**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:** November 13, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**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 left @ 7pm Michael G. Yerdon

Dave Warner Meg Sprague

Ronald Fisher

John Howland -left at 6:18 pm

Cathleen Goodnough

Wayne Miller

Jessica Godfrey @ 6:01 pm

Pat McDougal @ 6:03 pm

Frank Dixon @ 6:45 pm

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**REPORTS:**

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s monthly report is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. He reported that over 110 permits have been issued in 2024. He also issued five violation notices since last month’s meeting. Mr. Kent is on the list again. The Town can hold an administrative hearing or send him to State Supreme Court again if he doesn’t comply by the due date. Board members agreed to have CEO Howland and Attorney Hills begin the paperwork for State Supreme Court.

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that the legislature is still working on the county budget for 2025. It hasn’t been an easy process due to some lost funding. Everyone is invited to their meeting on November 14th at 2 pm in Oswego.

**Cathleen Goodnough**, **President of the** **Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association** was present to explain her request to increase the channel dredging budget to $70,000 in 2025. The association is currently in debt due to the amount of sand that has entered the channel. She showed an arial view photo taken on November 3rd. They have only been able to remove 10,000 cubic yards of sand per year due to finances. She also showed their profit and loss statement to the Town Board. SPCMA received an ARPA grant of $100,000 per year for 3 years from Oswego County. They were able to receive the $300,000 in one lump sum and have spent it leaving the association in the red. SPCMA has done fundraisers. They applied for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant but were denied. They will reapply. Approximately 50% of SPCMA’s income comes from donations. They do have a Go Fund Me page. The Town of Sandy Creek has budgeted money for dredging for many years and she would like the town to increase the funding for next spring. They will be getting a new permit and have property secured to place the sand, but do not have the funding for the amount of sand that needs to be moved. The DEC does not allow placement of sand on the south side of the channel due to the Piping Plover presence there. The channel has historically been moving north leading to enhancement of the bird’s habitat. The association is trying to get out of debt. They own a dredging machine worth approximately $50,000 and approximately $20,000 worth of pipe that could be sold. The Town of Ellisburg did give a donation of $5,000 once toward the project. Many business owners that rely on the channel being open were on SPCMA’s board of directors in 2003. Many left the board to concentrate on their businesses. Ms. Goodnough has been trying to step down from the office of President of the association for seven years now. The designation of the Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary late last summer will hopefully help funding opportunities. The federal government was not helpful the last few months as it was focused on the national election. Ms. Goodnough has reached out to Congresswoman Claudia Tenney and Assemblyman Will Barclay for help. Kennedy Sullivan is a local resident working for NYS Parks on the Piping Plover program. She is trying to work in cooperation with SPCMA.

Codes Enforcement Officer John Howland left the meeting at 6:18 pm.

The work that Brian Wallis of BDS did on the channel this past spring has held up. The rock pile near the channel cannot be moved. In 1972 Mr. Hughes put the rocks there to protect his property. SPCMA would like the $10,000 that was budgeted for the South Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association to use toward their debt. The association must get out of debt before it can fold. Their insurance policy costs $783 and $400 was spent on their mass mailing. They are still working with Dave Turner on a NOAA grant. Three grants have been denied. They will continue to work on funding from other avenues but hope the Town Board will increase their funding in the 2025 budget.

Ms. Goodnough and Legislator Yerdon left the meeting at 6:31 pm.

The Town Board discussed the request but is concerned that the B fund budget is already increasing considerably. No action was taken to increase the dredging budget this evening.

**RESOLUTION 107-24**

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

ADOPTED - 3 Ayes Ridgeway, Warner, Wood

2 No Scheppard, Gove

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek adopts the budget for 2025.

Ms. Sprague asked what could have been done differently to pass the budget unanimously. It was suggested that it may be possible to give SPCMA some more of the town’s ARPA money.

Bookkeeper/Budget Officer Sprague left the meeting at 6:40 pm to attend her Village of Lacona monthly meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 108-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the minutes of the October 9th, 16th and 23rd meetings are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell filed her October monthly report in the office of the Town Clerk where it is available for public inspection. She intends to trend the assessed values again to get closer to 100% equalization.

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 filed his highway department and water department reports with the Town Clerk and supplied copies to the Town Board. He reported that the highway department has set snow poles for the season. Superintendent Kastler received trade-in quotes from 4 dealerships for the old excavator and the Kubota tractor. The trade-in value for both units combined is approximately $55,000. The excavator that he is currently renting will cost approximately $40-50,000 more than the trade-in values. He recommends the town go out to bid to purchase a new or used 20,000 lb. excavator. He will work on the legal ad and specifications with the Town Clerk and schedule the bid opening for 6 pm on December 11th. He reported that all water bills were mailed before November 1st. The town has recently installed six new services in Water District #1. Dustin Green is working back in the highway department regularly now but will be available for any water department work if needed. Superintendent Kastler has renewed his Class D water license. The Town of Richland has passed their budget with no communication about adjusting their water rate to us.

Frank Dixon entered the meeting at 6:45 pm.

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 attended the Trunk or Treat event at the Lacona Fire Department and passed out candy to approximately 500 children. The Christmas tree contest started by former Historian Charlene Cole will again take place at the library. The Girl Scouts will decorate small trees to be given to families after they are voted on for favorite tree. Nightmare Before Christmas is the theme this year. Free mittens and hats are available at the library. Historian Peggy Rice will give a presentation on women in local history on November 19th at 4 pm. On November 19th there will be a budget meeting and regular meeting of the library’s board of trustees. American Aftermarket Metalworks of Lacona is creating the new library sign. On December 14th Jeff the Magic Man will be back for a balloon making art class for children.

Planning Board – The minutes from the November 6th meeting have been filed and copies given to the board members.

**RESOLUTION 109-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes Town Clerk Tammy Miller to re-levy $2,382.69 to the 2025 Town and County Tax Bill for Ralph A. Kent and Merry B. Fayette’s property that they owe the Town of Sandy Creek for legal fees from their codes violation as court ordered.

Nola J. Gove left the meeting at 7:00 to attend the Village of Lacona meeting.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of October totaled $2,814.50 of which $2,157.20 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. In response to the conversation earlier in the meeting, Town Clerk Miller reported that the Town Clerk’s office use to issue junkyard licenses. DECALS is now allowing towns to charge a $1.00 printing fee for hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses. It is something for us to consider. We also may need a digital sign policy in the future as the Clerk’s office is getting many requests from organizations and churches to advertise events on the municipal sign. We should research this.

Ron Fisher reported that HAB’s were visible on Sandy Pond until the end of October and now the water is crystal clear.

**RESOLUTION 110-24**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Gove

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway to sign two agreements with Upstate Freshwater Institute: one for $6,151.00 for work From April of 2025 through October 2025 to monitor fecal coliform bacteria on North Sandy Pond and one for $13,964 for work from July 2025 through October 2025 to monitor HAB’s on North and South Sandy Ponds.

**RESOLUTION 111-24**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Gove

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes the cost of the lateral filing cabinets of $859.98 for the Town Clerk’s office to be paid for out of ARPA funds.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Wayne Miller** asked questions about the dredging bids and contract award procedure of SPCMA for the channel project and the ARPA funding that the county awarded them. There was discussion about the channel between Lake Ontario and North Sandy Pond.

Superintendent Kastler reported that the Skinner Road project is moving forward.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Town Board is considering eliminating one Town Justice position.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 112-24**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Gove

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek authorizes Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway to sign the agreement for dog shelter services with the Oswego City Animal Shelter beginning January 1, 2025.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 113-24**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Ridgeway, Scheppard, Wood, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Gove

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #15 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 68,467.39

Highway Fund $ 141,802.27

Water Project-H3 $ 3,395.00

Water District #1 $ 25,813.29

Water District #2 $ 11,324.50

Water District #3 $ 11,512.06

Trust & Agency $ 40,064.91

**On motion** by Ruth E. Scheppard, seconded by John W. Wood, Jr., and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm. The next regular meeting will be December 11th at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk