March 6, 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 March 6, 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, RaChelle Martz and Katherine O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway, Karen McComb (library President), Jeannette Barrette, Rabecca Smith, Heidi Reis, James Reis, Shorty Hoffman, Denise Soares and Lori Whiting.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #38 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve the Minutes of March 6, 2023.
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: Martz
Be it resolved, that the minutes of March 6, 2023 be approved as presented **Adopted by the following vote:**
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell) **Nays:** None

Highway Report –

- LaVarnway let the board know that he did research and found that purchasing a triaxle dump truck is not worth it. Gains of hauling 2,200 lbs. of weight are not worth the increase cost of $30,000. There is also the possibility that this size truck will not fit in the town garage and a third axel doesn't allow for a sander.
- Commitment letter for new truck was sent out so that the town is on course for the truck, yet the box is not ready at this time.
- No news on the garbage truck chassis assembly, to date.
- There was a lengthy discussion with NYMIR insurance Co. Control Specialist, Henry J. Van Den Heever today. Mr. Van Den Heever was concerned with road sign inspections getting done biannually. Form will be provided by NYMIR for this to be done.

- Boiler for wash bay is on order.
- Snowmobile trails are in the best shape they have been in this season.
- One of the plow trucks blew a front tire late one night during the snowstorm. No one was hurt and a new tire and rim are on order. Old rim on opposite side was worn so bad that it needed to be replaced as well. Truck is still in commission with all season tires on it temporarily.

Old Business:

1. **Employee Health Insurance –**

The Towns Health Insurance Committee met and had a conference call with Marshall & Sterling last week. Crystal, with M&S, told the committee, that issues were with Nathan Littauer Primary Cares billing system. Bain went to NL Primary care to have this fixed. NL came back saying that this was a hold up with MVP processing. Between NL and MVP this issue has resolved and now scripts and copays can be covered with the employees HRA cards at NL Primary Care and elsewhere.

2. **Short Term Rentals –** O'Connell (Chairman) of the STR Committee, let the Board know that the STR Committee started meeting in the fall of 2022. There are seven different members – A Village representative, Rebecca Smith, a Representative from the town, Kathy O'Connell, a short term rental neighbor, a person with a background in building and zoning, a tourism and property sales professional, a short term rental owner, and an attorney.

   The committee decided to look at safety as a primary focus for guests, the community, and wildlife. They did not want to overregulate. They investigated what other towns in Hamilton Co. are doing. No other towns have any laws on STR's except Indian Lake and Inlet. Currently NYS has legislation in committee that has little to do with safety.

   O'Connell proceeded to go over three main points that the Committee had thus far. The Committee has the following recommendations: 1. The STR Committee looked at good neighbor brochures around the country on STR's and compared different areas of interest such as, parking, trash, animals, etc. It was found that Hamilton County's quiet hrs. are 11:00 PM. The poster that the committee has prepared will be available for STR owners to post at their rentals. At the bottom of the poster there is an area for owners to list residence address and contact numbers in case of an emergency. This poster is ready for approval. 2. The Committee recommends the town creating a law. With the state starting legislature, a town law enacted before the state law goes into effect may give the town law precedence. McGovern asked if the attorney was consulted about this and O'Connell said that she has not consulted with the attorney. Bain said that she would call the attorney about this. So the recommendation is that a local law is passed for STR's to be registered with the town. A fee of $50 a year is recommended to offset the fees of Building and Codes inspections and paper and printing supplies of the posters. McGovern said that the local law cannot be stricter than what the state sets in the future if the state does set standards. O'Connell presented a simple form that STR owners should fill out with addresses and

safety yes and no questions. The Town should post forms and information on the town's website as well as a local law if enacted.

Braunius said that he has a problem with these rentals not being inspected due to safety.

O'Connell stated that the committee decided to move slowly with this starting with a simple form that can expand later as people have become more aware of issues that may arise. McGovern stated that if complaints happen then the STR owners should be notified about needing an inspection. Braunius says he is for STR but he wants them to be regulated for safety. The town board continued to give input on how they feel the STR regulating should be done. O'Connell read off a local law that was written by herself and Rebecca Smith to the board. The Town board will look over this law proposal. STR Committee will meet again discuss board concerns. McGovern asked for names of the Committee members for the minutes.

O'Connell responded with herself, Rebecca Smith, Peter Simola, Cristy Wilt, Bob Benkovich, Todd Caliguire and Diane Armstrong.

3. **BAN Update –**

Bid requests were sent out today to five banks, bids must come back to us on the 13th, The bids will be opened at the March 20th town board meeting. Winning bidder will be notified and funds are to be received by the town on March 27th.

4. **Campground Update** –

Sean Mahar deputy commissioner at DEC is the person to call 518-402-8549. Braunius let the board know that he called the operations manager for all fifty-two state campsites in NYS to get the percentage of monthly occupancy at Lewey and Moffitt's Beach. The Operations manager said that he would get this information to Braunius. After three weeks Braunius called him back and was told that the operations manager received a slap on the wrist and was told not to answer anymore inquiries. Any questions must go to region 5.

McGovern feels that this must be stopped, or it will spread to other areas other than here. It is unacceptable. We have allies all over and the state needs to change this. Reasons that are given for this shut down is staffing.

Bain mentioned that the state contradicts itself when it tells potential employees that they aren't hiring then they say that they can't find employees.

5. **Property Tax Exemption for SVAC Update –**

Due to lack of definitive boundaries on this Exemption, Bain recommends Rescinding Resolution #21.

Resolution #39 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Rescind Resolution #21 Town of Lake Pleasant to Pass Local Law That Will Give EMS Volunteers 10% Property Tax Exemption.

Bain explained that this will come up for discussion again after speaking with the town's attorney.

Offered by: McGovern

2nd by: O'Connell

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

6. Postage Meter Town Account –

Bain corrected her previous notice to the board that the County postage machine would save the town 15 cents a stamp, letting the board know that it would only be a three cents' savings through the county**.** Bain suggests that the bills and tax bills get processed for postage at the county to save the 3 cents a mailing. Quarterly the town will get billed for this from the county.

McGovern asked Smith (clerk) if she felt that this was a good idea. Smith responded that her research into postage meter rental for the town was not going to save the town any money. Postage being done up at County is fine with Smith if use of the meter at another location doesn't pose any difficulties with doing mailings from town hall.

Resolution #40 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board To Have Bills and Taxes Stamped For Postage at Hamilton County With Postage Machine.

Offered by: McGovern
Whereas, Postage bought in this way will save the town three cents a stamp on bills and tax bills.
Whereas, The Town of Lake Pleasant will receive a quarterly bill for postage spent at the county.
2nd by: Martz
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

7. Chamber of Commerce Contract –

Bain asked if board members received the e-mail. Bain and McGovern met and discussed this contract. Bain suggests that the board meets with Chamber again to clarify two separate contracts again. One is an agreement for services for a visitors center for $28,500. The second contract is agreement for services promotion services contract.

They are similar contracts.

McGovern stated that the director will be leaving and new board needs to clarify what the Town is buying. Town Board wants to know what events are planned for the near future.

O'Connell asked about the new contract and if it was signed. Currently Town of Lake Pleasant and the Chamber of Commerce are working without a contract. Bain and McGovern will meet with the Chamber.

New Business:

1. **Office of the Aging 2023 -2024 Contract –**

Contract is the same other than we are now the contractor and before we were named the Town.
Resolution #41 The Town of Lake Pleasant to Accept the Office of the Aging 2023-2024 Contract
Move to discussion:
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Praise for the bus trips and how well they are operating was had by the board.

Resolution #42 The Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Give Approval For Supervisor Bain to Sign the Office of the Aging 2023 – 2024 Contract.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Martz
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell) **Nays:** None

2. **ARPA Money –** Hamilton County is donating $20,000 from the county's ARPA money to each Town and the Village of Speculator.
   Bain asked the Board if the town should put this toward the garbage truck.

Resolution #43 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Use Hamilton County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Donated Funds of $20,000 Towards the Towns New Garbage Truck.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell) **Nays:** None

3. Wednesday May 3 will be Community Pride Day which is being run by Steve Stofelano at Wells School. Lake Pleasant Town Board will meet at the library to work with the library to do clean up.

Committee Reports:

Provider agreement between Nathan Littauer Hospital and the Town of Lake Pleasant has been a concern of some residents. McGovern mentioned that NLH's past contract was looked through and he wants to go through agreement between town and NLH with NLH to get this contract up to date. The existing contract is from 1997.

- **Youth Recreation –** Martz reported that ski lessons are wrapping up and coming to an end. One lesson left this week is a make up lesson from when the Mt. was closed due to bad weather. There is not a number of kids that skied over President's week yet.

Resolution #44 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #7 dated 2/27/2023, #2628-2630 in the amount of $25,939.55. Abstract #8 dated 3/02/2023, #2631-2653 in the amount of $19,970.57. Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Martz
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell) **Nays:** None

Public Comment:

- James Reis provided input, VRBO units in Lake Pleasant NY 257 houses are listed for Lake Pleasant. Many people are looking for STR's in our area. Great start with the flier but the town will need to keep moving forward. Fees registering STR's are a good idea, but they should be at a % fee for what the rental gets since there are a broad $ range of rentals. Inspections for safety should be there. Reis stated that litigation can kill good tax rates. Implement a permit price before someone gets hurt. Homeowners should be liable for safety. Discussion between the board and Mr. Reis on STR's pursued. Flood lights and other things can be troublesome for local residents. Septic systems failing at STR's and causing adjacent residents septics to fail could be a reality in the town.
- Village Mayor, Jeannette Barrett, brought up STR matter concerning civil laws such as ROW on lakes, where residents need to work together to have rules that they all (renters included) follow. Contact at DEC with campgrounds, William Bernard with operations, says that 1 out of 3 campgrounds will be open longer. DEC hasn't projected which campgrounds these will be. There is over 75% of positions vacant in Hamilton Co. This word will get out at the Job Fair.
- Karen McComb reported that lifeguard positions are still available on the DEC website. Million-dollar beach and Hinkley are the positions for lifeguards that are available.
- Barrette mentioned with STR that in the Town and Village rentals need to be labeled with their address for emergency purposes so that Volunteer rescue workers can locate those in need if the need arises.

Roundtable:

- Braunius praised KC for the soup sandwich crawl. Concerning Hamilton Co. campsites there are 14. Only three will stay open into the fall. One is Lake Eaton, another is Indian Lake Islands only accessible by boat. Water for Indian Lake Islands comes from Lewey Lake Campground that is slotted to close early.
- McGovern praised the merchants and everyone who supported the soup sandwich crawl.

- Martz birding festival opened today with 40+ signed up in the first hour and a half. Info can be found on Adirondackbirds.com. Hamilton County Economic Development and Tourism will be attending the Adirondacks Sports Summer expo in Syracuse March 19-20 to promote the area. Hamilton County Economic Development will host the March 22 Job Fair at Oak Mt., booths are free and free to attend. Businesses that are interested in tabling are to call Ham. Co. tourism. Town of Indian Lake will host a Job fair on Saturday March 25th at the IL school. Christine Pouch with IL Economic Development is who to contact.
- Bain mentioned that HWY dep has been out at night and wants to praise the HWY crew for good work.
- NIMER Insurance Agent suggested that the Town include a hold harmless agreement in their fire department contract.
- Bain gave an update on the Elm Lake Rd. tennis courts, letting the board know that Craftco Co. estimator has not gotten back to us about the tennis courts. To move forward, first need to get an estimate then consult with an engineer to find out if it qualifies for a grant. Once we get the required information then the town can move forward with the grant process.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday March 20, 2023 at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Martz **To Adjourn @ 8:40 P.M.**
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk