December 18, 2023

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 December 18, 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 and Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent - Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Cris Meixner, Katrina Cohea (library director), Shorty and Beverly Hoffman and Meg Parascandola

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #137 To approve the minutes of December 4, 2023
Offered by: O'Connell
2ND by: McGovern
Discussion: None
Be it resolved, that the minutes of December 4, 2023 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz
Nays: None
Abstained: Bain

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway made all aware that the holiday wreaths are up and the motion light at the library has been installed.
- Groomers were moved, staged and ready as of last week.
- Town loader has left town hall on its way to the new owner and the Hamilton County loader is now at town hall where it has had parts break. New parts are being picked up tomorrow. Thankfully no salt transport is needed currently.
- LaVarnway attended a Village of Speculator board meeting after he was invited to hear about snowmobile trails not servicing Charlie Johns and some residents that would like them too. This came into the Village as a written complaint. DRAG representatives and LaVarnway were present to go over ideas for the Village. New perspective trails will become public after signatures are obtained and National Grid land is accessible by ROW. This is a swamp area where trails went through in the 1970's. DRAG of Speculator will be grooming these trails.

- Loader lease is in the process with John Deere. Lease cannot be made until January 1, 2024 so that lease payments are made in the same budget year. LaVarnway asks for a resolution from the board to be able to pick up the loader on January 2, 2024. He will need $75,000.00 from reserve fund and $41,900.00, from sale of the old loader. LaVarnway asked the board for a check to take with him on January 2, 2024 when he picks up the loader.

Resolution #138 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Approves Highway Superintendent Randy LaVarnway to transport a check in the amount of $116,900.00 to pay for the first of five years of payments on the loader from John Deere.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz)
Nays: None

- Flood washed out shoulders of town roads. Perkins Clearing has ditching in the road and in need of gravel. Flood water receded just in time before extensive damage was done.
- Braunius asked about speed limit signs for snowmobile reroute on Elm Lake Rd. and LaVarnway replied that he is working with DEC on speed limit signs.
- Last week LaVarnway had all paperwork out for FEMA and National Grid replied to the town that there will be no fees involved when lines are moved back. The remainder FEMA funding to the town is $60,000.00 with the town receiving $254,000.00 this week from FEMA. CHIPS money is coming in as well.

Guest Speaker: Cris Meixner announced that she heard from the Adirondack Park Heritage Foundation, and the town will be awarded $75,000.00. Fundraising to date has raised close to $36,000.00. This brings the total museum foundation funds to $111,000.00 with ten thousand that wasn't expected. Meixner would like to see the town approve a small-full basement put in to keep the location dry and additional storage availability. No commitment from the board to approve a new basement at this time.
McGovern and Braunius discussed forms of crawl space vs. full basement, best option for dry storage. The board praised Meixner for her hard work that led the town to this awarded grant funding. Museum foundation work can begin in the spring.

Old Business:

1. **Short Term Rentals –**
   Bain passed around the post card draft for the STR mailing to get ordered and in the mail by the first of the year.

2. **New Town Signs –**

Bain reviewed the plans for the new town signs that were discussed at the last meeting. McGovern explained that the signs will be made to stand out with better lighting and contain available space for event advertisements. O'Connell would like to see rules nailed down and organizations and businesses able to utilize the advertising board determined before having the

signs erected. Discussion about the new signs was had around the table. Signs may be within the Village of Speculator limits and will need to abide by the village ordinance rules.

New Business:

1. **Library Board Report –** Katrina Cohea (Library Director), gave highlights on the past year for the library and going into the future. Wi-Fi was available where 1,500 people used the library's Wi-Fi last year. There were 2,782 visitors to the library last summer alone. The library hosted 27 free events for the community last summer from June to August. This upcoming year the library hopes to spend extra money on children's programs. A wheelchair accessible path is going to go in thanks to the construction grant that was awarded to the library for that purpose. This fall, story time was moved to a different time and home school children have been attending along with children at the end of their school day. Chess and Lego club are on hold but will start back up in March. Grandparents' Day, The Great Give Back, Book Character Pumpkins and more events were hosted by the library this past fall. There were about 150 people in attendance for Trunk or Treat. Roughly 350 people came for the holiday stroll with 15 business and vendors. Letters to Santa was a success. This week Light Up the Library will be on Wednesday and open to the whole community. The focus for the coming year is children, especially teens and getting them involved in the library. Updates to kids' room with a lean-to building is planned and programs with Four Rivers Alliance in the works. Playful City Lab and games to learn town history through technology with QR codes is what the library is working on next.
   Bain praised Cohea for her hard work.

2. **James Brennan Contract -**
   Bain went through the changes that are in the contract for 2024. The annual cost will be $750.00. Daily fee went from $25 to $40 for each dog and they will be open seven days a week this year as opposed to six last year. If an animal needs to see a veterinarian, we have three hours to pick up the animal while last year it was four hours. The first three animals we send them will cost $350 each and last year it was $250 each. They are accepting dogs beyond the contract dependent upon available space. Bain reminded the board that the new dog warden will be Adirondog Kennel next to Town Hall.

Resolution #139 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the 2024 Contract with James Brennan Humane Society.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell went over section 11; she understands but doesn't like this section on euthanasia. Bain explained that the last dog that was taken in had some health issues, but Brennan found a home for it and sent pictures of the dog with its new owners. Brennan tries to place the dogs in good homes first and only section 11 if necessary. Stories of rescue animals in the past going to good loving homes were told around the room.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz)
Nays: None

Resolution #140 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Supporting Empire State Development's (ESD) Designation of a Cellular-Specific Point Person to Lead the State's Efforts on Enhancing Cellular Coverage, and Further Encouraging the State to Implement a Unified Strategy to Assure Every Major Road Corridor has Reliable Cell Coverage as Recommended by ESD's Upstate Cellular Coverage Task Force Final Report.

See Attached for Full Resolution

Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Martz
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz)
Nays: None
Resolution #140 will be sent to the Governor, APA, Senators, Assemblymen and AATV.
Committee Reports:

Highway Committee – Meetings occurred about equipment and spending.

Youth Rec. - O'Connell and Martz sat down with Samantha Desrochers to get more kids involved. Working on other events other than winter and summer. Ski lessons have started.

Resolution #141 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #49 dated 12/14/2023, #3146-3174 in the amount of $36,063.85.
Offered by: Martz
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- Shorty Hoffman told a story about two dogs in the past that were in the dog pen and two people from Lake Placid said they would take the dogs. On the way to Lake Placid the dogs jumped out of the truck in Tupper at the first stop light and had to be chased down before making it to their destination.

Roundtable:

- Braunius mentioned the Festival of Trees at Oak Mt. last weekend, and he thanked all that donated and participated to raise over $900 for MSA.
- McGovern mentioned that the Pleasant Riders had an event with vendors that was a success raising over $2,500.00.

- Martz let everyone know that she worked the Fourth of July Committee Parade table during the Holiday Stroll and Holiday Fair, held at Oak, and wanted all to know that the Parade is costly, so donations are taken year-round to raise funds needed for this event.
- O'Connell announced that Wreaths Across America is postponed to Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at LPCS due to weather. Donations were collected so every veteran, 288, will have a wreath.
- Smith let everyone know that the town has offered its employees the opportunity to participate in ROTH. Some questions about the town matching came back to the Clerk's Office. The town is not matching for ROTH currently. Smith mentioned that there are overdue construction and demolition bills that have not been paid. Notices have gone out again to these individuals asking for payment by the end of December so the town can wrap up 2023 bills.
- Smith passed out a copy of an e-mail she received from the town's website company, Digital Towpath. The website is offering a new look at no cost to its clients with an added new mobile friendly feature.
- Bain announced that the town received its Community Garden Grant check for $1,189.00.
- Summer Recreation check for Arietta was received for kids that participated from Arietta.
- Next meeting Steve Page will give the buildings/codes report for the year.
- Ken Kurt stopped by to give the town a report on SVAC and the garage they are building. The garage will be 32'X52' with Charlie King doing foundation work starting in June and the Amish will do the framing later in June. All funds for the garage have been by donation. To date SVAC has had 161 calls this year.
- Bain presented RaChelle Martz with a certificate of appreciation for her time on the Town Board these past two years.
- Bain thanked Seifts, LaVarnway, McGovern, Page, the treasurer's office and Smith for holding down the fort while she was away. Bain wishes all a Merry Christmas and reminds all to attend the polar plunge on January 1st at 12:00 P.M. at The Point.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday January 2, 2023, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Martz
To Adjourn @8:01 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk