**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:** October 9, 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 Brittany M. Washburn

Dave Warner Pat McDougal @ 6:06 pm

Michael G. Yerdon

Ron Fisher

Stephen F. Gove

Bill Joyce

Jessica Godfrey @ 6:01 pm

Charles R. Skellen

John Howland

**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 93-24**

On motion by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 September 11th meeting are approved as written.

**REPORTS:**

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland’s monthly report is on file in the Town Clerk’s office. He reported that over 100 permits have been issued in 2024 to date making it a busy year. He is willing to train a new hire for his position starting in November or December. He is retiring at the end of 2024. He may be available to help with the annual report for a few weeks in 2025. Steve Gove, BAR member and Councilman Dave Warner interviewed the first three applicants for this position. Mr. Gove and Councilman Warner both recommend hiring Todd Bristol as he has completed some of the courses required to become a Codes Enforcement Officer. His classes will be completed in mid-January. However, since he is also a builder and cannot inspect his own work, he won’t be able to do construction projects within the Town of Sandy Creek if he accepts this position.

**RESOLUTION 94-24**

On motion by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 will hire Todd Bristol to start on November 1st at an annual salary of $25,000 to train with CEO Howland until the end of the year and then Mr. Bristol will be appointed the Town of Sandy Creek Code Enforcement Officer beginning January 1, 2025.

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell filed her September monthly report in the office of the Town Clerk where it is available for public inspection.

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 he sent 4 employees to Dig Safely New York training in Richland. He received quotes for trade-in values on the old excavator and Kubota tractor. The department is renting a Case mini excavator to consider purchasing. The seasonal crew has been hired for winter. A couple of them may start after November 1st to help prepare for the snow plowing season. The snow and ice agreement was received.

**RESOLUTION 95-24**

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 accepts the County of Oswego Highway Department Snow Removal and Ice Control Agreement (Mileage Based Agreement) as revised October 2024.

Superintendent Kastler continued with the water report. The town is still installing new services at the request of residents in Water District #1. Water bills will be mailed out by November 1st. Statewide Aquastore, Inc will be performing maintenance on the water tower on October 14th. It will be emptied and refilled over a period of three days.

At a Village of Sandy Creek budget meeting on April 24, 2024, the trustees voted to charge a bulk water rate of $6.00 per 1,000 gallons of drinking water. This will be the new reduced rate charged to the Town of Sandy Creek beginning with the November water billing.

**RESOLUTION 96-24**

On motion by Timothy D. Ridgeway, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, 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 will charge $6.50 per 1,000 gallons of drinking water to customers in Water District #2.

Superintendent Kastler attended the Town of Richland board meeting on October 8th to ask again for a better bulk water rate for Town of Sandy Creek customers in water district #1 and #3. They will be working on their water budgets at a special meeting on October 17th. Town Clerk Miller requested the recordings of their recent budget meetings. Attorney Hills should be updated on this ongoing water rate issue with the Town of Richland.

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.

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that the Camp Zerbe renovation project will be closed out. It was completed on schedule and within budget. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 3rd. This property has been owned by the county since 1986 and it was due for improvement. Pickleball courts are one example of the many additions made to this facility.

Library – Director Jessica Godfrey was present to give her monthly report and supply the Town Board with the monthly newsletter. There will be a book fair at the library on October 12th. The library will receive free books based on total sales that day. Jeff the Magic Man will return to the library on October 28th. Ms. Godfrey plans to hand out candy on Halloween. It was suggested that she join the Trunk or Treat at LFD Halloween night from 5 to 7 pm. An architect will do a walk-through of the library building. Their board is looking for ideas to make the basement more accessible for patrons.

NOCA – The 2025 contact has been received from Northern Oswego County Ambulance this month.

Planning Board – The minutes from the October 2nd meeting have been filed and copies given to the board members.

**RESOLUTION 97-24**

On motion 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 Board of the Town of Sandy Creek re-appoints Bill Joyce and Richard Machemer to the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Allison Perry, a Planner with Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board estimated that it will cost $50 to $70 thousand dollars for CNYRPDB to do the update in 2025. Charles R. Skellen, BAR member and Board of Appeals member for the Town of Sandy Creek volunteered to work on this update. He is also proposing a local law regarding short-term rentals that he and the planning board would like the Town Board members to review. Mr. Skellen has also been looking into a septic system upgrade program offered through Oswego County and has provided information to property owners at Sandy Pond. This NYS program reimburses up to 50% of the cost, but with other funding it is hoped residents may be able to get 100% reimbursement. The Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board will talk to the Village of Lacona Planning Board about assisting in the Comprehensive Plan update. Tim Stahl, Director of Development for the County has funds available immediately that may cover the full proposed cost of the comprehensive plan of $14,000.00. There are many other grants available for planning purposes that could cover any remaining balance.

**RESOLUTION 98-24**

On motion 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 Board of the Town of Sandy Creek appoints volunteer Charles Skellen as the Sandy Creek Comprehensive Plan Coordinator for the comprehensive plan update project.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of September totaled $5,798.00 of which $1,901.03 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection.

Ron Fisher presented the 2024 North and South Sandy Pond HAB Sampling Project results and provided copies of the data summary spreadsheet and map to Town Board members. Mr. Fisher does this work voluntarily and reports the HABs found to the DEC for their map.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** We have heard nothing new on the CEHA variance request. The town welcome signs need to be updated to the proper specifications as provided by NYS DOT.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 99-23**

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 authorizes Town Supervisor Timothy D. Ridgeway to sign the agreement with Northern Oswego County Ambulance, Inc. for emergency ambulance services for 2025 for a total cost of $122,005.73.

Councilman Scheppard would like to eliminate one elected Town Justice seat beginning in 2026. The proper procedure and timetable will need to be researched.

The Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance Association is requesting the $10,000 in the 2024 budget allocated for South Sandy Pond Channel Maintenance. The Town Board will need a letter stating that the South Sandy Pond Channal Maintenance Association will not be requesting this money before the end of the year.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 100-24**

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 #14 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 17,051.68

Highway Fund $ 91,129.81

Water Project-H3 $ 751.00

Water District #1 $ 4,250.30

Water District #2 $ 9,320.65

Water District #3 $ 3,337.95

Trust & Agency $ 22,665.06

**RESOLUTION 101-24**

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

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

0 No

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek will hold special meetings for the preparation of the 2025 budget on October 16th at 5 pm and on October 23rd, and 30th at 6 pm and hold the public hearing on the 2025 budget and fire protection contracts on November 6th at 6 pm.

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm. The next meeting of the Town Board will be October 16th at 5 pm. The next regular meeting will be November 13th at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk