

**VILLAGE OF SAND LAKE  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**180 NORTHLAND DR  
SAND LAKE, MI 49343  
616-636-8854**

**DECEMBER 4, 2025**

**6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Doerr. All those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Present: Doerr, Wright, Camilleri, Helton, Latham

Council Members Absent: Christensen

Members of the Public: 50-75 members of the public present

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A motion to approve the December 4, 2025, agenda as presented was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright. Motion carries.

**PRESENTATION BY VILLAGE OF SAND LAKE REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT FINACIALS:**

Doerr addressed the public about false statements in the newspaper article and the internet.

Kaiser presented how the Fire Department budget has tripled over the last 10 years. Showed a breakdown of how much the Village of Sand Lake has contributed each year. There is \$300,000 in the Fire Department Capital funds. Showed a projection of where the cost was supposed to be. Showed a budget projection sheet based on the trend the Village has been seeing over the last several years. However, with the Village no longer running med 3 calls we may see a reduction in the number of runs. Touched on how the costs of things such as PPE have doubled post Covid. Explanation of the formula used to determine how much each municipality would pay. Discussed a contingency plan and presented a 10-year plan of where the fire department budget needs to be. Brief explanation of the General Fund.

Future Options: Ensley Township did not respond to attending today's meeting. Pierson Township stated they would not be attending in an official capacity. To just service the Village of Sand Lake would cost the Village \$80,000. Without Medical service it would be \$65,000 to \$70,000. Nelson Township asked about a possible partnership which would cost roughly \$100,000. Without Med service it would be roughly \$85,000 to \$90,000. Mollie and Tyler met

with Cedar Springs it would cost \$39,000 annually, including capital contribution. Sand Lake Village residents will be taken care of.

Puckett, an officer of the Sand Lake Fire Department, presented the training required by the State for firefighters, and that the Village pays for the training at \$200, which breaks down to .84 an hour. They are currently paid \$18 per medical call and \$20 per fire call for the first hour, with a max of \$40. They are paid \$10 per training. Current equipment is Engine 4 - 1997 Ford Engine (which was the last truck purchased from the county), Engine 6 - 2012 Spartan Pumper (Currently Owned by the county), 2015 Chevy Suburban (the current med truck), 1989 Peterbilt - Tender, 2009 brush truck that the DNR owns, and 2007 brush truck. Engine 3 – 1997 E1, Tender 10 - 1993 Peterbilt. The quoted buyout from Kent County is \$27,500. Engine 6 was purchased for \$327,000 in 2012. The truck cycle is a 17-year cycle, so each municipality is eligible for a new truck every 17 years. The County's contribution is \$218,000. If the Village of Sand Lake does not buy a new truck in 2029, then it will be 17 years before they will be able to access that money to buy a new truck. The truck would be ordered in the summer of 2026 but would not be delivered until 2029. There are no current grants available. Through fundraising, the Fire Department has raised \$20,000. ISO ratings would drop without the Sand Lake Fire Department due to increased response times. Recommendation would be to have a Fire Board created and have the funds separate from the Village's General Fund.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public Comment Opened at 6:30p.m.

-Dan Hula 17 W. Oak St, Sand Lake, stated they bonded the first fire truck and wondered if the Council had looked into bonding this new truck. They also bonded the water tower with the idea that the ISO rating would go down, and it did from a 9 to a 6. Increasing the ISO rating will also increase people's insurance.

-Katy Austin, Treasurer, Nelson Township, Capital Fund a lot of the money came from other municipalities. \$218,000 is a lot of money to lose, but do we have to purchase the new truck as she has been unable to find a law that states they have to be replaced every so often?

-Dave Seager, resident of Pierson Township, suffered a heart attack on October 3 and wouldn't be here today if it were not for the Sand Lake Fire Department.

-Jeane Hamilton, resident of Pierson Township ISO was 10 and dropped to 5. Has gone through the Villages last 2 years of Audits and asked if the Village was operating in a deficit. She then mentioned a letter sent October 21<sup>st</sup>. Tyler would be happy to go over it with her more if she would like to call or email the office.

-Mike VanderHyde, The Fire Department has been to his house 4 times. He loves the Sand Lake Fire Department.

-Tim Newton, Ensley Township Trustee, claims they have been responsive with the Fire Department. November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Pierson and Nelson Township bailed. Ensley's goal has always been to find a solution. He wanted to know when Ensley Township wasn't behind the Village.

Public Comment Closed at 6:54p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS (IF ANY):**

Pierson has an open action in their minutes offering the Village a 6% increase only, that there would be a Fire Board created, and that the language be changed to a 30-day cancelation letter instead of a 90 day.

A motion to refuse the offer of 6%, creation of Fire Board, and 30-day cancelation policy was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright. Motion carries unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:56p.m. was made by Camilleri, supported by Latham. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:

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Village President, Mollie Doerr

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Village Clerk, Michelle Lewis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date