**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:** September 11, 2024

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular Meeting

**Place:** Town Hall

**Board Members Present:** Ruth E. Scheppard  **Others Present:**

Dave Warner Tammy L. Miller

John W. Wood, Jr. Michael C. Kastler

Nola J. Gove Brittany M. Washburn

**Absent:** Timothy D. Ridgeway Pat McDougal

Michael G. Yerdon

Ron Fisher

JT Wood

Andrew Eusebio

Bill Joyce

Matt McGregor

Andrew VanDoorn

Jessica Godfrey

Charles Skellen

Todd Bristol

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Deputy Town Supervisor Ruth E. Scheppard called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLUTION 85-24**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Warner, Wood, Gove

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

**Resolved** that the minutes of the August 14th meeting are approved as written.

Andrew Eusebio, Coordinator of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Oswego County gave a presentation on a program for children that gifts them with a book each month from birth to 5 years old regardless of family income. There are 79 affiliates of Imagination Library in NYS. It began in 2018 in Oswego County in the Hannibal Central School District. As of August 31st of this year 153,309 books have been mailed to children in Oswego County. Of the eligible children in Oswego County 52% are enrolled. Enrollment in Sandy Creek is at 39%. The cost of books and postage equals $2.50 per month per child. Dollywood orders the books and mails them and then bills Oswego County for the cost. The program’s goal is to inspire a love of reading and to increase reading frequency and fluency in our preschoolers and into their school years. The program needs financial support from the community and is partnered with the United Way of Greater Oswego County, a 501(c)3 organization. You can follow the Imagination Library of Oswego County on Facebook.

**REPORTS:**

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 there is no snow and ice contract from the county yet. He is interested in buying a small excavator. All water bills have been paid after two residences were shut off. The Town Board needs to meet with the Town of Richland and the Village of Sandy Creek to confirm water rates for the 2025 budget.

Sole Assessor- Rebecca Trudell filed her August monthly report in the office of the Town Clerk where it is available for public inspection. Trending the assessed values has improved the equalization rate. The Town Board was agreeable to continue trending another year.

Code Enforcement Officer – John Howland was absent this evening. His report is on file 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 filed a monthly report and it is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Town Justice- The monthly report of Town Justice Stoker was received by the Town Supervisor. Judge Crast wrote a check with no report for August.

Legislator – County Legislator Michael G. Yerdon reported that the Camp Zerbe renovation project will be closed soon. He believes the county will be offering a one-year contract for snow and ice removal with the towns at the same rate as last year. Roadside mowing was proposed but will not be part of the agreement. It was noted that county officials need to negotiate with Town Supervisors and Town Boards, not Highway Superintendents. The agreement is supposed to take effect October 1st but is not available for review and vote.

Library – Director Jessica Godfrey was present to give her monthly report and supply the Town Board with the monthly newsletter. A concrete slab has been poured for the new library sign by Fravel Masonry. They will be pouring the sidewalk and front steps next summer. She asked if the town will anchor the new library sign when it is ready for installation. State Assemblyman Will Barclay has secured $10,000 for the library to use toward a new flagpole and tables and other equipment. It cannot be used for operating expenses. Ms. Godfrey had only requested $5,000 and was pleased with the generous funding. The High Adventure Band will perform on September 19th from 1 to 2:30 pm. The summer reading program consisted of 278 people participating in 13 programs. Forty-three people tracked their reading and 365 books were read. She also noted that the community sign is up and running and she is placing library events on it.

NOCA – A report and budget has been received from Northern Oswego County Ambulance this month.

Planning Board – The minutes from the September 4th meeting have been filed and copies given to the board members. Their budget has been received. Mr. Joyce is going to ask Central New York Regional Planning and Development to help revise the Comprehensive Plan.

**RESOLUTION 86-24**

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

**ADOPTED** - 3 Ayes Scheppard, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

1 Abstain Wood

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek appoints Sybil Cummins to the Sandy Creek Regional Planning Board for a term expiring December 31, 2024.

Ron Fisher reported that there are visible HABs on Sandy Pond. Testing was done today. The HAB’s are thick and heavy now. He is submitting two proposals for the 2025 budget. The first proposal is for the same monitoring for 2025 for $13,964.00. The second proposal is to monitor E. coli levels at a cost of $6,151.00.

Town Clerk – Tammy Miller reported that receipts and total disbursements for the month of August totaled $5,744.75 of which $2,721.58 was town income. This report is on file in her office and available for public inspection. The community sign installation is now complete, and the invoice is in tonight’s abstract.

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** Matt McGregor andAndrew VanDoorn were present to discuss the solar leases. Mr. McGregor recapped the proposed project. There were still many questions and much discussion, especially regarding lease rates. Updated maps were provided. The Town Board has concerns about whether the current company will sell or lease to another company. They prefer to work with the present company. Mr. VanDoorn explained that although it is common for solar companies to be bought and sold, the conditions of the contract would not change. Councilman John Wood made a motion to accept the lease on the landfill parcel only. There was much discussion. Although he doesn’t mind living next to a solar field, he doesn’t want to see the land there clearcut. There was no second to his motion.

**RESOLUTION 87-24**

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

**ADOPTED** - 3 Ayes Scheppard, Gove, Warner

1 No Wood

1 Absent Ridgeway

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek approves the Solar PV Ground Mount Lease and Easement Agreement for Tax ID 029.00-01-03 and the Solar PV Ground Mount Lease and Easement Agreement for 029.00-01-01.12 with Abundant Solar Power Inc.

Interviews for a new Codes Enforcement Officer need to be done. There are three applicants to date. The vacancy notice hasn’t been out 30 days yet. Councilwoman Gove will put an interview committee together. Councilman Warner volunteered to be on the committee.

**RESOLUTION 88-24**

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

**ADOPTED** - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Gove, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to give written consent to Verizon Wireless for their proposed modifications to the Water Tower Lease to add three antennas to the handrails.

The welcome signs were discussed. The size of the lettering needs to be changed to meet NYS specifications. This topic was tabled for the October meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION 89-24**

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

**ADOPTED** - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Gove, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek agrees to assign the following recommended EDUs:

**Current Recommended**

**Tax ID EDU EDU Property Location Property Owner**

027.00-04-13.01 1.00 1.25 64 Ouderkirk Rd Tiffany

027.12-01-02.01 1.25 1.00 16 Kiblin Shores Cir Lapham

027.08-01-25 2.00 6.33 163-85 Seber Shores Rd Seeber Shores Marina &C

027.08-01-05 4.21 2.50 15-25 Marina Rd Seeber Shores Marina &C

007.19-02-09.01 1.50 1.00 93 Chipman Ln Newcomb

**RESOLUTION 90-24**

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

**ADOPTED** - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Gove, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

**Resolved** that the Town Board of the Town of Sandy Creek accepts the proposal from ABS to update the two Kyocera copier leases into one single lease with pricing based on OMNIA contract #R191102 for $373.73 per month for 60 months.

There will be a vacancy on the Board of Assessment Review on October 1st due to Robert Tessier not wanting to renew his term of office for another 5 years. A vacancy notice will be announced.

Historian Peggy Rice is working with Village Clerk Meg Sprague sorting through old village documents. An agreement to store village records in the town’s records room was considered. Town Clerk Miller will speak with the Records Advisory Officer for NYS towns about the legal and proper agreement needed to store another municipalities records if the town’s room is needed after working with the records retention schedule.

**RESOLUTION 91-24**

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

**ADOPTED** - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Gove, Warner, Wood

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

**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, 23rd, and 30th at 6 pm.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**RESOLUTION 92-24**

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

ADOPTED - 4 Ayes Scheppard, Wood, Gove, Warner

0 No

1 Absent Ridgeway

**Resolved** that the bills be paid on Abstract #13 in the following amounts:

General Fund $ 89,300.30

Highway Fund $ 29,715.14

Water Project-H3 $ 320.00

Water District #1 $ 7,616.65

Water District #2 $ 571.82

Water District #3 $ 4,104.09

Trust & Agency $ 31,049.64

**On motion** by Nola J. Gove, seconded by Ruth E. Scheppard, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm. The next regular meeting of the Town Board will be October 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy L. Miller, RMC

Town Clerk