January 17, 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 January 17, 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 and Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway, Paul Allen, Karen McComb (Library President), Nancy Seifts (budget officer)
Absent: RaChelle Martz

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #14 To approve the minutes of January 3, 2023
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: McGovern
Discussion – O'Connell mentioned that Resolution #2 was missing the second whereas in the minutes Smith will get this included for public awareness.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of January 3, 2023 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- Garbage truck BAN has not been passed prior to this meeting. LaVarnway went over the costs for a new garbage truck. Entire new truck will cost $202,163.00 with $129,000.00 coming out of the reserve fund. The American Reserve Plan will cover $42,000 so that leaves $31,163.00 left for the town board to come up with funds. This cost is minimal for a BAN which will cost $7,000 + just for the BAN. LaVarnway and board discussed other ways with fund transfers of lines in budget to cover the remaining cost.
  Discussion on costs of a BAN went around the table. BAN will be needed for culvert project

LaVarnway asked to delay saving up for the next garbage truck after this one for a year while we cover the cost of this garbage truck. Sale of existing garbage truck will bring in some revenue as well.

Resolution #15 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to move funds from DB Fund Balance in the Amount of $31,163.00 to SR 8160.2.
Whereas, $31,163.00 is a loan from DB fund balance to be paid back in 2024.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

This will save the town the cost of a BAN and attorney fees.

- Last year 8760.400 emergency disaster budget for 2022 goes back to fund balance for 2023, leaving the emergency disaster line with a zero balance. DB 8760.400, where FEMA funds are kept, must be funded again so that purchases can be made. DB Fund Balance currently contains $124,515.15 from FEMA. After this year's budget transfers there will be $93,352.15 in the DB Fund Balance.

Resolution #16 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Transfer $93,352.15 from fund balance to DB 8760.400 to the 2023 emergency disaster budget.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #17 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Pay National Grid Bill for Electric Service on Fish Mountain Road in the Amount of $26,251.06
Whereas, Tax exempt form will be submitted to wave the taxes billed at $2,100.09
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

- Discussion on when work will be started. LaVarnway explained that it can get scheduled after payment.

Resolution #18 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Starting a BAN process for $600,000.00.
Whereas, BAN will cover culvert project, paving, National Grid bill and miscellaneous.

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

- Lockbox covers are on thermostats at clinic and town hall.
- Grooming has stopped and trails are closed due to lack of snow.
- River is flooded and lakes are not safe.
- Minor repairs on trucks

Old Business:

Resolution #19 Amendment to Resolution #5 2023 Town Appointments Made by the Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Town Court Clerk – Stephanie Smith
Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Court Clerk – Faith Cleveland
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

1. **Campground Update** –

   Hamilton County Tourism is sending out a letter to Chamber groups and Supervisors etc. trying to push opening back up our campsites for the fall.
   KC's campground postcards are available to send to the governor.
   McGovern explained that we as individuals need to speak to others outside of our sphere to reach out to those who can help turn this around.
   Braunius announced that eleven of the fourteen campgrounds in Hamilton County will be closed Labor Day weekend this coming year.

2. **Chamber of Commerce meeting –** three contracting towns Arietta, Morehouse and Lake Pleasant meet with the Chamber Board to go over the contract. They will be rewriting their contract. Budget planning is a topic that is being reviewed. Board members from the Chamber will be coming to the next Lake Pleasant Board Meeting. The current Chamber director is resigning.

3. **New NY State law for Seniors Property Tax Exemption –** At the last meeting a resolution was passed to send out mailings to all residents in town about this new law that has been passed by the state. Bain talked to Barry Baker up at the county who is willing to send these mailings out to Village and Townspeople that qualify for this tax exemption.

Resolution #20 to rescind Resolution #4 Town of Lake Pleasant to send out mailings for senior tax exemption notification via every door direct.
Whereas, Town of Lake Pleasant will have Hamilton County send out the mailings to those that qualify for the tax exemption.
Offered by: O'Connell

2nd by: McGovern
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

4. **New State Law for Fire Department Volunteers Tax Exemption –** This exemption is not mandatory. The fire department can pass this by resolution. If the town passes this it will have to pass a resolution that is subject to permissive referendum, go through the waiting period and become a local law all before March first.
   Bain will speak to the Fire Department about this new Law to see if they want to pass by resolution.
   New State Law for EMS Volunteers Tax Exemption– These volunteers don't have LOSAP and are constantly in training to obtain credits for certification. Bain and the Mayor of Speculator spoke with Barry Baker at the county and discussed this exemption. The Village Board proposed a 10% tax exemption to EMS members that have given two years of service to SVAC and provided a certification, from SVAC, stating that the member is active and remains in good standing for each year.

Resolution #21 Town of Lake Pleasant to pass local law that will give EMS Volunteers 10% tax exemption.
Whereas, EMS volunteers must have a minimum of two years of continuous service and provide a certification from SVAC, stating that they are active and remain in good standing every year.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

New Business:

1. **Standing Committees –**

   Resolution #22 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to approve the Standing Committees.
   Offered by: Braunius

   Finance/Budget – McGovern, Bain, LaVarnway
   Recreation Trails – Braunius, LaVarnway
   Safety – Smith, LaVarnway, Bain, Matt Seifts (safety coordinator)
   Youth Recreation – Martz, O'Connell
   Cemetery – LaVarnway, Smith, O'Connell
   Highway – LaVarnway, Braunius, McGovern
   Building Committee – LaVarnway, McGovern, Braunius
   Fire Dept. Committee – McGovern, LaVarnway
   Website Committee – Smith, Martz
   Health Insurance – LaVarnway, Smith, Bain
   2nd by: McGovern
   Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)

Nays: None

2. **Budget Transfers for 2022 –**
   Nancy Seifts went over the budget transfers. Revenue reports are out to board members. LaVarnway mentioned that the December fuel bill has not come in yet from the company. This bill will get paid with the 2023 budget line for fuel.

Resolution #23 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the 2022 Budget Transfers.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

- **Youth Recreation –** O'Connell reported that ski lessons are going well.
  Braunius mentioned that it is over $100 for Johnsburg kids to ski at Gore Mt. through the town. Family's have to pay this amount. Bain thanked O'Connell and Martz for their hard work on ski lessons for the kids.
- **Short term rentals –** Next meeting will be January 26, 2023

Resolution #24 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #1 dated 1/12/2023, #2533-2563 in the amount of $56,861.88.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell asked what grave lumber is. LaVarnway explained that it is lumber that goes around the frame around the rough box hole for funeral ceremonies.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

Karen McComb let the board know that Barbara Tracy is unable to fill the position as library trustee and the board is currently looking for someone to fill this position or not fill this position. McComb mentioned getting a mailing from Governor Hochul about economy and making things better. McComb responded to the governor with concerns about the campgrounds.

Roundtable:

- LaVarnway to check the setting on the thermostats at town hall.
- McGovern mentioned that the Chamber report was a well written report. Braunius did not think the report was well organized. He feels that the report was not written professionally. Seifts feels that we should not call it the chamber it should be called the

office of Tourism. McCombs as a business owner who is a member feels that it should be called the Chamber of Commerce. Discussion went around the room about the services that the Chamber has for Businesses and Tourism.

- It was mentioned that the Village skating rink at the pavilion has not being open for skating.
- Smith mentioned that town/county taxes are coming in.
- Stamps are being bought with 2023 postage budget before cost goes up next week.
- LaVarnway has been doing research on the 2025 truck for the replacement of 220 who is a 2007 truck. This truck will be 18 years old by 2025. Trucks being built are two years out. LaVarnway requests a highway committee meeting about this.
- Bain went over the 2023 Fire Department LOSAP report.
- Resident was without her phone for thirty days before she got her phone restored. Bain now has a contact for frontier so if anyone has phone trouble, they are to call town hall to get in contact with frontier.
- SVAC update 208 calls in 2022. This year they are up to 13 calls. Last week they delivered a baby.
- Anyone wanting to take EMT class contact Ken Kuhrt.
- This week LPCS sent a donation for $800 to youth recreation program.
- Post closure payments from other municipalities are coming in.
- The Village has two high school students that want to get certified to be life guards. Mrs. Beach is running the course. The Village is compensation the people for a portion of their certification and will pay for recertification costs. They are looking for a third student if anyone is interested, they are to contact the Village of Speculator.
- Bain met with Victoria Fish from Hamilton County Public Nursing Services to go over a project that Ms. Fishes office is working on. This project is for each town to come up with a plan between the town and their fire department for emergencies. Each town should have its own plan to take care of residents. Bain showed Ms. Fish the current Town/Fire Dep. plan which is - In the event of an emergency power outage in the Town of Lake Pleasant – Fire Chief Bill Wharton and Bain are to meet and assess needs starting with the list of vulnerable residents in the area. County Emergency Department will have a copy of each town's plans.
- Snowmobile races are postponed in Village until February 11,2023 due to weather.
- The NYSSA Snowmobile registration fee is proposed to increase to $65 a sled if belonging to a club. This proposed fee will increase from $45 to $65. Bain asked if costs could be lower for families with several sleds and kids. Paul Allen discussed the need for the state to fund the trail system. Discussion went around the room about trails, costs etc.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday February 6, 2023 at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** O'Connell
To Adjourn @ 8:37 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk