**Date:** March 12, 2025

**Type of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Sandy CreekTown 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, James Sprague, Michael Kastler, Jessica Godfrey, Michael Yerdon out at 6:25pm, Eric Pappa, Katrina McDougal, James McGuire, Mary McGuire, Larry Rice, Tammy Miller, Lynn Miller, Morgan Jordal, Peggy Rice, Todd Bristol, Pete Backus, Creg Ivison in at 6:09pm, Brittany Washburn, and one resident that did not sign in.

**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 #25-25** Motion made by Dave Warner, seconded by John W Wood Jr., the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the minutes of the February 12th meeting as written.

**REPORTS:**

**Code Enforcement Officer** – Todd Bristol – No permits for February. Mr. Kent’s compliance date expires in a few days. Mr. Kent refused the certified mail that was sent to him, again.

**Sole Assessor** - Rebecca Trudell’s monthly report has been filed with the Town Clerk’s office. In Ms. Trudell’s report she noted that they will be working with the County to begin trending for the 2025 tax roll. Change of assessment notices will be sent out in April.

**Dog Control Officer** – Anne Derr’s monthly report is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

**Highway/Water Superintendent** – Michael Kastler read his highway report for February. The new plow truck has been ordered. We won’t see this new truck until Fall of 2026. The new pickup truck will be here on Friday. This pickup will replace the 2016 pickup currently in use. Mike would like to put the old 2016 pickup truck on Auctions International in May or June. He hopes to send two workers to CDL school at CITI in April.

Michael Kastler read his water report for February. Mike Brennan has requested the option to run public water to his campground off Renshaw Bay Road, in the Town of Ellisburg. Mr. Brennan will need approval from the Town of Richland to proceed. There will be $0 invested by the Town of Sandy Creek. We would get a transmission fee for supplying water to Mr. Brennan. Mr. Brennan will be responsible for all costs, maintenance, and approvals associated with this. The Town of Sandy Creek will need to send a letter to the Town of Richland agreeing to Mr. Brennan’s request for water to his campground.

Dustin Green is now a licensed water operator.

**RESOLUTION #26-25** Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves Michael Kastler to put the 2016 F-250 up for auction on Auctions International.

**Historian** – Peggy Rice was present for the meeting. Her report is filed with the Town Clerk’s office. Peggy found an Oswego County Fair poster from 1887. It is in near perfect condition. She had it framed with special acid free materials to preserve the poster. She would like to accession this poster into the Town archives.

**RESOLUTION #27-25** Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to accession in the Oswego County Fair poster from 1887.

**Judges** – Reports are filed with the Town Supervisor.

**Legislator** – Michael Yerdon reported that the County received the grant for broadband services. The County is looking into a possible right of way along the railroad bed from Oneida Lake to Phoenix/Fulton. This right of way would be for a possible sewer line.

**Library** – Jessica Godfrey read a few highlights from the March newsletter for the library. The town attorney is handling the filing of the documents for the transfer of land from the library to the Town. We will need to add $1 for this transfer to the bills tonight.

**NOCA** – No report was submitted from NOCA.

**Planning Board**- Minutes are filed with the Town Clerk’s office.

**Town Clerk** – Brittany Washburn reported that the total receipts and disbursements for February were $1,013.28 of that $1,082.00 was paid out to the Town Supervisor. Brittany also reported that she has collected about 82% of the tax bills. Brittany would like to recycle 5 old printers that are no longer in working condition and collecting dust. We received notice for a liquor license for Shanea’s Shack LLC, located at 8460 State Route 3.

**RESOLUTION #28-25** Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by John W. Wood Jr., the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to allow the Town Clerk to recycle 5 non-working printers as they are of no value to the Town.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Tammy Miller spoke again regarding her request for insurance for herself and her spouse. Tammy explained that there is a deadline approaching for her COBRA plan. She expressed that she followed all appropriate rules for her resignation. She also expressed that the timing of her resignation, while made during the busiest time of the year, was done on meeting day so that a new person could be appointed that night. Tammy Miller said that she has run for office many times with no one running against her. Tammy informed everyone that she has all the necessary paperwork to run for office again, whether it be for Town Clerk, Supervisor, or a Town Board seat. She hoped that she would not be forced to run for office again. Tammy would like equal treatment after 21 years of employment.

Jessica Godfrey would like a copy of the transfer of land paperwork after it is filed with the County for their records at the library.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION #29-25** Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek appoints Peggy Rice as the compliance officer for the Town.

April 16th is the Summer Rec meeting at the Village Office in Lacona. Peggy Rice plans to attend.

CEHA - Pete Backus spoke regarding the DEC’s denial of their last permit application. Mr. Backus would like the town to move forward with another appeal. This will be funded completely by the residents in the CEHA.

**RESOLUTION #30-25**

**AUTHORIZING APPEAL OF DEC DENIAL OF COASTAL EROSION MANAGEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION FOR SANDY CREEK WATER SERVICE AREA NO. 3 EXTENSION NO 1.**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2024, the Town of Sandy Creek applied to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) for a Coastal Erosion Management Permit as part of the Sandy Creek Service Area No. 3 Extension No. 1 (DEC ID# 7-3599-00040/00004) (the “Application”); and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2025, DEC provided notice to the Town that it had denied the Application.

WHEREAS, DEC’s Uniform Procedures Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 621) provide that an applicant may request an adjudicatory hearing if a permit is denied. Any such request must be made in writing within 30 days of the date the permit denial was mailed.

WHEREAS, the hearing request must be submitted by DEC by March 14, 2025.

WHEREAS, the Town believes there are certain meritorious grounds for appealing the DEC’s denial of the Application.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek as follows:

1. The Town Board hereby authorizes Fogel & Brown, P.C., the attorneys for the Town in connection with the Application, to take all necessary steps to file the request for an adjudicatory hearing challenging the DEC’s denial of the Application by the deadline of March 14, 2025.

Motion made by Dave Warner, and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the above resolution was **Adopted** with

5 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner

0 No

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ruth Scheppard attended a meeting on March 6th. At this meeting, Tom Hart gave a presentation that focused on a NOAA Grant. There were over 40 people in attendance from many different organizations. The Sandy Pond Habitat and Coastal Resilience Project would like a letter of support from the Town to move forward with their NOAA grant.

**RESOLUTION #31-25** Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Dave Warner, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to send a letter of support, signed by Supervisor Timothy Ridgeway, for the NOAA grant.

**RESOLUTION #32-25** Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the Williamson Law Book Software Support contract renewal for the Building & Codes program.

The blueprints are here for the Skinner Road BridgeNY Culvert project. The bid opening for this project will be held on March 26th at 10am at the Town Hall.

In order to access the NYSDOT Equitable Business Opportunities System (EBO), the Town of Sandy Creek is required to obtain a login and password. The Town will need to name a representative to handle this part for the Skinner Road BridgeNY Culvert project.

**RESOLUTION #33-25**

Authorizing the Town Bookkeeper to access and use the Internet Government Solutions Equitable Business Opportunities System for Federally funded projects.

Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

Whereas, NYSDOT has an Internet Government Solutions (IGS) Equitable Business Opportunities (EBO) System to track payments, participation in construction, consultant engineering and professional services pertaining to Federally funded projects; and

Whereas, the system allows for more efficiency in the monitoring and reporting aspects of Federally funded project(s); and

Whereas, the Town of Sandy Creek oversees these projects and would benefit from accessing this system; now therefore be it

Resolved, that Megan K. Sprague, Bookkeeper, is authorized and directed to access the NYSDOT IGS EBO system on behalf of the Town of Sandy Creek; and

Resolved, that Megan K. Sprague is authorized to agree with the terms and conditions of access to the system set forth in the System User Agreement.

Town Clerk Brittany Washburn would like to set an hourly rate for the Deputy Town Clerk position at $22 per hour. She would like to have a Deputy for 3 days per week, with a total of 18 hours worked per week. She hopes to select a Deputy by mid-April or early May at the latest.

**RESOLUTION #34-25** Motion made by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to set the hourly rate for the Deputy Clerk position at $22 per hour.

Michael Kastler has been making a few upgrades upstairs in the apartment over the Town Hall. He would like to have $257.52 taken off his March rent payment to account for the money he has spent on the improvements. He will submit receipts showing his expenses.

**RESOLUTION #35-25** Motion made by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to take $257.52 off Michael Kastler’s March rent with proof of receipts.

Michael Kastler also spoke regarding the increase in crime in the Villages of Lacona and Sandy Creek. A neighborhood watch group may be a good idea. However, we do not want a group of vigilantes. We may have more luck if we develop some sort of community group. Mr. Kastler suggests that the Town, and both Villages send a letter to the Sheriff’s Department and the NYS Police requesting more support in this area.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION #36-25** Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **5 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, Wood, and Warner

**0 No**

**Resolved** that the bills be paid, with the addition of $1 for the library land transfer, on Abstract #3 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 107,224.53

Highway Fund $ 103,794.01

Water District #1 $ 12,426.41

Water District #2 $ 1,451.67

Water District #3 $ 4,326.98

Trust & Agency $ 41,925.67

**RESOLUTION #37-25** Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 6:59pm to discuss the employment history of a previous employee.

Michael Kastler was asked to stay in the for the executive session. All others left the meeting room.

At 7:23pm, Michael Kastler exited the executive session. Meg Sprague was then asked to join the executive session.

At 7:30pm, Meg Sprague exited the executive session.

**RESOLUTION #38-25** Motion made by Nola J. Gove, and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 7:36 pm.

The following people re-entered the meeting room, Brittany Washburn, Meg Sprague, James Sprague, Tammy Miller, Lynn Miller, Morgan Jordal, and Michael Kastler. The regular meeting continued.

**RESOLUTION #39-25** Motion made by Nola J. Gove, 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 agrees to give retiree Tammy L. Miller, and her spouse, the same health insurance plan, with the same requirements as before she retired, until the end of the current year. The Town will make sure that Tammy Miller has her insurance reinstated starting from February 2025.

The Town has begun researching other health insurance plans for all retirees. The town also plans to create a policy for insurance for retirees.

The next Town Board meeting will be April 9th at 6pm.

**On motion** made by Nola J. Gove, and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brittany M. Washburn

Town Clerk