January 2, 2024

State of New York
2679 Route 8
County of Hamilton
Town of Lake Pleasant

An Organizational Meeting of the Lake Pleasant Town Board was held on January 2, 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, and Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway, Meg Parascandola, Michael Page, Frankie Page, Nancy Seifts (Budget officer), Debbie O'Rourke, Karen McComb (library president), Shorty Hoffman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #1 To approve the minutes of December 18, 2023
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: McGovern
Be it resolved, that the minutes of December 18, 2023 be approved as presented.
Discussion: O'Connell asked that corrections on the following be made - Library director not Librarian, Loader lease, not loader purchase, no commitment to museum basement at this time, new sign maybe within the Village of Speculator.
Moved as amended:
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Bain Addressed the board with the first order of business to replace the temporary position vacated by RaChelle Martz on the town board as Councilperson. Martz had given a resignation letter that was effective as of December 31, 2023. This vacancy will run from January 2, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Bain had asked many townspeople for ideas on who they thought would be a good fit to fill this vacancy which led her to consider Meg Parascandola to fill the role. Supervisor Bain recommends appointing Meg Parascandola to the town board. Meg has been attending board meetings for a while, she has a bachelor's degree in arts, and an associate degree in science as well as a NYS teaching assistant certification. She presently sits on the board for Sand Lakes Center for the Arts. She has a background in girl/boy scouting and her technology background is impressive reports Bain. Parascandola is presently the operator and part owner of

the Sunrise Diner in Speculator. Bain asked the board for a motion to have Meg Parascandola fill the vacancy if councilperson for one year.

Resolution #2 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Move the Appointment of Meg Parascandola to Fill the Vacancy of Councilperson from 1/2/2024 through 12/31/2024.
Offered by: McGovern
Whereas, the remaining term will be filled after the general election.
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None

New Councilperson, Meg Parascandola, was sworn in by Town Clerk Stephanie Smith at 7:06 P.M.
Oath of Office signed and Bain Presented Parascandola with a key to town hall.
Parascandola joined the board at the table.

Highway Report:

-LaVarnway reported that there was minimal damage from rainstorms.
- A sump pump was lost in the health center basement, but others worked, and nothing was damaged. Repairs were done and all is in working order.
-The tennis court fence removal has started on Elm Lake Rd. Trees will come down after fence posts are removed weather permitting.
- There is no news on the garbage truck currently. ARPA money needs to be spent by April; Bain reminded the board. LaVarnway asked the board if rather than losing the ARPA money could the town use funds as a down payment on the deposit for garbage truck chassis. The board agreed that this would be a good idea.
- Brush grinding in the pit has not been done yet. The outfit that grinds called last week wanting to know if they can get into the pit to grind if there isn't snow. LaVarnway wanted the board to be aware that they did not grind last year and the $5,500.00 for this was rolled over into this year's fund balance. He wants the board to know that if they grind now and again in the spring then there will be two payments for grinding coming out of the 2024 budget where there were none in 2023. He will be asking the board to move the funds out of the fund balance and back into a line to cover this expense. Braunius asked if grinding must happen this fall and LaVarnway says the pile is ¾ full now, so yes it needs to get grinded and pile reduced. Arietta will not be contributing. Trees coming down on Elm Lake Rd. tennis court project will go with this brush disposal as well. O'Connell asked if large logs would go to the local mill. LaVarnway said that they will.
-Loader was picked up by the county this morning, Big thank you to the county, and loader is at the shop. Check was delivered for payment. New technology will need to be learned by the HWY crew before they use the loader.
-Backhoe original upcharge for pricing was reviewed. John Deere is $5,000 cheaper; New Holland is not available till the end of May. CAT cannot give a date until the order is placed. John Deere will be delivered to them in March then to the town in April. LaVarnway feels the John Deere will be a better price and quality with its warranty. Deere is a five-year lease with

downpayment and first payment this year. The cost range is roughly $12,000 a year for a backhoe. Braunius asked about the $36,000 trade in for the current backhoe. LaVarnway would like to put the current backhoe on Auctions International before the new one arrives to see if they can get a better price for it than a trade in.

Resolution #3 Lake Pleasant Town Board Approves Highway Superintendent LaVarnway to List the Towns Backhoe on Auctions International in the Spring of 2024.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell asked for price clarification and LaVarnway confirmed that the goal is to get more than $36,000.00.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Old Business:

STR Update – O'Connell announced that the postcard has been ordered through Vistaprint. Total cost with coupon was, $396.39 including postage to go out to all 756 residents in Lake Pleasant. Everyone will get one. Bain reported that registrations have been coming into town hall.

New Business:

ANCA and The Association of Towns of the State of New York Membership Dues –

Resolution #4 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Agrees to Renew the Adirondack North Country Association and NYS Association of Towns Membership Dues.
Offered By: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discusion: McGovern explained for the new board member what these associations are and how they serve us as a town.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

1. **Adirondack Architectural Heritage –**
   Bain let the board know that this is the organization that awarded the town a $75,000.00 grant for the Museum. They would like the town to consider a contribution to their annual appeal. The board did not budget for this. McGovern suggests donating $500 from the buildings fund.

Resolution #5 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the Donation of $500 from the Town of Lake Pleasant to Adirondack Architectural Heritage.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Health Insurance –

Smith explained to the board that an employee received a bill for $105.40 that was billed out to them for services that were performed in 2022. She asked the board if they would allow the towns Health Insurance Broker, Marshall and Sterling to draw out of unused HRA funds from that year to pay for the bill. Marshall and Sterling reported via e-mail that the town had $4,018.87 in unused funds for that employee for that year. Smith explained that if the bill had been issued on time the bill would have been covered by the town for that year. Smith asked for approval for M&S to do an electronic swipe on the HRA account for this bill payment. Discussion about how this bill will get paid out of what account and year was discussed around the room. Board asked Smith to investigate unused funds in HRA that could be turned back into the following year.

Resolution #6 Town of Lake Pleasant to Approve the Payment of Medical Bill in the Amount of $105.40 to Cover an Employees Medical Bill from 2022 out of Unused Funds from that Year Via an Electronic Transaction with HRA Funds.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None
Bain asked Smith to report back to the board at the next meeting with an explanation on why there are still funds in the 2022 HRA funds for employees. Smith responded that she would look into it further and report back to the board.

2024 Organizational Appointments and Resolutions

Resolution #7 2024 Town Appointments Made by The Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board.
Offered by: Braunius
Deputy Supervisor-Neil McGovern
Budget Officer- Nancy Seifts
Attorney for Town – Young & Sommer's
Historian- Aaron Weaver
Official Bank- NBT
Health Insurance Rep.- Stephanie Smith
Deputy Town Clerk – Faith Cleveland
Justice Court Clerk- Stephanie Smith

Deputy Court Clerk – Faith Cleveland
Dog Warden – Frankie Page
Deputy Dog Warden - Marie Parascandola
Registrar Vital Stat. & Handicap Permit Issuer- Stephanie Smith
Purchasing Agent- Betsy Bain
Youth Recreation Director- Samantha Desrochers
Parks & Recreation Foreman- Randolph Lavarnway
Refuse & Recyclable Foreman- Randolph Lavarnway
Highway Superintendent Foreman- Ed Brooks
Zoning Officer Code Enforcement Officer- Steve Page
Official Newspaper-Hamilton County Express
2nd by: Meg Parascandola
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays-None

Resolution #8 Town of Lake Pleasant to Authorize the Superintendent of Highways to make Purchases of Tools etc. at a Cost not to Exceed $2,999.00 and to Buy Oil, Tires, Salt at State Rate Contract Pricing.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #9 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board To Set Mileage Rate for Reimbursement at .67 Cents Per Mile.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #10 Town of Lake Pleasant to adopt the Holiday Schedule as Established by Hamilton County.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:

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

Resolution #11 That regularly scheduled Town Board meetings will be held at the Lake Pleasant Public Library, 2864 Rt. 8, Speculator NY 12164 at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month, or as otherwise published and/or posted. There will not be a meeting on a Monday Holiday.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #12 Town Hall hours will be 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Monday – Friday.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #13 Town Clerk office hours will be 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. Monday – Friday. Access to town hall outside of business hours can be done by appointment through the town clerk.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes- All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays- None
Resolution #14 Salaries of Elected Officials and Appointed Personnel are set forth as established in the towns 2024 budget.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Bain welcomed the Towns new Dog Warden, Frankie Page who wanted to suggest that the Board accept purchasing a microchip reader for her to use at the cost of $216.00. This would do away with the cost of using Brennan Humane society in the future if all dogs were microchipped. A microchip reader would allow Page to scan dogs found and notify owners right away. Dogs that are found in town and returned to their owners will save the town the expense of having the dog housed at Brennans and adopted out of another town.
Frankie went out on a three-hour dog tracking hike to retrieve a dog on the loose already today. Unfortunately, the dog has not yet been found.
McGovern asked what the percentage of dogs with microchips is currently. Frankie responded that every dog that goes through a rescue has a chip in them. Veterinary offices in the area are offering microchipping to patients at very little cost so more and more pet owners are choosing to have their pets microchipped.

Committee Reports:

- **Youth Recreation –** O'Connell mentioned that youth rec. has not met since the last report. Bain reported that she sent voucher to the school.
- **HWY Committee –** crew would like snow to do removal.

- **Resolution #15 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #1 dated 12/27/2023, #3175-3187 in the amount of $10,792.93, Abstract #2 dated 12/29/2023, #3188-3212 in the amount of $108,646.79. Abstract #3 dated 12/29/2023, #3213-3213 in the amount of $116,900.00.**

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

Public Comment:
Shorty Hoffman mentioned the chip reader costing $316 and would it be tax exempt. Answer is yes it will be.
Karen McComb said Happy New Year to All.
Shorty Hoffman asked about the garbage truck not coming in. LaVarnway explained the chain of hold up with it. Covid, supply company then body company who is currently holding it up.

Roundtable:
-Braunius mentioned the Humana insurance dropping providers. He announced that his coverage with his providers will end in February and in March. McGovern explained that the insurance companies and providers will fight for the money yearly.

Braunius also mentioned that the signs were brought up after the North Creek signs were noticed as potential upgrades for Lake Pleasant town signs. He has pictures to show the board.
McGovern thanked our community for the outpouring of 90 people celebrating the New Year with 40 plungers going into Lake Pleasant at noon for the Annual Polar Plunge. Total donations raised is $1,363.00 Wounded Warriors. Check will go out tomorrow. There was an outgoing gathering for our outgoing Hamilton County clerk last week with the new incoming clerk present.
Bain mentioned that next year for the Polar Plunge they want to do T-shirts with business sponsors on the shirts. Plungers could possibly get free shirts. McGovern thanked the Lemon Tree for opening their door to folks after the event.

Bain asked Meg if she had anything to say and she responded with thank you to all for the appointment. She is looking forward to serving on the town board.

Smith reported that taxes are in the works to go out to residents soon.
Bain let all know that end of the year budget transfers from 2023 will be done in February. This gives time for 2023 bills to come in and get processed.
Phyllis Goodard and Bill Deidrick decorated the clinic with supplies from TWIGS and Bain wanted to mention that they did a fantastic job.
Steve Page was going to bring his report tonight but will be postponed to the next meeting.
Standing Committees will be done at the next meeting on January 16th.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday January 16, 2024, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @8:07 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk