

**TOWN OF SAND LAKE  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 5, 2022**

A Special Budget Meeting of the Sand Lake Town Board was held on October 5, 2022 at the Sand Lake Town Hall. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following answered roll call:

**PRESENT:**

Deputy Supervisor Gendron  
Councilman Nippes – arrived late  
Councilman Glasser  
Councilman Clemens  
Supervisor Gallerie  
Town Attorney Danaher

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Barbara Hansen, Town Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Comptroller Megan Wait, Bill Glasser and DPW Kevin Rifenburg, William Rohl.

Supervisor Gallerie explained tonight's meeting was going to be informal. He thanked Barry Russell and Malcolm McPherson from the Sand Lake Ambulance for attending tonight's meeting to discuss fiscal and monetary challenges they are facing. They explained the unprecedented challenges the Ambulance is facing this year with ever increasing costs and staffing shortages. He explained the reasons they were asking for an increase, and that they had to dip deeply into their operational reserve budget to trim costs. He also noted that they are required by law to keep monies in the reserve account.

Supervisor Gallerie complimented the ambulance staff for the number of volunteer hours they put in. Malcolm McPherson, Chairman of the Ambulance Board explained in detail some of the questions Board members had regarding certain line items, recovery costs and insurance billing. There was discussion regarding EMT's salaries and the difference between Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS), and that we are losing staff to other Towns that have a higher pay rate. They are looking at all options to address these problems. They explained that Sand Lake has mutual aid with North Greenbush but does not with Poestenkill since they dropped their ambulance service. He did mention that they still cover the schools and would aid in a master disaster.

The Board then went over some of the other adjustments to the Tentative Budget regarding Seniors, Town Justices, SLCA, Youth program, Convenience Facility, Butler Park programs and conferences, to name a few. Comptroller Megan Wait explained the changes and reasons for them. There will be changes to the budget for the Assessor's Department in anticipation of a Town re-valuation and changes to the Highway budget adding a position for maintenance, mowing, snow plowing. DPW Commissioner Rifenburgh said fuel and material costs have skyrocketed.

Supervisor Gallerie said he and Megan would make the changes discussed and get a copy of the Preliminary Budget to all.

Councilman Nippes made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm, seconded by Councilman Glasser. All in favor.

