August 19, 2024

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 19, 2024, 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, Katherine O'Connell and Meg Parascandola
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Nancy Seifts (Budget Officer), Karen McComb (Library President) John Seifts, Matt Seifts, Shorty Hoffman, and Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Manager - Caitlin Stewart, and Technician - Katie WhitKovits.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #112 To Approve the Minutes of August 5, 2024.
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion – Bain would like Allison Gaddy's name corrected to be spelled Geddy under Tennis/pickleball. In roundtable Bain would like changes to line about ARPA funds being a county wide assessment project. Bain also asked that Lake Valley coming into Lake Pleasant and transporting be changed from, they do not, too they do come into Lake Pleasant and transport. O'Connell said these were the three she wanted corrected as well.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of August 5, 2024 be approved as presented.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway Report:
-LaVarnway started with the tabled alarm systems that the town received a notice about going from copper to cellular with battery backup, or internet. He turned this over to O'Connell who has a report on this request. O'Connell explained that the municipal building alarm system costs the town $75 quarterly since a Vista 32 was installed in 1994 and upgraded in 20013. The current company will upgrade to a cellular or internet with cellular backup. It will cost $120.00 quarterly and may offset the cost of phone bills. LaVarnway explained that the labor and costs to repair the security system at the health center recently was a total cost of $599.00 to the town. This was for work that took seventeen minutes to complete. Discussion about different

companies offering different security systems was had by the board. The deadline from the FCC is December 2025 to get this switched over and each building will need its own system.
Parascandola asked about calling Frontier to see what they offer. Type of phone system needs to be determined then go from there.
Discussion about phone lines in the area down after the recent storms was had at the table.

Resolution #113 Town Board Tabled Security Systems for further research.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

- Two contractors have given LaVarnway pricing to remove three trees in South Shore Cemetery. The lowest quote was $2,500.00 with a guarantee that it would be done before winter.

Resolution #114 Town Board to Approve Hiring the Lowest Bidder to Remove Three Trees in South Shore Cemetery, before Winter.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Bain Moved **to scheduled public hearing at 7:15**
Resolved that this meeting be interrupted to hold a Public Hearing advertised and scheduled for this evening at 7:15 P.M.
Public Hearing for Planning Boards Request to Change Local Zoning Law by Removing the Minimum Lot Size Column from Chart.
Supervisor Bain declared the public hearing open at 7:15 P.M. Following distribution of the proposed Local Law to the Town Board Members at the July 1, 2024, meeting, notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Hamilton County Express, week of August 7 – August 13, 2024, with same being posted on same date at the Town Hall sign board.

- LaVarnway reported that the last storm damaged the health center after a tree fell and punctured the roof. No damage inside the building was found. Damage was too exterior soffits, roof, siding and middle air conditioner. LaVarnway has been in touch with the insurance company and an adjuster. He is working on getting quotes for the repair work from contractors. Looking at costs so far it will be $21,250 for half of the roof to be redone. LaVarnway suggests a full roof redo since the existing roof is now twenty-four years old. A full new roof will cost the town approximately $39,600.00. Full redo of roof will be $18,000.00 more than the repair costs to roof from storm damage. Air conditioner and chimney repair will be separate from the roof. The adjuster would like

the roof inspected. Seifts asked if it would get repaired this year or next and LaVarnway said it needs to be done this year before winter.

- A week ago, the towns new 2025 western star dump truck arrived in Syracuse, NY. LaVarnway will be filing paperwork with Henderson for equipment that will be put on the new truck.

Old Business:

1. **Museum Grant –** Meg Parascandola updated the board on the request from Adirondack Architectural Heritage about earth disturbance with the project. They have everything they need and are waiting for an archeological review. Thirteen bid packets are out so far to requesting contractors. One of the contractors will not be bidding because they don't pour concrete walls. The town's engineer will not except blocked concrete. Bids will be accepted until Sept 16, 2024, at 4:00 P.M. and will be read aloud at the town board meeting that evening at 7:00 P.M. On September 4, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. there will be a pre-bid conference at the project site for contractors with Lake Pleasant Department Project Representatives present.

2. **RO Systems –** Bain updated the board on what Mr. Parslow is doing with the RO systems.

3. **VFIS –** Bain informed the board about the meeting held on August 12, 2024, with a few fire department members, Towns insurance representative, Steve Sawn, Patrick G., Bain, McGovern and Seifts. McGovern explained that the plan currently has $734,000 in it with some firemen collecting already. It was suggested that one million is needed to sustain this program going forward long term. McGovern suggests that $30,000 - 40,000/yr total amount should be sufficient funds from the town. Bain explained that budget planning is in the works to include VFIS costs moving forward for the fire department and the town. The town plans to continue to support the fire department with VFIS and all that they do for the town.
   Bain will get everything out to the board to be able to review.
   O'Connell asked about the pension and Seifts explained the plans that go along with years of service for the members. This program started in 1992 and there was a buy back program for those already in the Department. Members must be in for 5 years to be vested. Braunius mentioned that it is a good recruitment and retention tool.

4. **JCAP Grant** – Smith explained to the board that the town court would like to apply for the JCAP grant that has been offered to the court. To apply for this grant, the court needs to get permission from the town board to apply for the grant in a resolution format provided by the grantee. JCAP advises the court to ask for town permission for up to $30,000 so that even if less funds are needed there is only one resolution needed and passed by the town board. Board approval is necessary because if funds are awarded, they need to be held in town fund lines because, by law they cannot be held in court fund accounts.
   Items the court would like to purchase with funds if awarded are a new fax machine, new court sign for in/out of session, chairs around court table, extra chairs along wall, one

new desk chair to replace a heavy old one, new fireproof locking file cabinet for case file storage. Bain asked about an AC/heater split. Smith reminded the board that funds must be for the court not town purposes.
Bain read the proposed resolution to the board:
The Board of the Town of Lake Pleasant Authorizes the Lake Pleasant Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2024-2025 Grant cycle up to $30,000.
Whereas, funding awarded will go towards upgrades to the town's courtroom for furnishings, storage needs and equipment.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell states that she has written many grants, and she has never seen a board approve a grant without an itemized list of items requesting and how much they cost. She would like to see the court get estimates for what they want for the court room before giving permission to apply for the grant.
McGovern feels that the board is micromanaging the court, and it should be left to the Justices and court clerks. O'Connell would like to have the itemized list before approval. Grant deadline is October 11, 2024. Parascandola asked if board members could give suggestions and Smith reiterated that this is for court not town hall. Discussions about upgrades and layout of the building went around the table.

Resolution #115 Town Board to Table Approval to Apply for the JCAP Grant for the Court to September 3, 2024.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell asked Smith if she is open to ideas and Smith said that the court will be open to ideas and suggestions.
Ayes: Bain, O'Connell and Parascandola
Nays: Braunius and McGovern

New Business:

Soil and Water – Caitlin Stewart and Katie WhitKovits from Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District gave highlights to their 2023 report to the Town Board. Their mission is to manage and promote the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County since they started in 1965. Currently they are a team of four employees but maybe adding another position in the future. They oversee four main programs that are: 1. Sediment and erosion control 2. Invasive Species 3. Water quality 4. Conservation and education
Katie WhitKovits oversees the education programs. Lenny Croote works as a technician on projects like erosion control by assessing culvert water flow.
In 2023 the Town of Lake Pleasant was the recipient of two grants from the County's Caring Through Conservation mini grant totaling $3,100.00 to the town. The grants were salt reduction cutting edge and fencing for the community garden fencing.
Katie went over what they are doing with invasive species control such as Japanese Knotweed control in the County and how residents can help.
They went over the service of water testing to residents that is offered at soil and water. These samples get taken to The Mohawk Water Quality Authority in Utica where the samples are

analyzed. Sept. 16th is the last day to drop off water samples for the year. Stewart thanked Bain for coming to the soil and water meetings and for her support and input. She thanked the town board for their support.
The board thanked Caitlin and Soil and water for what they do for the County.
Stewart let the board know that Soil and Water has applied for a roadside grant of $200,000.00 to improve roadsides in the County.

Committee Reports:

Website Committee – Parascandola reported that she is at a stand still with the recent e-mail server issues with digital towpath. She suggests that the board look at other server platforms.

Youth Recreation- O'Connell mentioned that the last event of the season will be this week at the camp store with mini golf and ice cream. Last week was the bubble guy at the ball field that started with a few kids and numbers grew with the bubbles in the air.

Health Insurance Committee – Smith reminded the board that there will be a meeting tomorrow, August 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. with Arnie Morehouse and the towns Retiree health insurance recipients. Letters went out to recipients via mail and two have called that can't make meeting with concerns, one to stay with Humana and one to leave Humana.

Resolution #116 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #34 dated: 08/16/2024, #3616-3636 in the amount of $17,684.09.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion:
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Hearing: With no persons desiring to be heard, Supervisor Bain closed the hearing at 8:23 P.M.

Resolution #117 Close Public Hearing For the Town of Lake Pleasant to Approve the Planning Boards Request to Change the Zoning Laws by Removing the Minimum Lot Size Column.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #118 Town Board to Approve of Town Clerk Filing Local Law Change with the State of NY.

Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by : Parascandola
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- McComb announced that this Wednesday August 21, 2024, is the Duck a Palooza and 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. BBQ at the pavilion. There will be games for kids, ducks will get dropped into the water at 6:00 and music on the point will start at 6:30. All proceeds support the Town of Lake Pleasant Library.
- Seifts mentioned that budget sheets will be handed out to department heads by September 1st to start work on the 2025 budget.

Roundtable:

- Parascandola thanked the town highway crew for their cleanup work after storms.
- O'Connell mentioned Sean O'Rourke's accident and benefit dinner and go fund me for health expenses.
- Bain informed the board about the insurance meeting with Steve Sawn from USI, LaVarnway and herself to go over the insurance coverage for the upcoming years policy.
- An ad for STR's renewals and registrations was in the paper last week and thirteen letters went out to property owners that have not registered for 2024. Renewals for 2025 will be coming up in October.
- Budget for consolidated health district was passed on August 13, 2024. Tax cap will get filed on August 21, 2024.
- Speculator Primary Care is interviewing for a new employee.
- The Winter snowflake social will be held on October 2, 2024 at the Indian Lake Library they will be giving away winter gear for all ages.
- Bain continues to get billing for Springbrook KVS straightened out.
- Bain received a reimbursement check of $982 for senior bus trips from the office of the aging.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday September 3, 2024, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius 2ND **by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @8:33 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk