**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:** January 13, 2021

**Kind of Meeting:** Organizational & Regular Meeting

**Place:** Town Hall

**Board Members Present:** Nancy Ridgeway  **Others Present:**

Ruth E. Scheppard Michael C. Kastler

Nola J. Gove Tammy L. Miller

John W. Wood, Jr. Brett McVoy

Dave Warner Brittany M. Washburn

Michael G. Yerdon

Norma Newman

Jessica Godfrey

John Howland

Nancy Dingman

Karen Beebe

Pat McDougal

Shirley Rice

Carol Rohrmoser

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Supervisor Nancy Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. She turned the organizational meeting over to Councilman Scheppard. She began by reading the Official Undertaking.

**RESOLUTION 01-21**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town of Sandy Creek approves the following Official Undertaking:

**Town of Sandy Creek**

**OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS**

**WHEREAS**, Jonn T. Stoker, of the Town of Sandy Creek, County of Oswego, New York, has been elected to the office of Town Justice of the Town of Sandy Creek; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we as respective officers above, do hereby undertake with the Town of Sandy Creek that we will faithfully discharge the duties of our office, and will promptly account for all moneys or property received as a Town Officer, in accordance with the law; and

The Town does and shall maintain insurance coverage, presently with National Grange Mutual, in the sum of $100,000 plus an additional $50,000 for the Supervisor and $100,000 for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to indemnify against losses through the failure of the officers, clerks and employees covered hereunder faithfully to perform their duties or to account properly for all monies or property received by virtue of their positions or employment, and through fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by the officers, clerks and employees covered hereunder.

Next, Councilman Scheppard read the list of appointments to be made.

**RESOLUTION 02-21**

On motion by Nola J. Gove, seconded by John W. Wood, Jr., the following resolution was

ADOPTED – 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Warner, Gove, Wood

0 No

1 Abstain Scheppard

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek makes the following appointments with terms to expire on December 31, 2021, unless otherwise stated:

**Board of Assessment Review:**  Stephen Gove- term expires 9/30/2025

**Constables:** Robert E Dalton, Constable-in-Charge

Michael S. Morrison

Joshua J. Russell

Michael D. Wood

**Board of Appeals:** Michael C. Kastler- 12/31/2025

**Library Trustee**: Charles R. Worden- 12/31/2025

**Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board:** Patricia A Machemer- 12/31/2023

**Town Historian:** Peggy A. Rice

**Code Enforcement Officer**: John Howland

**Dog Control Officer**: Anne Derr

**Official Newspaper:** *Watertown Daily Times*

**Official Bank**: Pathfinder Bank

**RESOLUTION 03-21**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the state or county bid for gas, oil, and fuel; accepts the state or county bid for road building materials; establishes the salaries of the elected and appointed officials of the Town of Sandy Creek as put forth in the adopted budget for the year 2021; sets the mileage rate for 2021 at 56¢ per mile; approves town officials attending the Association of Towns meeting in February and other respective schools; and that regular town board meetings will be held at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall, 1992 Harwood Drive.

The organizational meeting was closed and the regular monthly meeting was opened at 7:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 04-21**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the minutes of the December 9th and 30th meetings are approved as written.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The monthly financial report of the Supervisor for December 2020 is not finalized. Supervisor Ridgeway only has a draft report in her office.

**REPORTS:**

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

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

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler read his highway and water department reports.

Historian – Peggy Rice filed a written report. Supervisor Ridgeway summarized the report. Mrs. Rice has a new display on the wall in the upstairs hallway regarding voting in 1928. She has also done much work downstairs. The History Center will be open at 6 pm on February 10th so the Town Board and anyone else that is interested may see some of the work Mrs. Rice has done before the regular monthly meeting at 7 pm that evening. There have been 25 visitors in the History Center since Mrs. Rice started in August.

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

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that the county budget rate was reduced from the 2020 rate. The county purchasing and hiring freeze is being held through April. County officials are interested in seeing what the NYS budget brings. NYS has not reimbursed them for any Covid19 related expenses and also owes them Medicaid funding. The county held their organizational meeting virtually and the legislators received their committee assignments. Betsy Sherman-Saunders moved from Deputy Clerk to Clerk of the Legislature after Christopher Jones moved to Michigan. Mr. Yerdon does not believe doing meetings online is a very effective way to do business. Covid19 vaccinations have begun. Norma Newman asked why Oswego County is not holding a large, public vaccination clinic. A discussion on where to get the vaccine followed. Supervisor Ridgeway asked why Oswego County is doing away with the Independence Party. Legislator Yerdon will look into that.

Library – Library Director Jessica Godfrey gave copies of the library’s newsletter and yearly statistics report to the Town Board. Overall numbers are down due to the closure at the beginning of the pandemic. The number of e-media and audio books that were borrowed did increase. Reference questions increased and programming numbers increased due to an increase in online programs and the take-and-make projects. A tea party is usually held in January. This year children can sign up for a package and have their tea party at home. The genealogy room is open again on Saturdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. It can also be reached at [ainsworth6064@gmail.com](mailto:ainsworth6064@gmail.com) .

NOCA – Representative Nancy Dingman was present to update the Town Board about operations at Northern Oswego County Ambulance. On December 23rd all staff members except one received Covid19 vaccinations. The one employee is Covid positive and is recovering. Sexual Harassment training was recently completed for 2021. Election of officers was held and Drew Montalbano is the new President of the Board of Trustees.

Planning Board – Chairman Shirley Rice reported for the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board. The January meeting was cancelled. They will meet the first Wednesday of February at 7 pm at the Town Hall. A new building at Bardy’s 4 Seasons Tire & Auto Repair, Inc. was approved. The Planning Board was not in favor of the Cochrane/VanWie variance application. They feel dividing the parcel into three sections created parcels that are too small.

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s report for 2020 is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. There was a record number of building permits at 113 for the year. Permits for 12 new homes were issued. He completed his training classes for 2020 and all classes in 2021 will be held virtually. He thanked the board for approving the new fee schedule for 2021.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of December totaled $1,921.50. The 2020 Annual Report shows $35,587.35 was collected. Fifty-eight parking hang tags were issued and many documents were notarized. These reports are on file in her office and available for public inspection. Information on the 2021 Training School and Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns is available in the Town Clerk’s office. It will be held February 14th – 17th virtually. The Town Clerk’s and the Water Clerk’s books need to be audited for 2019 and 2020. The office is very busy with tax collection. Over $500,000 was collected in the first 5 days of collection.

Engineers – Brett McVoy, I.E. of Barton & Loguidice was present to update the Town Board on current projects. There is no action on the sewer project. Sixty-three thousand feet of pipe has been installed in Water District #3. That is approximately 11¾ miles and 42% of the project. The contractor, WD Malone is doing a railroad bore in Richland this week. There are 326 services installed. This is approximately 55% of the project. The contractor’s payment application #6 is in the bills tonight for approval. There will be a winter shutdown soon. The Office of the State Comptroller has received the application to increase the cost of this project and it is being reviewed for approval. Norma Newman asked for the Water District #3 EDU charge on the 2021 tax bill. It is $347.47.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat McDougal** asked if the town had made any decision about purchasing the Cazenovia Equipment building. The town did not pursue the purchase. The Wesleyan Methodist Church may be purchasing that property.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 05-21**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 approves the Agreement of Municipal Cooperation between the Town of Richland and the Town of Sandy Creek regarding the purchase and maintenance of a 2019 MS841W Screen Machine retroactive to December 30, 2020.

An email was received from Pete Backus. He hopes to have the Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Variance Request for the Richland-Sandy Creek Joint Water Project completed for the February meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Town Clerk was contacted by an individual interested in purchasing the former Krakau property on Co Rt 15 that was given to the town. Supervisor Ridgeway asked Councilman Gove to reply to this email on behalf of the Town Board. She also asked Councilman Gove to complete the court audits. She asked Councilman Warner to communicate with Northern Array about an email she received regarding a cell tower.

Supervisor Ridgeway shared an interesting fact from Charlene Cole’s 2003 Town of Sandy Creek History Calendar. “In this month, in 1792, Malcomb purchased 2½ million acres in Northern NY which was conveyed to his partner, Wm. Constable in June.”

**APROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 06-21**

On motion by Dave Warner, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #1 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 9,603.00

Trust & Agency $ 9,772.04

Highway Fund $ 16,204.59

Water District #1-SW $ 38,540.73

Water District #2-SW $ 480.55

Water District #3-SW $ 7,534.37

Water District #3- H3 $755,267.67

Dunes & Wetlands-H6 $ 11,625.00

The next regular monthly meeting will be held February 10th at 7 pm

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk