**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:** March 13, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting & Public Hearing

**Place:** Town Hall

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

 Ruth E. Scheppard Tammy L. Miller

 John W. Wood, Jr. Michael Kastler

 Nola J. Gove Michael G. Yerdon, Legislator

 Dave Warner Brittany M. Washburn

 Meg Sprague

 John Howland

 Terry E. Crast

 Harriett Wilcox

 James Crast

 Jessica Godfrey

 Bill Joyce

 Patrick & Julie Crast

 Tim & Teresa Crast

 Teresa Stowell-Hollis

 Wayne Miller

 Peggy Rice

 Jennifer Casler

 Ed Wolfe

 Chlarissia Crast

 Joel Ungleich

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

He opened the public hearing on Town of Sandy Creek Local Law No. Two (2) of the year 2024, a local law providing for the regulation of Solar Energy Systems in the Town of Sandy Creek. No one spoke for or against the local law. Supervisor Ridgeway closed the hearing at 6:01 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 27-24**

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 minutes of the January 24th and February 7th and 14th meetings are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s report for February is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. He completed his NYS report. Notices for junk violations have been sent out. Many of the same properties are in violation each year.

Michael G. Yerdon, Oswego County Legislator for District One came forward to read a proclamation from the Oswego County Legislature honoring Town Justice Terry E. Crast for 60 years of public service to NYS, Oswego County, and the Town of Sandy Creek. First appointed Town Justice for the Town of Sandy Creek on March 16, 1984, Judge Crast has served on the bench for 40 years this month. Town officials thanked Judge Crast and took photos of him with his family and friends.

Highway/Water Superintendent – Michael C. Kastler read his highway report. He reported that due to little snowfall this season the employees have been filling potholes, painting, cleaning, screening sand and doing some work at the Town Hall. The department’s excavator keeps needing repairs. Its current value is around $25,000 and $13,000 worth of repairs have been done. It will need more work in the future. It was purchased in 2001. Milton Cat sent a demonstration model to the barn for one week. It is the best price and warranty of the three quotes obtained. He would like to use fund balance to pay for a new one and sell the old one at auction. The excavator sells for $258,833.00 and he would add a brush head for $20,000. The equipment has a twenty-year life expectancy. It is discounted as it is one year old with 13 hours on it. Other bids came in at $295,000 and $278,000. He would like to send a letter of intent to purchase the Milton Cat excavator. There is also money in the highway equipment reserve fund if unreserved fund balance isn’t available for this purchase.

**RESOLUTION 28-24**

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

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

 0 No

**Resolved** that the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to purchase a Milton CAT M318 excavator (EQ212766 in stock) for a total sale price of $258,833.00 from Milton CAT of N Syracuse, NYS OGS Contract PC69406 26%.

A new exterior door was installed on the rear storage room at the Town Hall. Superintendent Kastler will be getting more quotes on a truck to replace the 2016 pick-up truck. There are three bills to be approved tonight for the Skinner Road culvert project.

There are six water bills left to collect. Usually, the same people are late each collection time. We are working on paperwork to get the project refinancing done. There is a wish list of items desired by each town to spend the remaining project funds. Sandy Creek covers 70% of the project with 30% being in the Town of Richland. The funding should be split accordingly. There is a water project in Orwell currently. They will need to purchase approximately 140 meter pits. Our water department is overstocked and could sell 70 to 100 pits comfortably.

**RESOLUTION 29-24**

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

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

 0 No

**Resolved** that the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to offer a meter pit package with PRV, fittings, washers, and inserts only to the Town of Orwell at 5% over our cost for $907.41 each.

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that he attended the spring convention in Albany. It was very educational. The legislature will be voting on March 14th on a new artificial intelligence program to assist Social Services in answering approximately 10,000 telephone calls per month. The device answers calls and questions in six different languages and is available 24/7. If a question cannot be answered, the caller is referred to an employee. The system also keeps a call log. The program is cloud-based. If the county purchases the system now, there will be a large discount as one of its first users. Camp Zerbe has grown in the last four years. They will be running a one-week youth day camp this summer. There are seven weeks to choose from. The legislature will be voting on more upgrades to the facility. A frisbee golf course, trail system and bathhouse are among the many improvements to the grounds. Legislator Yerdon thanked Tammy Miller and Peggy Rice for help in gathering information to honor Judge Crast.

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell’s monthly 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.

Historian - Peggy Rice has been working with Meg Sprague on new digital community sign. There will be another meeting about this March 14th. The Village of Lacona has opted out. The library cannot commit to helping with the cost as it isn’t in their budget, but the sign can be connected the library’s electrical service. President Casler does not want the library director responsible for programming the sign.

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

Library – Director Jessica Godfrey reported that the library’s annual report is done. They will have 750 eclipse glasses available to the public for free on April 1st. There will be an eclipse viewing party on the lawn April 8th with half-moon cookies among the refreshments. The current library theme is “Reading Helps Our Minds Bloom”. Designs of Elegance will hold a floral design workshop on March 23rd and T&T Floral and More will hold one in April. Brenda Schneider of Stamping Up will hold a card making workshop in March. The Overbooked Book Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month. It is a casual book chat. An Easter egg hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30th. Three hundred candy-filled eggs will be hidden inside and outside the library. The monthly needle felting class is well attended.

NOCA – A report from Northern Oswego County Ambulance representative, Nancy Dingman, was received by e-mail.

Planning Board – Bill Joyce reported on their March 3rd meeting.

**RESOLUTION 30-24**

On motion by John W. Wood, 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 adopts Local Law #2 of 2024, a local law providing for the regulation of Solar Energy Systems in the Town of Sandy Creek.

A site plan modification was approved at The Elms for new decking and a concrete pad. There is a site plan application for the Pond Store, LLC to be built as an addition to a garage at 2935 Co Rt 15. The store will be self-service. A public hearing is set for April 3rd.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of February totaled $2,644.25 of which $1,524.03 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. Nearly 90% of taxes have been collected. More property owners are paying by credit card. Approximately 300 second notices will be mailed in the next few days. Megan Sprague, Brittany Washburn, and Town Clerk Miller attended the 2024 Training School and Annual Meeting of the Association of Towns February 18th – 21st in NYC. Mrs. Miller took several Certified Town Official training classes there. She will be attending the NYS Town Clerks Association school in April and the 2024 NYS Tug Hill Commission Annual Local Government Conference May 2nd at Turning Stone Event Center.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 31-24**

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 approves the updated Employee Handbook.

The CEHA variance application has been filed. B&L Engineer Anthony Young stated that the DEC now has a deadline to make the decision.

**RESOLUTION 32-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by , 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 submit the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program grant application for Christmas decorations as follows: one 21-foot tree of lights for the library park and one 14-foot tree of lights for the Town Hall made of energy saving LEDs.

**RESOLUTION 33-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by Dave Warner, 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 accepts the annual audits of Town Justice Crast and Town Justice Stoker as completed on March 2nd; and of Tax Collection, Town Clerk and Water Clerk as completed on March 5th; and of the Town Supervisor as completed on March 8th for the calendar year 2023 by Nola J. Gove.

Spending all of the ARPA funds was discussed at length. Councilman Scheppard prepared a list of organizations to gift and of other town expenses. Councilman Wood was not in favor of giving the money to organizations as he remembered the board voting to spend the remaining funds on town needs. This discussion was tabled until next month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 34-23**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the annual software support contract for the Building & Codes Enforcement software program from Williamson Law Book Company for March 1, 2024 through February 28, 2025 for $573.00.

On March 20th from 5:30 to 7 pm a Sandy Creek watershed clear water planning stake holder meeting will be held at the Town Hall to discuss sampling results and future plans for the watershed management plan.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 35-24**

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 bills be paid on Abstract #4 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 830.90

Trust & Agency $ 17,969.78

**AND** on Abstract #5 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 72,261.70

Highway Fund $ 38,497.26

Water District #3 Project $ 15,604.25

Water District #1 $ 2,992.96

Water District #2 $ 298.02

Water District #3 $ 3,549.51

Trust & Agency $ 11,133.40

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**RESOLUTION 36-24**

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 the following transfers:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FROM Line # | Description | TO Line # | Description | $ Amount |
| DA5130R- (2023) | Budget Line for Reserve | DA230 | Equipment Reserve | $ 60,000.00 |
| SW3-8389.4 | CEHA | Trust & Agency | CEHA | $ 1,862.15 (remaining balance) |

Councilman Warner will ask Chris Kurick, a solar farm expert to attend the April 10th regular monthly meeting regarding a possible solar farm at the town’s landfill site.

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk