

Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board

Meeting of March 3, 2021

Members Present: Shirley Rice, Pat McCullough (via Zoom), Larry Rice, Frank Dixon, Dick Machemer, Pat Machemer, Bill Joyce

Voting Alternates Present: Sybil Cummins

Non-Voting Alternates Present:

Absent: Tom Ready

Others:

Regular Meeting Opened: at 7:00 by Shirley Rice.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved upon a motion by Pat Machemer and a second by Sybil Cummins.

Treasurer's Report: The Money Market balance is \$2,356.39. Clerk/Treasurer Mattison (appointed financial officer of the PB) suggested that this account be closed, since it no longer earns interest and the balance be deposited into the checking account. She will ask permission of the Village Board. Money from the Town budget (\$12,990) was deposited into the Checking account. The current Checking balance: \$14,297.98. Expenditures this past month were: Check #3330 to Pat McCullough for \$438.66 (net salary), Checks #3321 - 3338 to PB members and one alternate for \$92.35 each (net salaries). \$195.08 was deducted from the account for EFTPS (March payroll).

Correspondence: History report

Meeting Reports:

Village of Sandy Creek – February 1, 2021 (from Minutes): **REPORTS:** **SCFD:** The department answered a total of 34 calls. There will be two members taking the basic EMT course that will be held in the SC Fire Hall at a cost of \$775 per member. Chief Collins asked the board if they would look at the front parking lot because it appeared to him that it was cracking. The list of line officers is as follows: Chief Lance Collins, 1st Asst Chief Lyle Robbins, 2nd Asst Chief Joe Norton, EMS Captain Natasha Harris, Fire Captain George Stone. The VB accepted the slate of 2021 officers. **LEGISLATOR:** The legislature is not meeting as a group. Yerdon stated that it is very difficult to effectively meet through virtual meetings. The county will again be funding the training for EMTs. **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Mr. Paro stated that he can't get his vehicle out because of all the snow. CEO Howland told Mr. Paro to come to tonight's board meeting and ask for an extension. Mr. Paro was not at this meeting. No action has been taken on the unlicensed vehicle on the Don Burnett property. **OLD BUSINESS:** As directed at the January meeting, the notices of *Moratorium on Residential Water Service Termination* were mailed out on January 6. There have not been any calls or emails asking to be put on a deferred payment plan. The Attorney is preparing the deed for the Village Park so that the village can donate the property to the Town. **NEW BUSINESS:** Megan Sprague was appointed Deputy Clerk/Treasurer effective March 1, 2021. Training will start at an hourly rate of \$17.50 and she will work Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The water meter touch reader from Core and Main was ordered. The cost of \$552.19 will be shared with Lacona. The proposal from Core & Main for Meter Reader equip with Bluetooth and annual support is \$9,768.29. That cost would also be shared with Lacona. This purchase can be delayed for now but should be put in next year's budget. \$200.00 will be paid to the Library to be used towards the National Grid bill for the holiday lighting. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Email from Office of the State Comptroller regarding changes to sales tax revenue

beginning February 1, 2021. New York State law requires NYS OSC to withhold local sales tax collections from counties in quarterly installments to fund the Distressed Provider Assistance Account to fund financially distressed hospitals and nursing homes. The clerk/treasurer is not sure how much less the village will be getting.

Village of Lacona – February 8, 2021 (from Minutes): **REPORTS:** **LFD:** Chief Mike LaRock was absent. **PLANNING BOARD:** The VB accepted the resignation of Sherry Glazier, effective April 1, 2021. Remaining Planning Board members are Julie Armstrong, Danielle Babcock, and Roger Lallier. **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** CEO Howland presented an article to the Board, published in the Talk of the Towns publication, regarding the New York State Court of Appeals decision that unpaid property maintenance charges should be treated as unpaid delinquent taxes and the county should bear the shortfall. **OLD BUSINESS:** LL #2 of 2021: A Local Law Regulating Farm Animals and Poultry in the Village of Lacona. This law was originally adopted October 15, 2020 but was not filed with New York State by the attorney's office in time and had to be adopted again for 2021. **APPOINTMENTS:** John Howland was appointed Code Enforcement Officer and Peggy Rice as Historian. or the Village of Lacona. The Board approved these appointments. **WATER:** The Board discussed past due water bills. NYS established a moratorium on disruption of service due to unpaid bills on utilities and provided municipalities the opportunity to offer payment plans to residential customers. Due to the schedule for the next meter reading, the Board agreed to extend a 2-payment plan to those whose water bills were in arrears with the balance due by April 15, 2021 and the notice was approved to send to customers. Total amount in arrears is \$8,867.10. **BUDGET:** The annual budget meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7 pm. **NEW BUSINESS:** James Horth was appointed to fill the position upon Clerk/Treasurer Mattison's retirement. His title will be Clerk/Treasurer Part-Time/Temporary during his training with a pay rate of \$20/hour. Trustee Horth submitted his resignation as Village Trustee, effective February 12, 2021. Roger Lallier was appointed to fill that vacancy effective the same day.

Town of Sandy Creek 2/10/21 (from Minutes): **REPORTS:** **Sole Assessor** - All exemption applications are due March 1st. NYS is again making changes to the Enhanced STAR program. **Legislator** – Legislator Yourdon reported that the county's sale tax revenue from NYS will be reduced this year. The county will distribute the same percentage to the towns as usual. Online sales are now taxed. Mr. Yerdon asked the county to consider doing a Covid vaccine clinic in the northern part of the county. **Planning Board** – Frank Dixon was reappointed for another 3-year term. **Code Enforcement Officer** – Towns will once again be able to levy unpaid bills for property maintenance on the property owners January tax bill. **Engineers** – On January 15th WD Malone shutdown the water project for the rest of winter. Approximately 42% of the total length of water main for the project has been installed. Approximately 360 curb stops or 61% of total services in the two towns have been installed. Supervisor Ridgeway introduced Attorney James A. Burrows of Conboy, McKay, Bachman & Kendall, LLP. He is interested in becoming the town's attorney and introduced one of his partners, David B. Geurtsen. Their firm has an office in Watertown and specializes in municipal law. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** John Howland commented that the Town of Lorraine had an issue with an attorney from the aforementioned firm not returning calls in the past. **BUSINESS:** The TB approved the Polling Site Agreement with the Co Board of Elections for the purpose of conducting elections on June 22 and November 3, 2021 from 5 am to 9:30 pm each day. The Richland – Sandy Creek Joint Water Project Coastal Erosion Hazard Area Variance Request was signed. If the second variance application is denied for the CEHA area, Superintendent Kastler believes it will become a civil litigation matter between the homeowners and the NYS DEC.

Planning Board:

Ontario Sun: Pat McCullough again spoke to Supervisor Ridgeway on the Decommissioning Agreement and forwarded emails to her between Paul McMenemy and Rebekah Prosachik. Paul was asked to attend the March Town Board meeting.

Brendan Boland, Solar Generation Project Analyst, emailed asking for a copy of the CRIS letter. It turned out to be the Cultural Resource Information System from the NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This letter was not in the Ontario Sun file and no one remembered dealing with SHPO on this project. He also requested a copy of the Negative Declaration, which was provided.

Upcoming Site Plans: There was discussion on the possibility of future businesses, including a church, feed store, nail salon and after school program.

Copies of Local Laws: Shirley Rice suggested that PB members each compile copies of the local laws. Town Clerk Miller agreed to make copies of a few laws each month. Pat McCullough recommended that we get a list of the laws and decide which ones we would like copied. It would be most useful to have the laws that we most frequently use, accumulated in a folder for each member. She also noted that there is a local law search online at <https://locallaws.dos.ny.gov/>.

Planning Board Financials: Years ago, when the Planning Board was created, the three municipalities agreed that the Fiscal Officer of the Village of Sandy Creek attend to the PB finances. Shirley Rice suggested that since Clerk/Treasurer Mattison will be retiring as of June 1, 2021, perhaps Town Clerk Tammy Miller would be willing to assume the responsibility. This most likely would have to be an agreement between the Town and Village.

PB Training: Training was completed for 2020. It was proposed that training could be done at regular meetings a little at a time when the agenda permitted, rather than doing it all at the end of the year. Many pertinent webinars are an hour in length.

PB Computer: The computer has been displaying glitches from time to time. Money was not put into the 2021 budget to buy a new one. It was suggested that it be taken to a local business for repair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM upon a motion by Frank Dixon and a second by Sybil Cummins.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia T. McCullough
Secretary/Treasurer