February 20, 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 February 20, 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: Eileen LaVarnway, Karen McComb (Library President) and Shorty Hoffman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #25 To approve the minutes of February 5, 2024
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion – O'Connell explained that ski passes were handed out to every kid registered for ski lessons.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of February 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 reported that the nets and fences on the tennis courts have been extracted. Employees took it upon themselves to revamp the sixteen-year-old water truck. Stainless steel tank was falling off. Refurbishing included replacing tires, fenders, lights, and it was painted. LaVarnway said that they did a great job.
- Garbage truck is being built in the plant. Should be out of the plant on March 7th so it is moving along with building. Braunius asked what manufacturer is building the body and LaVarnway answered with, New Way.
- Snowmobile trails were closed prior to the snowstorm on Friday. Friday afternoon Jamie Parslow, with DEC, told LaVarnway to open the trails back up. Woods trails are not getting groomed due to the lack of snow. Riders are here and parking lots have been full. Braunius asked about a fawn lake trail bridge being out and LaVarnway explained that it is not a bridge location, but a mud hole, on a trail that is not maintained. Snowmobilers are going around the mud hole presently on this trail. Braunius asked if more bridges can

be built along this route and LaVarnway will look into it. It is a ride at your own risk on the trails.

Old Business:

1. **Chamber Contract -**
   Bain asked the board to work on the contract tonight. Parascandola mentioned that on page four events are listed but she would like to know if these events are going to be held annually. She asked the board if they want to see certain events listed in the appendix. O'Connell would like to see a specific list of events that are happening in the area. McGovern and O'Connell both mentioned that communication needs to be had by businesses and organizations with the Chamber of Commerce.

   O'Connell praised the Chamber for what they are doing now, but she wants to see the events happening in the town on the Chamber web site. Braunius stated that when he worked for the town, after grooming trails, he would drop off a list to the Chamber of groomed trails updates. This doesn't seem to be happening anymore. McGovern would like to see the Chamber reach out to ROOST for information and guidance. Bain mentioned events that have been going on in the community that the Chamber isn't listing on their site. Parascandola mentioned the quarterly report and what it contained and didn't contain, in the report. Information not included in the report such as how many phone calls they received/returned and how many walk-ins to the office occurred quarterly. Quantifiable, measurable data is what O'Connell and Parascandola are asking for. Discussion went around the board about getting a financial statement from the Chamber. O'Connell asked why it is the Speculator Region Chamber of Commerce. McGovern explained that it was the best, familiar, centrally located name for the Chamber. Discussion about the name centralizing around the Village was had by the board. Parascandola mentioned giving out surveys to businesses that leave the Chamber to find out why businesses leave the Chamber. This data collection could help the Chamber to better serve the community.

   Bain feels that the Chamber needs to revamp the agreement for services with the Town of Lake Pleasant and the Speculator Chamber of Commerce. Town board members are to give input then revisit in the future. McGovern feels that things can be added. Bain and Parascandola will get together to discuss changes that need to be made before the board revisits.

   Parascandola mentioned that the trail maps were not provided this year by the Chamber, so is there a consequence of this not being done because of the contract not being signed. O'Connell stated that in the contract there needs to be consequences for services not rendered.

Bain feels that the Chamber needs to revamp the agreement for services with the Town of Lake Pleasant and the Speculator Chamber of Commerce. Town Board members are to give input then revisit in the future. McGovern feels that things can be added. Bain and Parascandola will get together to discuss changes that need to be made before the board revisits.

Resolution #26 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Paying Speculator Chamber of Commerce Fourth Quarter Bill of 2023. Budget Adjustment to Pull Funds from Fund Balance and Transfer to Budget Line A.6410.402 in the Amount of $7,500.00, to Cover The Adirondack Region Speculator Chamber of Commerce Fourth Quarter Payment.
Offered by: Bain
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

New Business:

1. **Senior Meal Site Agreement Renewal for 2024 -**

Resolution #27 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the Senior Meal Site Agreement for 2024 Between the Town of Lake Pleasant and Lake Pleasant Senior Citizen Group Inc.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None
*****See attached*****

Resolution #28 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Accept the 2024 Town of Lake Pleasant Financial Services Intermunicipal Agreement with Hamilton County.
Offered by: Parascandola
Whereas, The Town of Lake Pleasant will pay Hamilton County $14,850.00 for one year to manage the town's finances.
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None
*****See attached for full resolution*****

RESOLUTION #29 TOWN OF LAKE PLEASANT TOWN BOARD TO APROVE REQUESTING AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO POST WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS ON TOWN ROADS FOR THE YEAR 2024

Offered by: McGovern

WHEREAS, Vehicle and Traffic Law Article 41, Section 1660 gives authority to the Town Board to post weight limits on Town Roads when the Board deems necessary to protect roads from harm during spring break up, and

WHEREAS, Vehicle and Traffic Law Article 40, Section 1650 gives authority to the county superintendent of highways to post weight limits on County Roads when the superintendent deems it necessary to protect County roads from harm during spring break up, and

WHEREAS, the Town would need to place an ad in the local newspaper notifying the public of such postings, and

WHEREAS, the County Superintendent places a legal ad in the local newspaper notifying the public of such posting on County highways, and

WHEREAS, the Town roads are typically posted for the same duration as the County roads, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board and Town Highway Superintendent believes that it would be in the interest of the Town if the County Superintendent post weight restrictions on the Town roads in conjunction with the County Roads during spring break up, be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Lake Pleasant hereby requests and authorizes the County Superintendent of Highways post weight restrictions on Town roads within the Town of Lake Pleasant when he deems necessary for the calendar year 2024.

2nd by: O'Connell

Discussion: Braunius asked if they could include taking down the signs. LaVarnway explained that the signs are put up and taken down by the town-on-town roads. LaVarnway explained that the wear and tear of roads that local contractors haul large heavy loads to businesses on, is the reason that these roads get posted. The purpose is to reduce wear and tear of town roads.

Adopted by the following votes:

Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)

Nays: None

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee -McGovern mentioned that he, Bain and Seifts met about the LOSAP premium increasing for the Lake Pleasant Fire Department Members. It's an annuity program that the town board gets a report on. McGovern explained that the firemen must be retired to draw from the program. He stated that the town is getting billed for more than is budgeted and will need to make payments yearly to get caught up. Discussion about the fireman points and getting retirement benefits was had at the table. Braunius stated that they have new members at the fire department due to the LOSAP. McGovern explained that the LOSAP program has been a retention tool for keeping firemen on board with the local volunteer fire department. O'Connell asked if there was a way to join the fire department without doing the points system and just joining as a volunteer. McGovern explained that there is training that must be met. Braunius explained further how the training and points work with sign in sheets for fire fighters.

Website committee - Parascandola reached out to Digital Towpath, the town's current web host, to find out that they do have a new site format available. Parascandola has requested a demo, and she is currently making updates to the current website. The last update was regarding short-term rental locations.

Youth Recreation – O'Connell announced that they are having their first event this year with 22 kids signed up to go to The Great Escape Lodge with LPCS providing transportation. Kids pay a portion of the cost. Next event will be on a Superintendent Conference Day in March with details to follow. For Presidents week kids get one ski pass to Oak Mt. for a day of skiing.

Health Committee – Smith informed the room that she has provided the Town Board Members with the last update on the Humana negotiations with providers that was provided today from Marshall and Sterling.

Clerks Department – Smith asks for better communication from other Committees and Departments at Town Hall to the Town Clerk's office. Smith had to up the limit on the clerk's town credit card on Friday after a, by chance, notification that the Youth Recreation trip expense the next week would need to go onto that credit card. In the future, to avoid errors and for things to run smoothly, Smith requests that there is better communication about town happenings that involve the clerk's office providing or performing any duties.

Smith explained to the board that she has recently ordered supplies for the Historian including a laptop for portable use and it was a great deal but only came in one color, that is not our historians first choice. Upon arrival the screen size is smaller than he preferred also. Smith and Weaver located a better deal on a laptop that is a bigger size and a more desirable color for the Town Historian needs. This better find is on order. Smith is considering keeping the original order for the Clerk's office to use as a portable electronic device for town business outside of Town Hall. This will allow her to avoid using personal electronic devices for town business.

Resolution #30 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #8 dated 2/15/2024, #3286-3309 in the amount of $21,469.72.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- McComb mentioned that she is surprised that the town, being a large contributor to the Chamber of Commerce, is not aware of what the expenses and income are for the Chamber. McComb asked the town to request from the Chamber, its income vs. its expenses. She feels that this should be contingent upon signing a contract with the

Chamber. McComb said Mary Caldwell was very receptive to the Maple weekend and said she will include it on the Chambers website page. McComb asked how she can reach out to ROOST. McGovern understands that it is a business-to-business outreach.

- LaVarnway mentioned that trail maps were mentioned earlier, and he wanted to explain that he went to the Chamber, and they had 1,000 or more maps left. The Chamber board was having a meeting to decide if they should have their own maps made through the Chamber. LaVarnway thinks this would be good because then trail changes can get updated easily. He explained that digital trail maps are the best way to get the map and easiest way to change the maps. LaVarnway explained that the Chamber lost the revenue that they got from the ads that were on the printed maps. McGovern explained that the old way of printing fancy maps with advertisements on them has been replaced with electronic accessible map usage. Bain mentioned that they still need to have printed maps for use in dead zones or if phone batteries die.
- Hoffman stated that the Speculator Senior Center doesn't have any old people as members. They have a bunch of elderly youngsters that belong to the organization. The meal site is open five days a week according to Jessie. You can call and have a meal at noon by calling the nutrition site in Wells at 518-924-2066. You don't have to be a member to get a meal at the senior center. If you are a care giver for an elderly person, you are eligible for a meal too. The Fire Department, in the village, if you lost volunteers and had to have a paid fire department it would cost much more. If protection is lost, homeowners' insurance will go up. Shorty feels the Chamber should have someone in the office on Sundays. He mentioned that the Farmers market is a registered trademark name and to use it you have to pay $500 a year so that is one of the Chambers costs.

Roundtable:

- Braunius mentioned that Homeward Bound Adirondacks uses local businesses for housing to do crisis outreach etc. to Veterans. Braunius is looking to be a volunteer for them. He feels they are an important organization, and we should be aware of the good that they do for Veterans in our area.
- O'Connell announced that Josephine O'Connell reached her 100th birthday and on the night of her Birthday she had received 100 cards.
- Bain mentioned that she sent the proclamation into the newspaper, and they will be publishing it soon.
- Smith mentioned the planning board will have a meeting on March 5, 2024, for a variance request. Smith wanted the board to be aware that the cost has increased with certified mailings. Bain informed the board that the planning board is aware of the increase in cost and is looking into increasing costs for the future.
-Bain mentioned that Consolidated Health and town AUD's are now called AFD's, and they are completed and sent to the state and done.
- A thank you letter was received from the Adirondack Architectural and Heritage for the town's generous donation last month.
- Bain mentioned that the Planning Board may be getting a resignation letter in the future and if so, will be looking for a replacement.
-Bain mentioned that if she is not in the office, she can be reached by cell phone.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday March 4, 2023 at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:45 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk