

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: May 27, 2025

Type of Meeting: Special Meeting

Place: Sandy Creek Town Hall

Board Members Present: Timothy D. Ridgeway, Town Supervisor
Ruth E. Scheppard, Town Council Member
John W. Wood Jr., Town Council Member (in at 5:02pm)
Nola J. Gove, Town Council Member
A. Dave Warner, Town Council Member

Others Present: Brian Wallis, Meg Sprague (in at 5:02pm), and Brittany Washburn.

CALL TO ORDER: Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss health insurance options and the employee handbook.

Supervisor Ridgeway opened the meeting up for public comment.

Brian Wallis was present and had questions regarding the Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association (SPCMA) funding. Council Member Ruth Scheppard explained that the Town budget for SPCMA must be used on dredging projects completed in the same budget year. The request from SPCMA was to cover from 2024. Mr. Wallis explained that SPCMA was counting on more money from the County, but that money was allocated elsewhere. Town Supervisor Ridgeway will reach out to his contacts at the County regarding this matter. Ruth suggested that we make a reserve fund with the money from 2025 to be used for dredging in 2026. Brittany suggested a QR code, with different options to donate, at local restaurants/bars and other public places around the pond for people to donate to SPCMA for dredging. The board agrees that we need to draw up a contract between the Town of Sandy Creek and the Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association.

Brian Wallis left the meeting at 5:30pm.

The Town Board then began discussing health insurance options for retirees.

Councilman Wood compared several different town union contracts for their health insurance options for retirees. Many towns that he checked with require that a retiree has at least 25 years of service to receive health insurance benefits from their town. Many towns require that the retiree pay a percentage of their health insurance premiums. The percentages range between 0% - 80%. Two towns cover the retiree and their spouse.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Councilman Warner inquired about the Town's finances. Bookkeeper Meg Sprague explained that we are financially healthy. However, she explained that the water funds could improve.

RESOLUTION 53-25

On motion by John W. Wood Jr., seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 sets the following options for retirees to receive health insurance benefits. Option 1: The retiree must have 25 years of service to the Town, must be at least age 55, must pay 20% of their insurance premium, no spousal benefits will be provided, and coverage ends at age

65. Option 2: The retiree must have 20 years of service to the Town, must be at least age 55, must pay 35% of their insurance premium, no spousal benefits will be provided, and coverage ends at age 65. Current retirees will keep their coverage until December 31, 2025. The new options listed above will take effect January 1, 2026.

RESOLUTION #54-25 Motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, and seconded by Nola J. Gove, the following resolution was **Adopted** with **4 Ayes** Ridgeway, Scheppard, Gove, and Warner

0 No

1 Abstain Wood

Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek appoints John W. Wood Jr., as the second compliance officer.

There was a lengthy discussion over the updated Harassment Policy from NYMIR. Nola Gove would like to incorporate a few items from the previous policy into the updated policy. The board agreed to edit the policy to add more details regarding due process.

RESOLUTION #55-25 Motion made by John W. Wood Jr., and seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 6:35pm to discuss the collective bargaining agreement. Everyone left the meeting, Town Clerk Washburn waited in her office for the open meeting to resume.

RESOLUTION #56-25 Motion made by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 will exit executive session at 7:23 pm.

The next regular Town Board meeting will be June 11th at 6pm.

On motion made by Timothy D. Ridgeway, and seconded by Nola J. Gove, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brittany M. Washburn
Town Clerk