June 3, 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 June 3, 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: Karen McComb (Library President), Eileen LaVarnway, Donna Benkovich and Shorty Hoffman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #86 To Approve the Minutes of May 20, 2024.
Offered by: McGovern
2ND by: Braunius
Discussion – None
Be it resolved, that the minutes of May 20, 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 five cameras and a new brush pit sign have been installed. The cameras are viewing all of the needed areas of coverage. One contractor has come into Town Hall to pay, no issues so far with charging these contractor fees.
- A hose in the community gardens is leaking after it was stripped. LaVarnway told the board that it will need to be replaced.
- Town vehicles have been in the town garage for checks before state inspections are done on them.
- Highway crew has been busy with burials.
-A complaint came in today about the black top pavement at the gate house in Moffitt's beach being inadequate. LaVarnway called the state and was told that they will fix this site next week when they are in the area. This is a state/town-maintained road that the town plows in the winter months. The state paid for the pavement and shared services got the job done a few years ago.

- The new garbage truck must go back to the shop tomorrow after the check engine light came on again.
- LaVarnway presented a 284 form to the board: **Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Money**. *****See Attached*****
He explained that DB budget money is being spent now. Chips money from the state was just given 2 weeks ago. The work that spending will cover is, finishing top of Gilmanton Road and then Moffit beach and Page St. intersection to Neverland Drive, start to finish, is the plan.
- Bain asked about the pathways and LaVarnway explained that he has contacted the individual about putting the signs back out after cleaning them.

Public Hearing:

Bain Moved **to scheduled public hearing at 7:15**
Resolved that this meeting be interrupted to hold a Public Hearing advertised and scheduled for this evening at 7:15 P.M.
Public Hearing for Local Law Increase Term of Office for Town Highway Superintendent from two-year term to a four year-term
Supervisor Bain declared the public hearing open at 7:15 P.M. Following distribution of the proposed Local Law to the Town Board Members at the May 20th, 2024, meeting, notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Hamilton County Express, week of May 29th – June 4th 2024, with same being posted on same date at the Town Hall sign board.

Hoffman gave his opinion on the terms of office change, stating that he feels that two years is plenty of time for a highway Superintendent to put their best foot forward. If people aren't satisfied, they can vote the person out in two years.
McComb asked about this in relation to how it was done a few years ago and Bain explained that it is the same process and will go to the general election if passed by the board.

Old Business:

1. **Museum Grant –** Meg Parascandola updated the board on the bid notice and bid packets getting assembled. Legal ran on May 29th in three newspapers. It is posted on FB, the town website and is in the Clerks shadow box at town hall. Bid packets are going out with five requests to date.

2. **Community Garden/ Caring Through Conservation mini grant –**

   O'Connell reported that the stone that the Highway department delivered was used with some left over. LaVarnway asked to keep excess stone to be used for future projects at this site if needed. This approval was given.
   The new greenhouse arrived, and the Highway Department graciously acquiesced with helping Bain, O'Connell and Bergholtz remove the old greenhouse and put up the new greenhouse. Bain thanks June Bergholtz and Mina Swanson for their work with the school children. Eight students participated from Wendy Allen's fourth grade class in planting vegetable plants and flowers in pots to take home. They will be back in

September to pick what is left of their crops. Crops go to the local food pantry. Jeannette Barrett and Rabecca Smith were there to help with the students. Article will go in the newspaper.

3. **Building Maintenance Employee –** Bain checked with County handbook about maintenance, part time is less than 30 hours a week and full time is forty hours a week. O'Connell discussed that if maintenance is what the town is looking for, then they need to specify the job scope the town is looking for.
   LaVarnway asked the board to consider hiring an employee that can be dedicated to maintenance under the direction of the Highway Supervisor. He mentioned that there are funds in the parks and recreation lines to cover this payroll addition.
   McGovern explained that a facilities employee was present at town hall in the past.
   O'Connell asked about staff sizing. LaVarnway would like to have nine employees and there are eight now. A mechanic is still needed. A facilities employee would be separate from highway crew but work alongside them under the Highway Superintendent.
   Bain said the present need is for someone to clean the buildings. Staff at buildings have been doing the work until a new cleaner can be found. Discussion went around the table. A Highway Crew staff of nine and a half (one part time) is the limit the board is comfortable with for budgetary room.

Resolution #87 Town Board to Approve Hiring a Facilities Employee at $18/hr. for Thirty Hours a Week.

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

4. **RO Systems –**
   An RO system resident would like to use the pump, pressure tank and UV light for this season then have his plumber install a new system that draws from the lake. The Town Board and Highway Superintendent had a lengthy discussion about the history of the RO Systems and properties that the town serves to provide these RO systems. With this particular resident the Board agreed to allow this residence to keep the Pump, Pressure tank and UV light as needed, and the highway department will remove RO system and holding tank when needed.

Resolution #88 Town Board Agreed to Have the RO Pump, Pressure Tank and UV Light Turned over to the Wallers for Their Plumber to Plumb Water Drawn from the Lake and the Town to No Longer be Responsible for the Desalinization of Water and Supplying Potable Water at this Residence.

Offered By: O'Connell

Whereas, any parts to the system that are not needed can go back on the town's shelf.

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

Bain explained that another RO system has been having trouble and RMB will be coming up to work on it. She wanted the board to be aware of an upcoming bill for $770.00 that will be billed to the town.
O'Connell asked how many RO systems the town is responsible for and Bain explained that there are three with two others that are not installed often. McGovern explained that there were six originally.

5. **Planning Board Appointment –**
Bain asked if board members have talked to anyone about filling the position and would like to fill the vacancy on the planning board. Board members will reach out to potential individuals they think could best serve this position. Braunius asked about planning board meetings and was told that they are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. if there is something on their agenda.

New Business:

1. **Lake Valley EMS Service –**

Contract is up for renewal in December and three towns have been meeting with Tom Pascarelli to work on new contract that will be renewed in three years instead of five years as in the past. In the contract there is a grace period to get out of contract before the three years. For last year's contract, three towns paid $196,000.00 and $30,000 was donated from TWIGS bringing the cost for three towns down to $166,000.00 for 2023. The new contract has divided costs owed between the three towns for a total of $350,000, which costs each town $116,666.67. This does not include the donation from TWIGS if they choose to donate.
NYS has Lake Valley charges for each run they do. It is illegal for them to pay back municipalities. Second year will be increased by 4% and the third year the cost will increase by 5% more. Another company has been contacted for a comparison by the three towns and Lake Valley is the better option. Wells charges patients for ambulatory transport and Speculator and Arietta do not charge at this time. Speculator SVAC doesn't charge our patients for transport because they get donations and are able to provide this service free to Speculator and Lake Pleasant residents.
Bain talked with Ken Kurt today and he has gotten a $5,000 a year donation to go towards the fly car from a donor with no end date. Every year in November, Bain will receive a check for $5,000.00 from this donor for the fly car. Discussion about what Lake Valley provides as a much-needed service to the communities, was had at the table
Bain opened discussion to the room and McComb asked for support to TWIGS and for the board to reach out to them. She let the board know that the TWIGS has a raffle for a quilt that was beautifully crafted.

McComb questioned why SVAC doesn't charge for ambulatory services. McGovern explained that for years SVAC has received donations to cover their expenses.
She explained that TWIGS divides the funds and gives them to Lake Valley to cover all the areas. McGovern discussed that the large doners that SVAC receives are the reason that SVAC doesn't charge individuals insurance companies for ambulatory services.

2. **Nathan Littauer Meetings –**
Bain explained that she and McGovern had a meeting last week with Nathan Littauer's CEO Sean Fadale and Senior Director of Provider Care, Emily Wright, who wants to get the clinic back to serving the town as it did in the past. Numbers are down. They have contacted the chamber and will have a table at the farmers market this summer to get the word out to bring in new patients. It has been four or five years since there was a Dr. or physician assistant full time at the clinic. They are looking for community input and want to meet at least twice a year.
McGovern expounded on what the outcome was of this meeting.

Committee Reports:

Highway Committee – McGovern and LaVarnway explained that an e-mail request for a possible seasonal employee was received, and application sent.

Website Committee – Parascandola passed out information on an outline about what is currently on our website and what changes could be made to what is missing. LaVarnway asked about the job application being on the website. Parascandola will get the application on the website. Better links to the library, clinic etc. could be on the website.

Youth Recreation- O'Connell reported that youth recreation is firming things up with programs coming in with three events in July and three in August for a total of six events. Planitarium location is getting worked on.

Resolution #89 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #21 dated: 5/22/2024, #3479-3479 in the amount of $1,394.78. Abstract #22 dated: 5/29/2024, #3480-3480 in the amount of $959.73. Abstract #23 dated: 5/29/2024, #3481-3481 in the amount of $20,312.72. Abstract #24 dated: 5/31/2024, #3482-3499 in the amount of $10,695.62. Abstract #25 dated: 6/3/2024, #3500-3500 in the amount of $3,775.12.
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:

- Hoffman mentioned that he heard complaints about calling the health center and finding out that they must wait three weeks for an appointment. Bain explained that in the past

that is how it was, but they have made changes since. Gloversville wants to hear these complaints right away and Bain asks anyone with complaints and concerns to call her right away so she can let the Littauer home office know. There is now a PA at the clinic five days a week.

- Donna Benkovich spoke on behalf of the Speculator 4th of July Committee, asking for volunteers to help with the Parade to be held this year on Saturday July 6th starting at 7:00 p.m. The Parade Committee is looking for spotters (one hour from 7-8 p.m.) and bounce house attendants (5-9 p.m. in two-hour shifts). In exchange for volunteering, the parade committee will make a donation to volunteers' choice of charity. E-mail the parade committee or contact them on social media.

  McGovern asked about the PA system and Bencovich explained that they are looking into getting their own through the parade committee.

  McComb asked about the old barrels behind the community hall and if they could be moved. The question was asked about who owns the barrels. Discussion was had about the barrels.

Public Hearing: With no persons desiring to be heard, Supervisor Bain closed the hearing at 8:30 P.M.

Resolution #90 For the Town of Lake Pleasant Highway Superintendent Term To Go From a Two-Year Term To a Four-Year Term

WHEREAS, the current term of office for the elected Town Highway Superintendent is two years, given the default term limits set forth in New York Town Law § 24; and

WHEREAS, New York Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(ii)(a)(1) permits municipalities to adopt a local law extending the term of office of elected officials beyond the default period provided in New York Town Law § 24, so long as the matter is put to a mandatory referendum pursuant to New York Municipal Home Rule Law § 23(2)(e); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lake Pleasant believes an extended term of office for the Town Highway Superintendent will provide greater continuity to the community and, thus, would be in the public's best interest; and

WHEREAS, proof of notice having been furnished, the public hearing on a proposed local law extending the term of office for the Town Highway Superintendent was held on June 3, 2024 and with all persons desiring to be heard, having been heard; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts Local Law Number 1 of 2024 extending the term of office of the Town Highway Superintendent from two (2) to four (4) years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Local Law is subject to a mandatory referendum in the manner provided in New York Municipal Home Rule Law § 23; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after passing such resolution and within 10 days of its adoption, the Town Clerk shall cause Local Law Number 1 of 2024 to be submitted to the Hamilton County Board of Elections for inclusion of the proposition contained therein for approval of the qualified voters of the Town of Lake Pleasant at the General Election to be held on November 5, 2024.

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote, recorded as follows:

_4__ Yeas _1__ Nays _0__ Abstention

__Stephanie Smith_____
Town Clerk

Ayes: (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius and Parascandola)
Nays: O'Connell

Roundtable:

-Braunius praised the town employees for having the town buildings and grounds look well-kept for the holiday weekend. He asked for flags to be up a few days before flag day.
-McGovern mentioned that the library's new path looks great.
-Parascandola mentioned the tragic passing of Shane Warner.
-Clerks office is set up in clerk program to collect fees and fines for the brush pit.
-LaVarnway mentioned that NY State will close the Route 30 stretch north of town from sometime this fall to next spring to repair a culvert. They are planning on repaving once the project is done. This will be from Melody Lodge to Old Indian Lake Rd. with traffic rerouting on Old Indian Lake Rd.
-Hoffman asked about legislation and battery storage facilities being allowed in this community. Bain explained that if the town passes a local law not allowing it the state will override any local laws.
-Bain congratulated Katrina Cohea for passing the civil service test and becoming a permanent library manager.
-Information about salt contamination reduction was talked about and passed on to board members.
-Bain announced that the town received $368.00 from the office of the aging for bus trips.
-Impostor at the Moffitt's beach boat wash station was dealt with.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday June 17, 2024, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @8:47 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk