July 1, 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 July 1, 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: Nancy Seifts (Budget Officer), June Bergholtz, Karen McComb (Library President) and Eileen LaVarnway.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #98 To Approve the Minutes of June 17, 2024.
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion – O'Connell would like two separate thoughts explained in roundtable about the parade committee. The parade committee is still looking for volunteers.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of June 17, 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:

- The greenhouse roll up doors were finished last week.
- Mowing roadsides this week.
- One snowplow is in the garage getting ready for the parade.
- LaVarnway has tallied up hours for grooming, trail maintenance, insurance premiums etc. for the snow mobile grant. The amount is $2,500 less so far this year but is not complete. Check for approximately $9,000 more to come.
- Dumpster rental issue happened this week when a resident wanted a dumpster moved on a day when employees are not working. One employee had to come in on overtime. This resident had already requested that the dumpster be moved the week before.
  Town Board agreed that dumpsters can be moved M-Thur. only when employees are regularly working.

- At the last meeting LaVarnway told the board that he would get truck pricing for them. A truck chassis is being purchased from Tracey Road and they gave an estimate for $164,8000 to be ready in a year and a half on the body and plow system. Trius would be $169,900.
  The truck was ordered in 2022 and costs have gone up. The estimate for the new truck is roughly $330,000.00 total. O'Connell asked if the trucks are holding up. LaVarnway said that they had been lasting 7 years but now that they have gone from Internationals to Western Stars the life of the trucks has increased with minimal maintenance. LaVarnway expects to get 15 years out of the new trucks. Discussion continued about costs and time frames that trucks will be built and when they will need to be replaced.
  Nancy Seifts asked what LaVarnway predicts he will get on Auctions International for the old truck and LaVarnway replied that he got $23,000 for the last truck sold.

  Resolution #99 Town Board to Approve Purchasing the Body and Plow Systems from Henderson Truck Company for the Western Star and the Chassis Coming from Tracey Road Company.
  Offered by: McGovern
  2nd by: Braunius
  Adopted by the following vote:
  Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
  Nays: None

Old Business:

1. **Museum Grant –** Meg Parascandola updated the board about the buildings committee meeting and McGovern mentioned that they are working on fixes to bid specs for the museum foundation project. He also mentioned that the building committee needs to meet with the Historical Society about other parts of the building. O'Connell stated that prevailing wage needs to be specified and McGovern said that it is town policy for prevailing wage to be paid for work on town buildings. Bid specs will be revised and out to bid as soon as the building committee has them revised. A list of contractors that requested bids prior will be contacted for opportunity to rebid.

2. **Community Garden/ Caring Through Conservation mini grant -** June Bergholtz thanked the town board for their support of the community garden. She thanked O'Connell for the grants she applied for to get the green house. The children's garden is the best it has ever been, Bergholtz reported. Bain thanked Bergholtz for everything she and her family have done for the community garden.

3. **RO Systems –**
   Bain reported that two of the RO system residents want their RO systems looked over and another is waiting for a part to come in so that the plumber can install it.

4. **County Tennis Courts –**

June 30th, 2024 the tennis court contract was up between Hamilton County and the Town of Lake Pleasant. It was agreed that the courts will be used for another year if the County agrees to a one-year contract. The County would like the courts maintained for this year if the town signs the contract. McGovern stated that they hoped for a one year stay but he feels that town funds need to go towards the Elm Lake Rd. courts. O'Connell asked about the shape the County courts are in currently and LaVarnway explained that the courts were pressure washed where growth was building and made the courts slippery. Use of the courts and pressure washing has caused the acrylic paint to fade. The tree adjacent to the courts is causing the need to pressure wash the courts. Discussion about what municipalities residents use the tennis courts and what maintenance costs could fall on the town for a year was had at the table.

Resolution #100 Town Board Agreed not to Renew the One Year County Tennis Court Contract.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell would like to see the town step away from a one-year contract before the town has to fund thousands of dollars in repairs on courts that are leased when these funds could be going towards building the new town owned courts on Elm Lake Rd.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

McGovern stated that the Town of Lake Pleasant has been generous for years in funding this recreational asset to the surrounding municipalities.

New Business:

1. **Planning Board/Zoning Board Change –**

   Bain read a notice from the Planning Board requesting a change in the Zoning Laws under lot size which has two columns, lot density and minimum lot size. The board is asking to take out the minimum lot size column. This change would happen before the 2025 revision of the codes. This proposed change to the law will have to be passed by the town board, out for permissive referendum, advertised public hearing, after 45 days local law gets approved by the town board with no petitions filed to the town board. Local law is then filed with the state.

   Resolution #101 Town Board to Approve the Planning Boards Request to Change the Zoning Laws by Removing the Minimum Lot Size Column.
   Offered by: Braunius
   2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:

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

2. **Short Term Rental -**

Bain went over the new STR regulations that the state is looking to pass. This legislation will focus on keeping track of how many rentals there are. The Town of Lake Pleasant has implemented their local law for a year now and requires STR's to be registered with the town.
If the state bill gets passed, owners of short-term rentals will register their business with the Department of State and renew their rental every two years. This bill will include data tracking of stays at all short-term rentals. If it gets the green light from the governor, the legislation will go into effect 120 days after being signed.
There are many communities in the north country that have created registries like Plattsburgh who requires payment of a registration fee and renewal fee. Wilmington up by White Face Mountain has capped the number of short-term rentals in their area to 20% of the area's available housing. Braunius asked if non for profit will get included in this and Bain said that it will not.
O'Connell stated that this will level the playing field for hotel/motel establishments that already have to pay special taxes to operate.

Committee Reports:

Highway Committee – LaVarnway let the board know that the possible new hire did not follow through with drug testing. The highway department will continue to look for a seasonal employee.

Website Committee – Parascandola reported that she has started working on the demo site for the new website. She needs to know how long certain things need to stay on the website such as board minutes.

Youth Recreation- O'Connell reported that the youth recreation committee will meet this Wednesday to finalize the schedule.

Cemetery Committee – Braunius requested a cemetery committee meeting for July 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

Health Insurance Committee – Smith reported that Arnie Morehouse, the town's health insurance representative has been getting comparisons for the committee on retiree health insurance. Bain had let Mr. Morehouse know that the board needs to know by early September for budgetary reasons in the coming year. She also let the board know that Nathan Littauer has accepted the contract with Humana and will be participating.

Buildings Committee – McGovern let the board know that he and LaVarnway met at the museum to go over the project and will be meeting next with the Historical Society.

Resolution #102 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #27 dated: 6/27/2024, #3531-3532 in the amount of $23,527.92. Abstract #28 dated: 6/27/2024, #3533-3534 in the amount of $3,410.04. Abstract #29 dated: 6/28/2024, #3535-3555 in the amount of $36,247.48. Abstract #30 dated: 6/30/2024, #3556-3556 in the amount of $22.06.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell asked about Warren Tire rims. LaVarnway explained that they purchased repurposed rims instead of new truck rims.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- McComb addressed Parascandola about researching open meetings laws and the timeline information needs to be available to the public for her website posting questions. She mentioned that when the buildings committee is looking at the museum, they should involve the Historical Society President, Vice President and library manager. O'Connell explained that they are meeting to brainstorm not make decisions. She mentioned the community garden and how the idea came to frustration with the Crisbacher's and how it has thrived now with the Bergholtz family. McComb feels that the County should maintain the County property where tennis courts are located.

Roundtable:

- Braunius mentioned how nice the flags looked for flag day.
- McGovern announced that the parade is this weekend. The parade committee is still looking for volunteers.
- Parascandola mentioned that donations for the museum project are still being collected at Town Hall.
- Raymond Page, town retiree, passed away yesterday.
- The Planning Board has a meeting July 2nd at 5:00, Town Hall for two subdivision requests.
- Only one contractor has paid the brush pit fee. LaVarnway said that it has been quiet, and no illegal dumping has been occurring. O'Connell asked if there have been any complaints about the dumpster removal at town hall and none have come in to date.
- Bain announced Sept 16th is the date set for the EMT class to start. Contact SVAC or Ken Kurt for info.
- Bain corrected a rumor about the tennis courts on Elm Lake Rd. not getting worked on because of health Insurance budget needs. The correct reason that work has stopped is due to grant applications opening later in the year and any work done prior to grant award would disqualify the town from the grant. Trees and fences have been taken down so far but all work to courts must wait for the grant process.

- KVS Springbrook (old billing software) has been billing for full bookkeeping and the town only needs history keeping. Bain has been working diligently to get this corrected. KVS will be charging the town only $700 for history keeping.
- Emily Wright from Nathan Littauer dropped off magnets and posters about the clinic hours. Starting Saturday July 6th the clinic will be open as an urgent care walk-in, no appointment necessary, from 8-4:30.
- A resident called Bain to let her know that he was seen a day after he called to get into the clinic.
- A request for 48 pickleballs in the town pickleball box at the County courts was received. O'Connell asked if the town provides tennis balls for people that play tennis. Tennis balls are not provided. The board asks Bain to refer these requests to the County.
- Bain wanted all to know that Roberta Bly is doing a great job cleaning the town buildings.
- Consolidated Health has received a $5,000 donation to go towards the fly car for Lake Valley.
- LaVarnway received a $2,000 mini grant from Hamilton County Soil and Water Districts Caring through Conservation Mini Grant. The board congratulated LaVarnway.
- Caitlin Stewart from soil and water will be at the July 15th meeting. Soil and water will be utilizing the wood chips that the town has from chipping.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday July 15, 2024, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @8:11 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk