February 22, 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 February 22, 2022, at the Lake Pleasant Library 2864 State Hwy. 8 Speculator, NY. 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
Councilperson's: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, RaChelle Martz
Absent: Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy Lavarnway
Guests: Eileen Lavarnway

Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for former Hamilton County Sheriff Doug Parker
Approval of Minutes was done next but see below for resolution

Highway: Randy reported that after the ice storm his work crew was busy thawing ice out of culverts to prevent further flooding of roads.
Grooming of trails has stopped since there is little snow mostly ice and rocks are showing. Perkins clearing flooded last week by the Miami bridge. Randy went up with the groomer to check on things and water has receded and refroze back down to normal.
Oak Mt. had a snowmobiler drive their sled up the Mt. last week and the O'Brian's posted on FB that they were closing the trail as a result of this. Between the snowmobile club, Randy and the O'Brian's, signs have been put up on trails for riders not to go up Oak Mt.'s driveway. The snowmobile trail is now back open. Skiers only at Mt. and snowmobiles stay on trails.
Don asked how snowmobilers get on trail and Randy responded, right up between the rental building and lodge. This snowmobiler went straight up the lift trail. If they were to hit a lift pole the lift wouldn't be able to operate until it was inspected. The liability is the issue with snowmobilers on the Mt. Randy said skiing and snowmobiling have to be kept separate.
Randy got an update from DOT regarding paving Route 30 from Weavertown bridge to Speculator. Bids are out and they are planning to start the end of March and complete paving sometime this summer.
Randy presented:
Town of Lake Pleasant buys road sand from Chris Rhodes gravel bank. Chris Rhodes is the Supervisor of Arietta so he can not petition for county sand and stone bids. This means that we can't buy from or get the county price for the bidding of sand and stone. Aside from the county and Arietta problem the only way to resolve this is for Lake Pleasant to put out its own bid.

Randy is asking the board for a resolution to bid on sand and stone. The county will be able to piggyback on our bid as well.
Randy stated that there is a new state law that says any trucking has to go up for bid at prevailing wages. This could be 4x as costly for the town if sand and stone have to be trucked in from elsewhere.
Supervisor Bain stated that it is best for our taxpayers in the way of travel costs being minimized. Randy agreed explaining that if we must hire someone at state prevailing wages to haul the sand and stone it will cost taxpayers more.

Resolution #25 The town Board approves Town of Lake Pleasant Highway Superintendent to bid on sand and stone as needed, following the bidding process and allowing other municipalities to piggyback.
Offered by: Neil McGovern **2nd by:** Don Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Bain, McGovern, Braunius and Martz) O'Connell absent
Nays: None

Old Business:

1. **BST 2020 Final Audit** Supervisor Bain informed the board that in the bill pay we received a final bill for the 2020 audit. All board members received a copy of the final 2020 audit tonight. The Treasurers office has a copy, there is one in the Town Clerks office and one in Supervisor Bains office. In the exit meeting there were three things that needed to be addressed. Two are the resolutions we will be addressing under new business tonight and the third is an OPEB report that stands for Other Post Employment Benefits. The town will have to hire an Actuary to do it. The report covers all benefits that we give to retirees. This is to be sure we are budgeting enough so that the retirees benefits are covered. Like an insurance policy. The County pays between $4-5,000, but they have over 100 employees, ours should be substantially less due to the number of employees we have. The town can budget for this in the 2023 budget process. The audit was $11,150.00. This cost was more than the town budgeted, so the Town will be doing a Resolution for a budget transfer in the near future. This audit was done after the town had three different employees doing the books prior to the county taking over. Neil said that it should need to be done less often now. Supervisor Bain told the board that one done in 2019 and second one done for 2020 so the next one won't need to be done for 3-4 years.

2. **Museum Fundraiser Report**- Christine Meixner has been very hard at work. She mailed out letters to every taxpayer in the Town and Village at her expense. Donations prior to the letter being mailed was $5,795.00. Additional donations received since letter was mailed to date total $7,992.00. Total donations to date - $13,787.00. $5,025.00 came in today after this was totaled up as well. Supervisor Bain is sending a tax write off letter to everyone donating and thank you notes back to anyone donating $100 and more.

3. **BTI Report**- The license agreement for 2022 has been signed by the town and Lyme Timberlands II LLC. All the letters have been mailed out to the landowners getting permission to cross their property. The product our town uses, VectoBAC, is not available for purchase this year. The Town of Caroga Lake has ordered VectoBAC in bulk so Lake Pleasant will be purchasing it directly from Caroga Lake. Supervisor Bain said you can go online and try to order it but you will not be able to complete the order. The reason for this is that in another state, they claimed the Vectobac they purchased was contaminated so the DEC got involved. After an investigation was done it was found that the contamination was after it was purchased and had nothing to do with the manufacturer's product. Unfortunately, this has held up sales of the product and it will be to late for us to order once orders start to go through, our BTI program will have already started. So Lake Pleasant will get its Vectobac from Caroga Lake. Residence beware that BTI workers will be on their properties to access streams they need to treat. Don Braunius said he hasn't received a letter and Betsy informed him that letters were sent out to land owners that they are sure to be on.

New Business:

Resolution #26 Reaffirmation of a Capital Reserve Groomer Fund Retroactive to December 31,2022 and Dated February 22, 2022
Offered by: RaChelle Martz **2nd by:** Don Braunius
Resolved, that pursuant to Section 6-C of the General Municipal Law, the Town Board desires to accrue funds for the future purchase of a Groomer
Whereas, the Town Board hereby establishes a capital reserve fund to be known as the "Groomer Reserve Fund"
Whereas, the purpose of this reserve fund is to accumulate moneys to finance the cost of a groomer. The specific Groomer is to be financed from the Reserve Fund A.7140.201
Whereas, The Board has authorized the amount of $30,000 to be put in the reserve fund starting with the 2020 Budget until the time of the purchase.
Whereas, the Board can adjust dollar amounts if needed
Whereas, This Resolution is subject to a Permissive Referendum
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilperson's McGovern, Braunius and Martz) O'Connell absent
Nays: None

Resolution #27 The Lake Pleasant Town Board Agrees That Donations Raised For The Replacement Of The Museums Foundation Can Be Used For The Museum Foundation Only
Dated: February 22, 2022
Offered By: Don Braunius **2nd By**: RaChelle Martz
Whereas, thank you to Christine Meixner who has worked so hard to get the word out about the importance of the Town Museum Building which is owned by the Town. She started this mission in 2021 so it is very important this money stays on the following line.

Whereas, the Budget Line A.2705.100 was established in 2021 to start raising donations to help pay for the new Foundation at the Museum.
Whereas, the Reserves for the museum in the Budget line A.2705.100 has now been set up as a Restricted Funds Balance.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilperson's McGovern, Braunius and Martz) O'Connell absent
Nayes: None

This resolution is needed in case there is a different board at the time funds are raised so that they cannot use non tax payer, donation money, for anything else. The money raised will be for the museum Foundation only.

Clean Energy Communities Program
Supervisor Bain spoke with Nancy Bernstine about earning credits for a $5,000.00 grant that can be earned by the Town acquiring points through credits. These are credit points that the Town earns from LED street lighting and classes that the code enforcer can take. Betsy will look into the new lights at pole barn and garage, and bus garage to see if they qualify.

Supervisor Bain received a letter from Tom Rippere regarding The Town of Lake Pleasant hiring lake stewards for this coming summer. The agreement as in past years, is for the Town to provide funding for up to $5,000.00 and LPSA will provide funding for any expenses beyond that $5,000.00.
Discussion: McGovern asked if we budgeted for this and Bain replied yes we did. Neil mentioned that at one point this was covered by consolidated health. Bain explained that the Town pays up front and consolidated health reimburses the $5,000 back to the town. McGovern's concern was that last year consolidated health's budget got tight. Do they have this in their budget for this year? Bain replied yes they do.

Resolution #28 Town Of Lake Pleasant Will Partner With LPSA To Hire Part-Time Lake Stewards To Monitor Local Boat Ramps On Days When The State-Funded AWI Employees Are Not Scheduled To Work Summer of 2022
Offered By: Neil McGovern **2nd By**: RaChelle Martz
Whereas, the town Board approves the continuation of providing funding for up to $5,000.00
Whereas, LPSA will provide funding for any expenses beyond that $5,000.00
Whereas, the part-time Ramp Monitors will be contractors of the Town of Lake Pleasant
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilperson's McGovern, Braunius and Martz) O'Connell absent
Nays: None

Committee reports:
McGovern spoke to the board about the Association of Towns Conference online. Things are moving forward yet hopefully more learning can be done next year when proctors can teach in person. Neil hopes new board members can go next year in person. He feels there is a lot to learn at these Conferences.

Public Comment: None

Resolution # 29 Approve Audit of Abstract #5
Voucher #1863-1907 Amount $29,756.15
Offered by: Neil McGovern 2nd by: Don Braunius
Resolved that all bills in the following funds be paid as presented – General, Highway, Landfill and Library
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilperson's McGovern, Braunius and Martz)
Nays: None

Resolution #30 To approve the minutes of February 7, 2022
Offered by: Don Braunius 2nd by: RaChelle Martz
Be it resolved that the minutes of February 7, 2022 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilperson's - McGovern, Braunius and Martz
Nays: None

Round table:
McGovern said that the Parker Memorial was very nice. Good to see the old faces.
Smith mentioned that town hall computers might need upgrades to software in future.
Bain shared a letter from Steve Stefalano Jr. from Wells asking us to refer anyone in need to the Hamilton County service unit of the Salvation Army. They have been reactivated since 2020 through kettle bell ringing throughout the county.
Bain read a letter from Barry Baker informing the Town that our new Assessor has completed 3 of her required components of course work and her grade report is 98%. Bain says she will invite Ms. Billings to the next Board meeting to meet the board. Our assessor is good to go!
Bain reported to board that the Town received a check from LPSC in the amount of $800 towards our youth recreation program.
Bain let the Board know that Caitlyn Stewart will be sending planning board minutes to RaChelle Martz so that she can post them on the town web site.
Bain reported that touchless paper towel dispensers have been installed at the clinic thanks to Randy and the guys.
Bain said that Randy, Neil and Betsy have been going through the employee handbook. Once they finish it will be given to board members for any changes.
Bain read letter from Donna Benkovich at the Chamber of Commerce. Donna has tended her resignation as director and the board has chosen Katrina Cohea to be the new director. Katrina comes well equipped with all the skills to take the Chamber to the next level. Donna is confident that she will serve all of us as well as the region very well. They are in the transition process now and expect it to be completed in April. Donna thanks everyone for their support.
Bain reported that the County has completed the Towns AUD's the consolidated health and the Town. If anyone wants a copy, they are at town hall.

Bain informed the Board that at our next meeting we will be having a resolution to amend a local law pertaining to the planning boards request for the building height change. Once that resolution is passed, we can get the ball rolling and will go to permissive referendum.

Next Meeting: Monday March 7, 2022 @ 7:00 Lake Pleasant Library

*****ON A MOTION BY** Don Braunius 2nd by: Neil McGovern
TO ADJOURN 7:48 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk