January 3, 2023

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

**An Organizational Meeting of the Lake Pleasant Town Board** was held on January 3, 2023 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, RaChelle Martz, Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Followed by a Moment of Silence for Ellen T. Alfieri**

**Resolution #1 To approve the minutes of December 19, 2022**
**Offered by:** McGovern
**2ND by:** Braunius
**Be it resolved,** that the minutes of December 19, 2022 be approved as presented
**Adopted by the following vote:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays:** None

**Old Business:**

1. **Museum Fundraiser –** Funds raised are up to $31,916.00. First grant was not awarded to the town. Cris Meixner has applied for a new grant through AARCH and is feeling optimistic about this one.

2. **Campground Update –** County board meeting is on Thursday, not many updates thus far. Braunius read a ROOST visitors survey that resulted in fall visitors (30%) to the region surpassing the summer visitors (26%). Martz reported that Michelle Clement from ROOST is active in opposing this shut down of the campgrounds for the fall. Discussion pursued among board members about this issue.

**Resolution #2 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Adopt Changes to Employee Handbook 708 Medical Insurance for Retirees Under Eligibility Will go from Active to Retiree Insurance at Age Sixty Five.**
**Offered by:** McGovern

**Whereas,** Once an employee retirees from the town and reaches the age of sixty five, their health insurance will automatically go from active employee insurance plan to the retiree insurance plan.
**Whereas,** this change will include any retirees that are retired from the town but still actively employed elsewhere.
**Whereas,** Employees that have reached the age of sixty five and are continuing to work for the town will remain on active health insurance coverage.
**2nd by:** Braunius
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, O'Connell, Martz and Braunius)
**Nays:** None

**Resolution #3 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Adopt Addition to Employee Handbook 705 Disclosure of Insurance Benefits**
**Offered by:** McGovern
**Whereas,** 705 of the Town of Lake Pleasant Handbook, Disclosure of Insurance Benefits will include between Changes in Status and Beneficiary,
**Dependents –** covered under and employee's insurance will continue to have coverage under regular insurance until they reach the age of sixty five (spouse) or the dependent reaches the age of twenty six.
**2nd by:** Martz
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, O'Connell, Braunius and Martz)
**Nays:** None

**New Business:**

**New property tax bills signed into law in December -** One is a notification found on the back of Town/County tax bills under **Senior Citizen Exemption:** seniors maybe eligible for a tax exemption if they apply by March 1st of each year. If granted it will apply to their next tax bill. Seniors are asked to contact their assessor, Office of the aging or Real Property tax.
Seniors must be sixty five years of age and older, full time residents and making less than $39,000.00 a year. This is state law.
Hamilton County has not adopted the senior exemption neither has Benson, Inlet or Morehouse. Lake Pleasant has adopted a senior exemption so the Village of Speculator and Lake Pleasant will need to get information on these seniors and send out notices.
McGovern wants to know how we are supposed to know the age of individuals and their incomes. Letters to all seniors must be out by January 30th. O'Connell suggests a notice in the paper. Discussion on how to get info to eligible seniors and how to notify qualifying seniors went around the table.

**Resolution #4 Town of Lake Pleasant to send out mailings for senior tax exemption notification via every door direct.**
**Offered by:** Braunius
**2nd by:** McGovern
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, O'Connell, Martz and Braunius)
**Nays:** None

Second Law passed in December is - Volunteer firefighters and Ambulance worker's credit. To qualify these volunteers must live in county and serve 2-5 years. Lifetime exemption after 20 years. Local law would need to be passed. At this time the town has not been notified that this is mandatory. Town officials will find out if the formalities of passing this as a local law are needed. The cut off date for this is March 1st which doesn't give the town sufficient time to go through the formalities of passing this as town law.
McGovern mentioned that there are two Vol. Fire Departments in our township and questions how this will apply to each of them. One is owned by the Village and one is contracted through the Town.
Discussion was had by the board on this issue. It was decided to table for now. Bain will talk with the fire department.

**Highway –**

- BR110 was picked up last Friday. Should be receiving a check from Auctions International anytime.
- Received a check for the chips money.
- LaVarnway, Bain and Steve Sawn are trying to get reimbursement for the library parking lot. It is $2,700.00 over cost of what the adjusters estimated. Insurance adjuster Steve Sawn is trying to get to the bottom of this.
- Resident called Christmas day reporting that his driveway was flooding. Area was dug up revealed that tap straps had corroded away. Taps are not old and did not hold up. Village board has seen the problem. Very little blacktop was disturbed. There is an 18in. culvert that crosses the area and it has rusted and fell in. This culverts discharge needs to be higher than the towns culvert to avoid other problems in the future due to layout. Braunius asked if the Village plans on replacing this pipe and LaVarnway reported that they plan to address in the summertime.
- Transfer station employee out on medical leave comes back to work on Monday.
- Garbage truck is scheduled to be built the first week of February and delivered to Utica in the 3rd week of February. CEJJ estimates six weeks for entire assembly which means that if all goes as planned the town should have a new garbage truck by March or April. BAN will be needed for payment.
- FEMA and plan B of bridge, a BAN will be needed.
- A landowner on Kaulfuss Rd. called about a tree that the town is responsible for. LaVarnway called National Grid who came up the next day and removed the tree. No stump removal performed due to roots under the road. LaVarnway thanked National Grid for their quick action in this matter.

1. **Organizational Appointments -**

**Resolution #5 2023 Town Appointments Made by The Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board.**
**Offered by: Martz**
**2nd by: Braunius**
**Deputy Supervisor-Neil McGovern**
**Budget Officer- Nancy Seifts**
**Attorney for Town – Young & Sommer's**

**Historian- Aaron Weaver**
**Official Bank- NBT**
**Health Insurance Rep.- Stephanie Smith**
**Justice Court Clerk- Faith Cleveland**
**Animal Control Officer- Mike Peck**
**Deputy Animal Control Officer- Laura Peck**
**Registrar Vital Stat. & Handicap Permit Issuer- Stephanie Smith**
**Purchasing Agent- Betsy Bain**
**Youth Recreation Director- Samantha Desrochers**
**Parks & Recreation Foreman- Randolph Lavarnway**
**Refuse & Recyclable Foreman- Randolph Lavarnway**
**Highway Superintendent Foreman- Ed Brooks**
**Zoning Officer Code Enforcement Officer- Steve Page**
**Official Newspaper-Hamilton County Express**
**2nd by:** Braunius
**Adopted by the following votes:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays**-None

**Resolution #6 Town of Lake Pleasant to Authorize the Superintendent of Highways to make Purchases of Tools etc. at a Cost not to Exceed $2,999.00 and to Buy Oil, Tires, Salt at State Contract Pricing.**
**Offered by:** McGovern
**2nd by:** Braunius
**Adopted by the following votes:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Martz, Braunius, McGovern and O'Connell)
**Nays**-None

**Resolution #7 To set mileage rate for reimbursement at .625 cents per mile**
**Offered by:** O'Connell
**2nd by:** Martz
**Adopted by the following vote:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays-** None

**Resolution #8 Town of Lake Pleasant to adopt the Holiday Schedule as established by Hamilton County.**
**Offered by:** Braunius
**2nd by:** Martz
**Adopted by the following vote:**
**Ayes-** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays-** None

**Resolution #9 That regularly scheduled Town Board meetings will be held at the Lake Pleasant Public Library, 2864 Rt. 8, Speculator NY 12164 at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month, or as otherwise published and/or posted. There will not be a meeting on a Monday Holiday.**
**Offered by**: O'Connell
**2nd by:** Martz
**Adopted by the following vote:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays:** None

**Resolution #10 Town Hall hours will be 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Monday – Friday.**
**Offered by:** Braunius
**2nd by:** O'Connell
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz)
**Nays:** None

**Resolution #11 Town Clerk office hours will be 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Monday – Friday. Access to town hall outside of business hours can be done by appointment through the town clerk.**
**Offered by:** Martz
**2nd by:** O'Connell
**Adopted by the following vote:**
**Ayes-** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays-** None

**Committee Reports:**

- **Youth Recreation -** O'Connell reported that Samantha Desrochers is working on a sledding party at the Irondequoit Inn.
- **Short term rentals –** Discussion was had by the board about short term rentals here and elsewhere and what is happening in the area.

**Resolution #12 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #42 dated 12/29/2022, #2502-2503 in the amount of $3,688.47, Abstract #43 dated 12/30/2022, #2504-2532 in the amount of $105,744.98.**
**Offered by:** McGovern
**Discussion:** Braunius asked about the post closure land fill and costs. Bain and McGovern explained about the land fill payment history.
O'Connell asked what React systems are? It is a system on the cutting edges of the plows that uses less salt and sand on the roads. It utilizes individual blades that replaces normal cutting edges. This is a go green system that works. Braunius commented that our crew is doing a good job on the roads.

Martz asked if James Brennan was able to take dogs for us after a tree damaged their kennel. McGovern reported that they can still house dogs.
**2nd by:** O'Connell
**Adopted by the following votes:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays:** None

**Resolution #13 Motion to Pay Bill: Abstract #44 dated 12/30/2022, #2311-2311 in the amount of #125.00.**
**Offered by:** Braunius
**2nd by:** Martz
**Adopted by the following votes:**
**Ayes:** All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
**Nays:** None

**Public Comment: None**

**Roundtable:**

- McGovern thank you out to Ellen Alfieri for her service to the town and announced her service to be held at St. James on January 7, 2023 at 11:00
- McGovern also thanked those who came out to Greg Boyers funeral.
- Successful polar plunge raised $577 for wounded warriors. Twenty individuals participated.
- Smith distributed new court hours for 2023 that were set up by the Judges.
- Judge Visscher has taken his magistrates courses and is ready to take the bench.
- Streetlighting payment was credited for $8,650.00.
- Nathan Littauer has accepted Excellus insurance and will be accepting it for 2023.
- A taxpayer donated $250 towards GAVAC.
- Arietta, Morehouse and Lake Pleasant Supervisors will be meeting with Chamber of Commerce board on Tuesday. Marty Zegstroo, Jen Scanlon and Tracy Joy are the new board for the chamber.
- Frontier communications contacts needed locally due to lack of service in town. Residents with phones out are having trouble getting Frontier to restore service. Discussion was had by the board on how this difficulty can be navigated to better serve the residents of this town.

**Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday January 17, 2023 at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library**

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** RaChelle Martz
**To Adjourn @ 8:24 P.M.**
**All in Favor**
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk