

VILLAGE OF SAND LAKE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
180 Northland Dr  
Sand Lake, MI 49343  
February 16, 2026 7:00PM

**APPROVED**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Doerr, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Council Members Present: Doerr, Wright, Helton, Latham, Camilleri, Stieg, Christensen  
Council Members Absent: None  
Several members of the public in attendance.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

A motion to approve the February 16, 2026, agenda as presented was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**(Limited to 3 minutes per person): The purpose of public comment is to allow the speaker's remarks to be heard, it is not meant to be opportunity to question or debate members of Council and substantive questions on issues will not be responded to. All speakers are required to keep to the 3 minutes time limit. This ensures consistency and fairness.

Public Comment Opened: 7:01 p.m.

-Tammi: from Tea'd Up, 10 years ago moved to a cottage on the Lake then later bought a home. Fell in love with the business enjoyed being a part of the community. Remember we all live this together. Love your Neighbor.

-Dan Hula: Been in the Village for 40 years, If the village doesn't disincorporate he will be running for Village President.

-Tracy Quinlan: Look forward at what could be with the township taking over more expertise, more things to tap into. The Village doesn't have a large pool of people to choose from to sit on the Council.

-Craig Moore: Event forms and insurance at same time so early costs a lot of money to do it early. Please think about that and the timing.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Camilleri, supported by Christensen. Motion carries.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **a. Chamber Easter Egg Hunt:**

A motion to approve the Chamber Easter Egg Event for March 28<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of April 4<sup>th</sup> was made by Wright, supported by Stieg. Motion carries.

#### **b. Financial Status Update:**

Treasurer / Financial Director, Tyler Kaiser went through a slide show on the Village of Sand Lakes finances. This covered a Financial Overview showing where the Village receives funding, how the money is spent, wages, how the Village's funds are organized, the Village Debt, Fire Department Financials including the Fire Department budget.

#### **c. Village Project Update:**

President Doerr went through her annual update on the things that have been accomplished throughout the Village including park updates, cemetery clean-up, and roads being paved.

#### **d. Village Community Event's Update:**

Discussion about different events like Wrestling in the Streets and the Ice fishing contest.

- Mary Wagner spoke about the events that brought her to Sand Lake and the Ice Fishing Contest held by Matt's Bait & Tackle. Using funds donated this year towards playground equipment.

#### **e. Legal Update & Authorization:**

Attorney's asking for permission to look into the ballot language and take legal action if necessary.

A motion was made to give the attorney's permission to fulfil in any further necessities regarding the ballot language for May 5, 2026, supported by Wright. Doerr-yes, Wright-yes, Latham-yes, Camilleri-yes, Stieg-yes, Christensen-yes, Helton-no. Motion carries.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **a. Fire Department Update & Authorization:**

Attorney Steve Stapleton from Clark Hill: We were asked to look at the term sheet late last month. From a legal standpoint it was not well drafted. We were asked to give our

recommendation for the best interest of the Village. The best most cost effective, and legally advantageous thing for the Village is to create a Fire Board Authority. Nelson prepared the first term sheet with very limited time to respond. The Village had the right to secure alternate legal counsel because the current legal counsel represents one of the other Townships that would be a legal conflict of interest. State law allows for the creation of a Fire Authority, it is in Act 57. A Fire Authority provides the benefit for the Village of Sand Lake to retain some control over the future of the fire services. Handing it over to someone else will essentially ensure that you have no control over it. The establishment of a Fire Authority makes the most sense mainly for the financial reasons indicated by Tyler's slides.

Stapleton prepared a response to the term sheet. One of the disadvantages of the term sheet for the Village of Sand Lake would be to turn over the entire fire department, all equity, and all title to Nelson Township and then to allow them to operate a concern that Tyler just got done telling you would not be financially feasible for the entire service area. Stapleton presented the Village Council with a reasonable approach to set forth a memorandum that would extend the Fire Services for 6 months and establish a true Fire Authority. This would also include the other townships should they choose to be a part of it.

- Helton: concerned that it does not have ~~Nelson~~ Pierson or Ensley included.
- Stapleton: explained again that they can be added.
- Stieg: concerned about time to go over the document. Not sure that Nelson, Ensley, and Pierson haven't moved on.
- Stieg: would like to accept the term sheet, doesn't believe that it was meant to be the final agreement.,
- Stapleton: agreed there would be a lot more paperwork to get to the end of the term sheet.
- Stieg: asked Stapleton opinion
- Stapleton: there were terms in there that weren't accurate. Would never have a municipality turn over title to all of their equipment, trucks, funds, and cd's is not a good idea.
- Stieg: would want a clause that Nelson Township would cover the Village. They don't understand how much it will cost to operate the Fire Department.
- Doerr: concerned about the State law and what happened with the Village of Pierson losing fire coverage.
- Stapleton: the law has to meet the State law. You don't have clarification in the term sheet what the Village would be required to pay.
- Stieg: asked if Pierson Township covered the Village of Pierson.
- Doerr: has wanted equitable contracts. The Townships will get more dense and the Village will not. The Townships denied the formula that was brought forth.

- Wright: to went over the timeline and also stated that there wasn't even time for Stapleton to respond to this term agreement in time either.
- Stieg: brought up the letter that Fire fighters signed however it has never been turned into the Village Council.
- Helton: asked why we couldn't afford it if Nelson and Ensley agreed to pay more.
- Kaiser: explained that it needed to be equitable to all involved.
- Fire Authority would own the Fire Department if one was created.

A motion to accept the Term sheet from Nelson Township with contract drawn up with stipulation that Village could be covered by Stieg, supported by Helton. Roll call: Doerr-No, Wright-No, Helton-Yes, Stieg-Yes, Christensen – Yes, Camilleri-No, Latham-No. Motion denied.

A motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 was made by Wright, , supported by Camilleri. Doerr-Yes, Wright-Yes, Helton-No, Stieg-Yes, Christensen –Yes, Camilleri, Yes, Latham – Yes.

Fire Department stormed the Council table.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. was made by Camilleri, supported by Christensen. Motion carries.