

VILLAGE OF SAND LAKE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
18 W LAKE ST
SAND LAKE, MI 49343
JANUARY 19, 2026 7:00 PM

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
Council Members Absent: Christensen
Several members of the public present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion to approve the January 9, 2026, agenda as presented was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright. Motion carries.

PRESIDENT REPORT:

No President report at this time.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections to the December 15, 2025 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 an opportunity to question or debate members of Council, and substantive questions in issues will not be responded to. All speakers are required to keep to the 3-minute time limit. This ensures consistency and fairness.*

Public Comment Opened 7:03 p.m.

-Dan Hula read the public comment portion of the agenda. Doesn't allow for decent conversation suggest to put away the timer and a have a conversation give the Fire Department to Nelson Township. Hire an engineer to go through the W Lake St situation.

-Carol, Dagget Rd best interest to allow Nelson township to purchase Fire Department. I don't want to see my insurance go up.

-Dean Wall supports the Sand Lake Fire Department maybe the village needs to step away and let them deal with it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. **DEFICIT DISCUSSION**

Doerr stated there were public concerns about the absence of discussion during the recent special meeting regarding the deficit resolutions. Tyler explained that it sounds scary. In 2023 the road project went \$63,000 over budget due to material costs. The total cost of the project was solely placed under local streets and should have been split between local and major streets. The village was notified in September 2024 and submitted a plan in February 2025. The State issued another request this year. The Village received a grant for \$129,000. For the correction \$163,000 was moved from local streets to major streets. We will need to file this again next year until the total correction is finished.

b. FIRE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Doerr stated that we have received two fire service proposals from surrounding communities and that given the current legal representation of the involved townships have the same firm, the village must retain separate legal counsel. The next step is to engage a new law firm so we can make an informed, conflict-free decision on fire services moving forward. We will revisit this when there is more to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. ENGAGEMENT LETTER

To move forward with proposals, we must obtain legal counsel.

Helton is this because we have the same attorney as other townships.

A motion to accept the engagement letter with Clark Hill was made by Wright, supported by Camilleri. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment Opened: 7:13 p.m.

- Tim Newton, Are you speaking about the Townships, Ensley has always been on board and said whatever needs to be done. Is the Fire Department over as the Village.
- Sue, Ensley Township, How long before you get counsel to resolve the situation.
- Teresa, do we know what firm Pierson is going with
- Dean Wall, asked if the village had any intention of offering fire services to the townships. 2 proposals what and who? Doerr, Nelson and Cedar. Question about the Township and Village paying the same taxes. Fire Department costs increasing. Doerr, We felt obligated to look elsewhere when no agreement could be reached.
- Sue, would village residents be covered under the township. Doerr recommended they look up the statute.
- Rachel Gokey, Nelson owns part of the building are they okay with the Village going with Cedar. Since December 15th there have been no negotiations with the Townships.
- Robyn, No discussion in the village minutes about the fire department when was conversation had in the last 4 years. Do the right thing and sell the Fire Department to the Township. They will cover the village. Doerr, there was nothing to give to the Council. The Village absorbed the inflation thinking that some sort of agreement would be reached.
- Resident, nothing in the minutes, is that true. Doerr, the board knew there were meetings held. Resident why was there never anything in the minutes.
- Rachel Gokey, you had a special meeting on the 6th nothing was discussed. Disincorporate the Village.

- Wright, Is there anything in Nelson Township minutes.
- Tim Newton, Ensley township was all in all Ensley minutes have fire minutes in their minutes. Ensley will no longer negotiate with the Village.
- Resident, who gets to decide.
- Doerr, conversations that Tim doesn't know about.
- Tim Newton, the Village cut out Ensley Township.
- Resident, Robyn's comment was about Council minutes. Why wasn't that discussed in council minutes if there was a deficit in the fire department budget.
- Darcy Strypko, if someone dies how are you going to sleep at night? Sell to Nelson Township.
- Britton, Sell the Fire Department
- Theresa Jerome, previous board incorporated the public comment rule. Asked if Ensley and Nelson were ready to go and if Pierson was not. Is the Council willing to cover the townships for a time until everything is sorted out.
- Cheryl, Pierson Township, If you say you are running a deficit in the Fire Department why didn't you ask for more money in May. Doerr, June was when the email happened. 6% and \$10,000 to equipment why agree to the 6% when they were working on their budget.
- Tammy October 25th Pierson motioned to terminate the contract with the Village. Thank you for all you do for the residents and businesses.
- Mike Bergman, Does Fire Department money go into the general fund? Doerr, the Village has general pooled accounting.
- Steve B, Ensley township, Mistakes have been made. Take legal council as quick as possible to let townships know if they can buy the equipment. Maybe extend contracts.
- Dan Hula, address the village residents it is not all the councils fault. We pay extra to live in the Village and for the services we get. Disincorporating the Village is not the best option. This board inherited a mess as everyone does.

Public Comment closed at 7:48 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Stieg- Asked if there was an offer from Nelson Township.

Doerr- stated a written offer had been received Sunday after their Special meeting at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:

Village President, Mollie Doerr

Date

Village Clerk, Michelle Lewis

Date