

VILLAGE OF SAND LAKE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
2 E. MAPLE ST  
SAND LAKE, MI 49343  
NOVEMBER 17, 2025 7:00 P.M.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Doerr, all those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Council Members Absent: Merritt, Christensen

Also present: 10 members of the public

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

A motion to approve the November 17, 2025, agenda as presented was made by Camilleri, supported by Latham. Motion carries.

**PRESIDENT REPORT:**

The President's report was read by Doerr.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Minutes from the October 20, 2025, Regular Council Meeting
- b. Cash Receipting and account balances
- c. Fire Department
- d. DPW
- e. Zoning Report
- f. Clerk
- g. HR Committee Minutes
- h. Planning Commission Minutes

A motion to approve the consent agenda with corrections was made by Wright, supported by Camilleri. 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 on 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.

-Tammy, 2 poles are out – One (1) in front of Aiden’s Place and one (1) in front of Corner Hair Design & Spa. Ryan- Ralph will come tomorrow to look at the lights and what we need to do.

Public Comment Closed: 7:05 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Event Form Discussion:**

MMRMA insurance representative was in attendance to answer any questions.

- Camilleri, why does the Village request insurance, and why doesn’t the Village insurance cover events? Per Seth Kaiman from MMRMA 3<sup>rd</sup> parties should cover themselves in the event of a loss. MMRMA covers the village operations.
- Tammy, asked if reduced coverage for 3<sup>rd</sup> parties was an option through MMRMA? MMRMA only covers government entities.
- Craig, why are 3<sup>rd</sup> parties required to have the insurance turned in so early? It is a procedural thing and is stated in the event form that the Village Council voted on.
- Camilleri, asked if there was anything the Village could do better. Seth will review the application and provide feed back.

**b. Sand Lake Winter Fest Event Form:**

Previous DPW Supervisor Bill wanted the Chamber to install stake pockets into the road where the Chamber places the Winter Fest tent. Matt Baczewski, met with DPW Supervisor Ryan Shick, Zoning Administrator Derek Dickerson, and Mark from Dean’s Excavating. The damage has already been done to the road. The Chamber is willing to write something up with Derek and Ryan that the Chamber would cover the cost of damages, if any done to the road. Doerr, also spoke with Mark. Looking at the cost of doing the road and replacing it in the future. It would be nice if the Chamber could come up with a contingency plan to present to the board to help repair the road in the future. Stake pockets would need to be sealed annually. Wright asked about having it go to the Street Committee to discuss whether or not the stake pockets are even necessary. Camilleri – asked why it could not be held in the park. It was stated that because there are heaters that warm the tent up to 70 degrees that it would create a large amount of mud. Tent insurance company will not insure just the use of blocks. Camilleri would like the time changed to 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Wright motioned to table the Winter Fest until the December meeting, and a contingency plan from the Chamber, supported by Camilleri. All yes, except Helton no. Motion carries.

**c. Generator Discussion:**

Nelson Township does not find it necessary to have a generator to run the entire building wants the Village to fully purchase one on their own to run the Fire Department. The Township does not want to contribute to a generator. One quote is for a standby generator and the other is for a portable generator. The Standby would run off natural gas. The portable one is more user friendly and cheaper to replace. Write this into next year's budget.

**d. DPW Discussion:**

DPW Supervisor Ryan Shick would like to remind everyone that there is no parking on the streets from November 1 through April 1, for the purpose of plowing. Wright thanked the DPW department for their diligence in the leaf clean -up the Village looks nice.

**e. Budget Amendments:**

A motion to approve the budget line-item adjustments was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright. Motion carries.

**f. Fire Contract Discussion:**

There have been several meetings with the Townships and the Fire Department over the past 2 years. Financials have been gone over at all of these meetings. Everyone, including the Fire Department, is aware of the financial situation. The treasurer reported back from the Pierson Township meeting that Nelson and Pierson would like a Fire Board created. Sand Lake is not opposed to a Fire Board Authority. All municipalities involved have to agree. Some of the other boards disagree with the formula being used for the determination of the contract fee. They feel it should be on a run-by-run basis instead of a population basis, therefore leaving 7 % of the population to shoulder the financial burden. If Pierson pulls then Nelson Township stated they will leave Sand Lake Fire Department as well. Tyler had met with the Township Supervisors and felt everyone was okay with the numbers except for Pierson Township.

It was explained that Montcalm County has 2 trucks that would service the southern border of Pierson Township. One truck is in Howard City and is manned by a business owner and not in service all the time. The other would come from Gowen. In the last month Sand Lake has responded to 12 med calls in Pierson Township. Sometimes no rescue truck from Montcalm County showed up and other times they were 30 minutes or more later than Sand Lake. The EMS truck is manned by 1 person so if the call is for a med 1 there is not enough people on the truck from Montcalm County to handle the call. Sand Lake does not have a mutual aid contract with Montcalm County so they do not have to respond or can charge per call. May need to have a Special Meeting regarding this. Mollie will meet with Tyler to discuss financial options further.

**g. Insurance Discussion:**

For the second time in 2 years, a vehicle has been struck while parked in front of the bay doors on the DPW / Fire Station. The Village must have no claims for 4 years to be able to seek a lower-rate insurance company. It is difficult for DPW to get in and out of the bay doors, especially with the plow on when the Fire Department parks in front of the bay doors, even if it is behind the sidewalk. Camilleri stated there are 5 NO PARKING signs across the front of the building.

Camilleri made a motion that there be no parking in front of the DPW/Fire Station at all, supported by Latham. All yes, except Wright no. Motion carries.

Wright made a follow up motion that there be some sort of reprimand if they are caught parking there, supported by Latham. Motion carries.

**h. Clerk Position:**

A motion to approve that the clerk work a minimum of 30 hours per week was made by Wright, supported by Camilleri. Motion carries.

**i. Resignation Letter:**

A motion to accept the resignation letter from Merritt and to publish a request for letters of intent to fill the vacancy was made by Camilleri, supported by Latham. Motion carries.

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Public Comment Opened: 8:25 p.m.

Jorge Ballivian likes to go for walks around the Village after dark and believes it would be nice if the Village could look into more lighting, especially at intersections, to make the Village more inviting.

Alyssa Wright would like to thank the Council for they are doing even amidst controversy.

**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Wright- apologized to the Treasurer, having to go through what he did at the other meeting. Wright appreciates all that the Treasurer is doing for the Village. Also, if there is any doubt about transparency or questions, ask.

**ADJOURNEMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. was made by Camilleri, supported by Wright.  
Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:

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Village President, Mollie Doerr

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date