March 4, 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 March 4, 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: Shorty Hoffman and Nancy Seifts (budget officer)

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #31 To Approve the Minutes of February 20, 2024
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: McGovern
Discussion – O'Connell pointed out that Josephine was spelled wrong in roundtable.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of February 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 yesterday the furnace at Town Hall garage was having trouble. One of the Hamilton County employees came over to help fix the problem. Foam around the furnace had gotten dirty and was blocking O2 to furnace which resulted in excess smoke coming from the furnace.
- Work at the tennis courts led to the discovery of the 1996 chipper needing new bearings. This cost will be over $2,000.00, to be seen in the next bill pay. Long process of removing bearings was done by Town employees and LaVarnway thanked the employees for doing the mechanical work so well.
- Chipper is now repaired and in use. Trees were cut down at the tennis courts.
- O'Connell asked if the chips were going to be left for the garden club. June Bergholtz will get contacted to see if they could use the wood chips for the garden club.
- The backhoe is in at John Deer and getting attachments put on and it should be ready in a couple of weeks. Wednesday the current backhoe should be going on Auctions International.

- New garbage truck is in Albany, it has to go to Peterbilt in Utica next for DOT inspection. Bain asked LaVarnway if they will need a resolution to move funds to cover the garbage truck.
- Decision to have funds moved at next meeting or an emergency board meeting was had.
- Medium Equipment Operator (MEO), Gary Delos, has learned how to work with equipment and with the Boards approval, LaVarnway would like to move this employee up to Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO).

Resolution #32 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Employee Gary Delos, to go from Medium Equipment Operator (MEO) to Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO).
Offered by: Braunius
2nd By: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

- Braunius asked LaVarnway about the oil separator bill. LaVarnway explained that plans are for warmer weather and less water coming into the system before the work is to be done.

- Large streetlight hasn't been on at Town Hall after it was taken down due to the light staying on at all times. McGovern asked if it should go to a light on a switch. LaVarnway explained that it was on a sensor so that if someone forgot to turn the light on there was no worry because they would automatically come on. LaVarnway is waiting for time and weather to get on the roof and install new light mount and switch.

Old Business:

1. **Chamber Contract –** Bain sent the Chamber Contract out to all Board members to review and give feedback. She and Parascandola got together and made changes to the contract after the last board meeting. Bain asked the board if they wanted any other changes.

Resolution #33 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Accept the Recommendations to the 2024 Speculator Region Chamber of Commerce Contract.
Move for Discussion:
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Bain explained that she will get back to Tracy Joy and let her know that the report format from the past is the one that the board likes and would like to see in the future. Braunius stated that he would like to see the report and services before the quarter is paid for and Bain agrees.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **Museum Grant –** Meg Parascandola reported that the grant was requested originally by Cris Meixner for the Lake Pleasant Museum Foundation Project and The Adirondack Rural Revitalization Program Subgrant is $75,000.00 to complete the project. Donations have raised $35,000.00 and estimates add up to approximately $95,000.00 for the project. The grant is on a reimbursement basis. They give us 20%, then 60%, then 20% after completion. The Program will be posting a sign and taking pictures at the museum on April 29th. We have received two estimates to date from contractors and will be seeking another. There is a ten-year preservation agreement that requires the museum to stay on the National Registration of Historic Places. There has to be continued maintenance and repair with no significant changes to historical architecture. Work needs to be completed by June of 2025.

3. **VFIS Update –**McGovern went over the next step contingent with the Town Board, asking for Board input based on this annuity program called LOSAP. He, LaVarnway, Seifts and Bain met to discuss this program moving into the future budget wise. Volunteer firefighters can be retired from the fire department and still volunteer their time on the fire department. McGovern explained that they are working to move back the goal posts for those not currently retired on the fire department so that goals can be met. Bain will call Ernie Virgil to get a meeting set up.

New Business:

Resolution #34 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Add an Employee Equipment Agreement Form to the Handbook to be Filled out by Any Employees or Elected Officials with Portable Electronic Equipment that is Purchased by the Town.

Bain explained that it has come to the attention of her office to have an Employee equipment Agreement for portable electronic equipment.
McGovern asked about the handbook containing Employee Equipment Agreement form sign off in the past. Discussion was had about having a form and how equipment can be tracked and passed onto future employees/electees.
O'Connell asked about smaller equipment and electronic vs. non electronic.
Move to discussion:
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion about the form that Bain presented was had and it was agreed that this form will be added to the handbook. This will allow the town to keep track of all electronic equipment.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

1. **Community Pride Day –**

Adele Burnett, Tourism Director in the Town of Inlet is working on the 2024 Community Pride Day and contacted Bain to see if someone in the Speculator, Lake Pleasant, Wells,

Morehouse area would be a contact to the area for the event. This would require reaching out in the area for volunteers, get a shirt count and sizes and deliver the shirts to the area for community pride day on Wednesday May 1st. O'Connell said that the signups are at LPCS and the kids are doing this event through school. Seifts explained that the library does a mile stretch of clean up on another day twice a year. Discussion about Community Clean Up Day was had around the table. Board members agree to get the word out and help with this event.

2. **Library Report –** rescheduled.

Committee Reports:

- **Web Site Committee –** Parascandola handed out screen print outs of the website and went over the agenda page and if the Agendas and Resolutions should be included.
  Board agrees to include agendas but not include resolution page. Resolutions can be found in the board meeting minutes. Website demos are being checked out and compared with our town's web site needs. Digital Towpath has a new user-friendly platform for the same cost, yet data migration is not available. Bain would like to see the local laws listed on the website.
  Braunius mentioned that finding forms easily is what he would like to see in the upgrade.
- **Youth Recreation –** O'Connell reported that the trip to The Great Escape Lodge was a success with eighteen children on the trip and three chaperones. Purchase order is ready to go to the Town of Arietta for the five students that were from Arietta.
- March 18th they will take their next trip on Superintendents Day to Sky Zone. Last ski lesson for youth recreation was this past weekend.

Resolution #35 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #9 dated 2/28/2024, #3310-3311 in the amount of $3,957.55. Abstract #10 dated 2/28/2024, #3312-3312 in the amount of $4,500.80. Abstract #11 dated 3/1/2024, #3313-3331 in the amount of $12,482.43. Abstract #12 dated 3/4/2024, #3332-3332 in the amount of $17,236.16.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: McGovern said that he hopes to see that Humana is questioned as to why the Town is paying for their retirees to have Humana healthcare and the providers are shutting the door to the town's retirees for coverage. Bain will bring it up at the County to see if any surrounding towns are having the same trouble that the Town of Lake Pleasant is having with Humana.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- Shorty Hoffman mentioned that he was always told that equipment bought with taxpayers' money belongs to the community and cannot be sold. McGovern stated that the Association of Towns told them years ago that unless an item was of value and passed onto the next individual in office, it can be scrapped. Hoffman mentioned that we are a tourist friendly community, and an unfortunate family was in a car accident and needed a

place to stay. They had two dogs, and the motel wouldn't allow dogs. Could the dogs be housed at town hall in the kennel? Braunius mentioned that to stay at the local dog kennel business, the dogs would have to have updated shots and meet the businesses requirements. Arrangements, in emergency situations, can be made for dogs to stay temporarily in the town dog kennel.

Roundtable:

-Braunius asked for a summery of what is happening at the County Board meetings from the Town Supervisor in the Town agenda. McGovern stated that Bain gives some updates at town board meetings in roundtable. Bain explained that Jill Dunnam has left the position as emergency manager and Tim O'Neil has filled in and the Sherriff's department is taking over for now. Discussion was had at the table about the power outage and needs of residents being met by the County and Towns. Braunius asked about the County resolutions being published and Bain will look into this. O'Connell asked about the County minutes not getting published in the local newspaper.

Braunius also mentioned that Homeward Bound Adirondacks for Veterans will be having a private screening of Top Gun: Maverick on March 15, 2024 at the Indian Lake Theater for veterans and a guest.

-Parascandola asked about robo calls for delays/closings with the schools and O'Connell explained that there is an electronic notice that goes out to parents/guardians. Parascandola asked if the municipalities could piggyback on this with emergency alerts in the community.

-O'Connell mentioned that the community has lost two good community members this past two weeks. Joe Fitzgerald at King of the Frosties and Cindy Wittman passed unexpectedly. Board discussed ways community members can reach out and help these families.

-Smith announced that the Planning Board will be having a meeting tomorrow at 5:00 at Town Hall and the Zoning Board of Appeals will be having a meeting on Friday March 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m., Town Hall, for two Subdivision requests. This Thursday, March 7th, Pete Newell will be meeting with Aaron Weaver (Town Historian) and Smith to set up the new laptops with security protection and programs.

-Bain mentioned that the Clinic had trouble with prescriptions getting renewed after a breach in their system. Bain recommends not waiting till the last minute to refill scripts in case there is a delay in getting them filled.

-Bain mentioned a celebrity in the room, Neil McGovern, has won the Office of the Aging Senior Citizen of the Year for Hamilton County.

- Seifts mentioned the Eclipse presentation at the library being held tomorrow night, Tuesday March 5th 6:30 p.m. Presentation by NASA solar eclipse ambassador, Seth McGowan.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday March 18, 2024 at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:24 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk