August 1, 2022

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 August 1, 2022, at the Lake Pleasant Library 2864 State Hwy. 8 Speculator, NY 2679 State Route 8 Lake Pleasant, NY 12108. 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
Councilpersons: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, RaChelle Martz and Kathy O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Nancy Seifts (budget officer), Shorty Hoffman, Karen McComb (Library President), Eileen LaVarnway

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #87 To approve the minutes of July 18, 2022
Offered by: Don Braunius **2nd by:** RaChelle Martz
Be it resolved, that the minutes of July 18, 2022 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz)
Nays: None

Highway:

LaVarnway reported to the board that paving with county has continued on with a set back after shoulder machine broke down. Now waiting for it to get fixed so that Gilmantown Rd. can have shoulders completed. Ads for Fish Mountain Rd. culvert are out to advertising publications. There will be a Special board meeting on August 22, 2022 at 1:00 P.M., to open bids. Delivery of arch culvert for Fawn Lake Rd. is in and planned for installment in September or October weather permitting. McGovern and Lavarnway discussed signs for the tennis courts and signs are being made.

LaVarnway spoke to the towns Insurance adjuster about the library parking lot, another paving estimate will go in now for August. Adjustments may need to be made before paving is done.

Mining permit for Whittaker Lake Rd. DEC has no issues, inspection went well.

Exterior paint on the museum was tested for lead and lead was found in the paint. LaVarnway asked the board if he should hire a company to scrape and paint or does the town paint over existing lead paint? Discussion pursued and the board asked Lavarnway to get quotes for removal and painting. Existing

paint is peeling due to age, weather and moisture. Highway crew has removed branches from roof and side of building.

DOT has put off paving Route 30 and 8 until next spring. McGovern feels that everyone who is willing, should contact the engineers in Indian Lake and voice concerns. The road is now dangerous to motorists due to potholes and lack of continuity in marked lines.

Old Business:

Resolution #88 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Adopt Changes to Employee Handbook
Offered by: Neil McGovern
Whereas, Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board will adopt changes to their employee handbook.
Whereas, drafted changes to the October 16, 2006 will be done by Publishing Co., Public Sector HR Consultants LLC.
2nd: Braunius moved to discussion.
Discussion on how often evaluations of employees should be done was had by the board.

Passing the resolution to adopt Changes to the Employee handbook is contingent upon the employee appraisal form being changed to annual.

Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz)
Nays: None

1. **High Tunnel at Community Gardens -**
   Bain asked McComb, as Library President, to speak to the board about the research done on applying for a grant to do a High Tunnel at the Community Gardens. McComb, after compiling research, advised the board not to apply for the grant due to prolonged sustainability, condition of location, maintenance, and volunteers available. This is a good idea but not good for The Town of Lake Pleasant.
   Bain and the board, after reviewing research, had some reservations. They met with LaVarnway and reached out to Clay Early to find out what the maintenance was for his highway department. After this meeting they all agreed that the specks for this project are not feasible for our community for the following reasons:
   a. The ground under the current garden is not adequate, so the prep work and materials would be huge.
   b. The maintenance after project completion, is very involved.
   c. We don't have the year-round volunteers; the work starts in April and goes through October.
   d. Our garden club is busy tending other garden plot areas around town and currently does not care for gardens at this location.

   Discussion of how to improve existing community garden was had. McComb recommended that a dedicated group of people could improve the existing garden by applying for grants and making improvements. She mentioned that the fence is

inadequate at this time and new chicken wire is needed. Cornell Cooperative Extension cannot apply for the grants.

2. **Waller RO System –** New system is now installed at the Waller residence and working well. The cost ended up being $100 less than estimate.

3. **Tennis/Pickle Ball Courts -** Bain contacted Kelsey Altavilla to go through grant paperwork. Terry Dowd has offered to help get grant paperwork in and funding to resurface courts. Working also to get Town of Arietta on board with funding. Money in town funds can be used for both courts. Signs going up will state the three days for tennis and four days for pickleball, with hours. All other times will be for either sport. Discussion was had further about the nets and boxes containing nets. Bain stated that if one group is allowed to leave a locked box then how does the town deal with the next group that wants to leave a locked box? Rest of board agreed that this could pose a problem. McGovern to reach out to pickleball players.

New Business:

1. **Short term rentals -** Bain asked O'Connell to work on a committee looking into short term rentals. O'Connell and Bain took a webinar course on this. The team would look into safety issues such as carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers and water testing. The team's goals will be, safety and positive collaboration. Team will be made up of seven people consisting of one town board member, one village board member, one short term rental owner, someone against short term rental, a member of the zoning board and an attorney. Christy Wilt has been asked and has agreed to represent tourism/realtor. Looking for volunteers.
   McComb asked why? If buildings have certificates of occupancy, then why is this being targeted? Why is short term rental being targeted and not long-term rentals?
   Neil commented that refuse, noise and contact person for properties has been the issue. In case of emergencies there is a problem if there is an issue and a contact for a property owner is not available.
   McComb commented that the liability is on the homeowner or Corporation not the town.
   McGovern says that this should be done at the county level.
   Bain wants this to happen so that people can be safe. If emergencies arise at a residence there needs to be a contact with property owners.

2. **Cemetery Committee Report -** LaVarnway went over the changes that the cemetery committee has been making to the existing rules and regulations for the cemetery. Some of the changes are disinterment rules, liability to town with headstone movement and frequency of renewal letters. Veteran's plaques are allowed as a second headstone for veterans only. No pets can be buried in Lake Pleasant Cemeteries.

Committee Reports:

- **Youth Recreation -** Martz reported that craft days are being discontinued due to little turn out. Trips have had a better turn out are going well.

- **Cemetery –** Along with revisions to existing rules and regulations, a letter is being drafted by O'Connell to go to the owner of lands surrounding South Shore Cemetery in regards to trees overhanging fence.

- **Website –** Pete Newell is asking to have his e-mail removed from the websites contact person after he has been e- mailed questions about the town. Martz is working on this.

Resolution #89 Approve Audit of Abstracts #20, July 29, 2022
Voucher #2223-2244 Amount $53,417.22
Offered by: Neil McGovern
2nd by: Kathy O'Connell
Resolved that all bills in the following funds be paid as presented – General, Highway, Landfill, fire district and Library
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

Seifts wants the town residents to look out when Nathan Littauer bills come in after she received a bill that was generated but wasn't supposed to be sent out. She also asked about the date that will go on the handbook suggesting that the department heads might want to do them on/around the employee's anniversary dates as they are currently done bi-annually.
Hoffman mentioned that the cemetery his cousin was buried in recently, is regulated by the NYS cemetery board. He will get the number incase the cemetery committee would like to call and talk to them about their rules and regulations governed by the state.
McComb announced that the historical society is now Incorporated. Next is the filing for the 501C3. Open house Saturday went nicely with a visitor to the museum and Casy's hot dog cart and bake sale. The museum is funded by donations and memberships. Looking for carpenters to help with maintenance of Rt. 66. Rhinelander tour and Utica Zoo visit went well. Tomorrow the Library will be hosting Mid-Summer Nights Dream at the Pavilion at 7:00 P.M.

Round table:

Neil will check with the clinic about hiring.

Bain reported that an anonymous $5,000.00 donation came in for the health center. Letter of appreciation has been sent out.
Museum fundraiser is up to $29,179.00
Annual inspection of dog kennels came in last month from Agricultural markets and all was satisfactory.
Nathan Littauer will raise their fees starting September 1st.
Printing of Association of Towns newsletter is on indefinite delay due to paper shortage. www.nytowns.org for updates.
Grant application for the museum project has been submitted. Awards notifications will be announced in mid to late December.
Our Assessor Lynn Billings has completed her 6mos. Training that was required by ORPTS, she is now recognized as sole assessor. Congratulate her when you see her for a job well done.
Library phone bill, since changes, is saving $114.17 a month.
Chamber update – Kate Eldredge will work 2 days a week, Bonnie Reisinger has left and working at county, Gary Rhinehart will be working full time. Donna Benkovich has retired.
Bain, LaVarnway and Smith met with liability insurance representative, Steve Sawn to go over report and prepare for next year's coverage.

Next Meeting: Monday August 15, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M. @ Lake Pleasant Library

*****ON A MOTION BY: Don Braunius 2nd by: RaChelle Martz**
TO ADJOURN @ 8:40 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk