/Contractual | DA8989.4 | Drug Alcohol/Contractual | $346.00 |
| DA5142.4 | Snow Removal/Contractual | DA9010.8 | NYS Retirement | $13,462.02 |
| DB5110.4 | General Repairs/Contractual | DB5110.1 | General Repairs/Personal Services | $25,446.83 |
| DB5130.2 | Machinery/Equipment | DB5140.4 | Brush Weeds/Contractual | $3,399.18 |
| DB5130.2 | Machinery/Equipment | DB9010.8 | State Retirement | $534.94 |
| DB5130.2 | Machinery/Equipment | DB9030.8 | Social Security Medicare | $1181.63 |
| SW1-1990.4 | Contingent | SW1-8340.11 | Trainee/Personal Services | $4,023.71 |
| SW1-1990.4 | Contingent | SW1-8340.44 | Clothing Allowance | $170.00 |
| SW1-1990.4 | Contingent | SW1-8397.43 | Tower & Storage Building | $5,200.30 |
| SW1-8397.4 | Misc Equipment Repairs | SW1-9060.8 | Health Insurance | $4772.60 |
| SW1-1420.4 | Legal/Contractual | SW1-9010.8 | NYS Retirement | $1500.00 |
| SW1-8397.4 | Water Salesman | SW1-9010.8 | NYS Retirement | $1594.98 |
| SW2-1910.4 | Unallocated Insurance | SW2-9710.7 | Serial Bonds/Interest | $38.74 |
| SW3-1990.4 | Contingent | SW3-8340.1 | Water Operator/Personal Services | $1,000 |
| SW3-1990.4 | Contingent | SW3-8340.11 | Water Operator/Trainee | $1,127.24 |
| SW3-1990.4 | Contingent | SW3-8340.4 | Water Operator/Contractual | $22.66 |
| SW3-1990.4 | Contingent | SW3-8340.44 | Water Operator/Clothing Allowance | $250.00 |
| SW3-1990.4 | Contingent | SW3-8397.2 | Water Meters/Equipment | $2910.00 |
| SW3-9710.7 | Serial Bonds/Interest | SW3-8397.4 | Misc/Contractual | $2778.42 |

**RESOLUTION 121-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will hold a year-end meeting on Monday, December 30th at 4:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 122-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #16 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 35,701.52

Highway Fund $ 43,079.89

Water Project-H3 $ 45.00

Water District #1 $ 62,478.61

Water District #2 $ 442.26

Water District #3 $ 53,375.37

Trust & Agency $ 28,187.49

**RESOLUTION 123-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations at 7:23 pm.

**RESOLUTION 124-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will exit executive session at 7:34 pm.

**On motion** by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Nola J. Gove, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. The next regular and organizational meeting will be January 8th at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk