February 3, 2025

State of New York
2679 Route 8
County of Hamilton
Town of Lake Pleasant

A Meeting of the Lake Pleasant Town Board was held on February 3, 2025, at the Lake Pleasant Library 2864 State Route 8, Speculator, NY 12164. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., to make approvals, give reports, establish organizational tasks and conduct any business that may come before the Board.

The following were present:
Supervisor: Betsy Bain
Councilman: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius and Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway, Katrena Cohea (Library Director), Paul Allen, Shorty Hoffman
Absent: Councilwoman- Meg Parascandola

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Bain announced that at the end of the meeting the Board will go into Executive Session.

Resolution #21 To approve the minutes of January 21, 2025.
Offered by: Braunius
2ND for discussion: O'Connell
Discussion: Bain would like security access discussion added in the minutes stating that this discussion started with town officials giving passwords to e-mails being kept in the vault. The question was asked if the Supervisor has access to the vault and Bain said that she did not. Smith gave LaVarnway the OK to show the Supervisor where the key is kept in the event of the clerk becoming unreachable and the Supervisor needs to get into the vault. Smith doesn't understand why the board would want the security information published in the minutes for the public to read. Smith explained that this needs to be in town policy but not in the minutes.
The Board Decided Changes are to be made as Amended:
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway reported that the Highway Department has been busy plowing snow and grooming all of the snowmobile trails that the town grooms.

- LaVarnway has been processing paperwork for parts due to equipment breakdowns. The crew has worked hard to get repairs done.
- Garbage/salt shed behind the health center has siding damage after a plow pushed up against it when it slid sideways.

Old Business:

1. **Senior Meal Site-** Bain informed the board as follows:
   A company has been hired to test for mold at the senior meal site. Mold was found in the front entrance carpet and a small amount was found in the main room. They are now looking to hire a mold remediation carpet cleaning company to clean. In the meantime, some seniors are getting meals to go, and others are having them delivered.

2. **Short Term Rentals –** Bain suggested to the board that STR be tabled due to information in the process of collection.

Discussion was had at the table about STR. Bain mentioned that the Town of Lake Pleasant is ahead of the game with the local law already in place. Changes to our local law will not change anything once the state mandates its STR fees. The town will continue to get registrations and collect fees for the town. Municipalities that don't have an STR law will collect STR sales taxes that will go to the state once the state mandate is made law. Discussion about a bed tax was had at the table.

3. **Budget Transfers –**

Resolution # 22 The Town Boards Approval All of the 2024 budget line transfers.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

New Business:

1. Bain presented to the board that she and Hamilton County have been looking into ways to invest town money through investments, and she opened it up to board discussion. A secure New York Class investment service paying 4-5% interest is what the County has recommended for the town. This is a liquid investment that will not be locked in like a CD. McGovern asked who would monitor this investment and Bain said that the County Treasurers office would oversee the investments. He asked if the town would be parallel with the County's investment opportunities and Bain said no the County uses another company. McGovern asked if other towns are onboard with this, and Bain explained that other towns are not participating at this time. Bain will bring more information on these investments to the table at the next meeting.

2. **Library Report –** Katrena Cohea, the Lake Pleasant library director gave the library's 2024 yearly report to the board.

******See Attached******

McGovern praised Katrena and the Library for all that they do for the community.

Committee Reports:

- **Highway –** Braunius, McGovern, and LaVarnway had a committee meeting and request that the board meet in Executive Session.

- **Buildings –** Bain read report from Parascandola who was unable to make the meeting tonight. She is waiting to receive estimates for painting the exterior of the Museum building for the museum grant. Tennis court grant has no update at this time.

- **Website** – Bain read report from Parascandola regarding the website committee. Parascandola suggests to the rest of the board that, while policies and practices are being reviewed, she recommends that the board appoint an advisory committee. The website and e-mails are town owned properties the board oversees these assets. The Town Clerk is the records manager and is responsible for ensuring that town records are kept in accordance with NY State guidelines and records management policies. It is important for the Town Clerk and the Town Board to work collaboratively on these platforms. Parascandola feels that it would be beneficial to have an additional committee member to the website committee who has experience in these platforms. Parascandola has talked to several members of the community about this, and she recommends Paul Allen, townsperson and director of a software company, for this role.
  Parascandola reports that e-mail has not fully emerged, and she will give a report at the next meeting about the website.
  Bain agrees that this is a good recommendation, the board discussed the recommendation and decided to make a motion.

Resolution # 23 Town Board to Appoint Paul Allen to the website committee.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

- **Youth Recreation –** O'Connell reported that weather has held the next youth recreation trip off until the next Superintendents Day when they will go to the trampoline park, Sky

Zone. Ski lessons are up to the 8th lesson this week. Samantha, Meg, Kathy and the Arietta youth director met to work on the summer recreation program schedule.

- **Health Committee –** Smith let the board know that all health care recipients of the town have their insurance cards and there are no issues to date with coverage. Braunius mentioned that one of his doctors commented that this insurance is better than Humana.

Resolution #24 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #5 dated 1/27/2025, #3878-3881 in the amount of $33,374.65. Abstract #6 dated 1/31/2025, #3882-3897 in the amount of $14,959.03.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
-Allen mentioned that with investments, unless there are restrictions on municipalities, the board should go for a liquid investment. Discussion about security in these investments was had.

Roundtable:
- McGovern was pleased with the well-attended snowmobile races this past weekend.
- Bain read to the board what Parascandola had for roundtable. She mentioned that Oak Mt. was not allowing sleds at all on their property. She asked if there could be larger signs stating that Oak Mt. is closed to snowmobiles. She wants to know if it is possible to have a parking area for sledders who want to patronize Oak Mt. Does the town own any land butting up to Oak where a parking lot could be utilized. McGovern explained that this had been announced already about the Mountain being closed to snowmobiles.
- O'Connell let the room know that the 7th grade class will be hosting their annual Valentine's dinner on February 12th at 5:30 P.M. at LPCS, serving a pasta-based dinner.
- O'Connell saw a post on FB where residents are not pleased with sledders accessing Sacandaga Lake through their properties. Discussion about sledders not following trail maps was had in the room.
- Smith thanked the townspeople who sent in their taxes on time, her part time deputy clerk Faith Cleveland and her volunteer tax helper, Tim Smith. This enabled the Town Clerks office to collect the tax warrant to the Town Supervisor by the end of January.
- McGovern mentioned the Lions Club poker run to be held on February 22nd where they will end at the Lemon Tree. It will be a simple format with prizes at the end. On the same day the Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Snowball that evening at Melody Lodge with fund rising going towards the snowflake decorations around town. Melody Lodge has a one-day liquor license for the event.
- Bain let the board know that the town has received all payments for the yearly post closure monitoring bill.

- Bain mentioned that a past employee filed for unemployment again this year. Bain has filed another grievance for this year she explained that in the past four years the town has not had to pay for this. Bain will keep the board posted on this.
- The application submitted for, senior of the year 2025, to the office of the aging. Bain thanked O'Connell and McComb for getting all the necessary information in.
- Bain gave an update that museum donations are up to $8,920.00.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 18, 2025, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

**** Town Board Enters Executive Session at 7:53P.M. over Acquisition, lease or sale of real property or securities when publicity would substantially affect the value. ****
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Town Board comes out of Executive Session at 8:15 P.M. with no action taken.

*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Kathy O'Connell
To Adjourn @ 8:16 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk