November 18, 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 November 18, 2024, at the Lake Pleasant Library, 2864 State Route 8, Lake Pleasant, 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:
Deputy Supervisor: Neil McGovern
Councilpersons: Kathy O'Connell, Meg Parascandola and Don Braunius
Budget Officer: Nancy Seifts
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Guests: John Seifts, Aaron Weaver (Town Historian), Shorty Hoffman
Absent: Supervisor Betsy Bain

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #159 to Approve the Minutes of November 4, 2024, and November 12, 2024
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell asked about the snowmobile map ad and a redundant sentence. Under the museum the town door to the hole should be termed a hatch to fill the opening.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of November 4, 2024 and November 12, 2024 be approved as amended.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Deputy Supervisor McGovern, Councilpersons – Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Highway and Buildings:

LaVarnway reported:
-The delivery of metal roofing materials for replacing the health center roof came in today and the contractor was starting work.
-The museum foundation is complete with large rocks left to remove. Work needs to be completed by the town to replace the steps and to reattach the back room to the building. LaVarnway is asking the board if this will be funded by applying for another grant.
- Highway crew has been building bridges for snowmobile trails. The state leased an excavator to remove bridges in Perkins clearing and has supplied materials this year for these projects.
-The snowmobile trail closure at Oak Mt. has the snowmobile club working on a trail to go around the Mt. with permission from private landowners.

-He reached out to Henderson and there is no update on the tandem dump truck.
-LaVarnway has three prices on a new truck and asked the Town Board for a resolution to approve purchasing the lowest priced truck from Mangino Chevrolet.

Resolution #160 Town Board to approve purchasing A New 2025 ¾ Ton Truck from Mangino Chevrolet in the Amount of $50,306.00. This regular cab Chevrolet Truck will Replace the 2012 ½ ton Truck and the 2013 Truck will become the Recycling Truck.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Deputy Supervisor McGovern, Councilpersons – Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

-Today the Highway Committee met to interview an individual that applied for and qualifies as a laborer with mechanical skills. Discussion with the board about mechanical qualifications and training was had in the room.

Resolution #161 Town Board Moved to Hire Applicant for the HWY Position as a Laborer/Mechanic Trainee Recommended by the HWY Committee Pending Drug and Alcohol Screenings.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Deputy Supervisor McGovern, Councilpersons – Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Town Historian Aaron Weaver gave his Historian report to the board
*****See Attached*****

Old Business:

1. **NYS Swims Lifeguard Grant-** The Village of Speculator is in favor of an intermunicipal agreement between the Village and the Town for the NYS Swims Lifeguard Grant. O'Connell asked if the grant was applied for, and McGovern said that it had.

2. **Museum Update –** Parascandola reported that the foundation project is complete. Tonight's bills contain the final payment to be approved. Parascandola read an e-mail from Erin Tobin from the Adirondack Architectural Heritage about getting a revised project in with any scope of work by December 31, 2024, with a detailed narrative, photographs, budget and cost estimate. This is not a guarantee that funds will be given. The Building Committee will plan a meeting.

New Business:

Resolution #162 Town of Lake Pleasant Primary Care Center Roof Replacement.

Offered by: O'Connell

WHEREAS, the Primary Care Center roof is approximately 25 years old and in need of replacement, and
WHEREAS, the total cost of the roof replacement will be $39,600.00 and
WHEREAS, due to significant damage from a recent storm, a portion of the cost will be covered by insurance, be it
RESOLVED, that account number A.1620.0409 – Buildings, Primary Care Center Roof be created and funded in the amount of $22,736.50 to be totally offset by increasing Revenue account A.2680 – Insurance Recoveries by $22,736.50, and be it further
RESOLVED, that $16,863.50 be transferred from the Unappropriated General Fund Balance to account number A.1620.0409 – Buildings, Primary Care Center Roof, and the bookkeeper be so notified.

2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: McGovern asked what the time frame is and LaVarnway assured the board that Thomson Construction plans to complete the work in a week.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Deputy Supervisor McGovern, Councilpersons – Braunius, Parascandola, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #163 Town Board of the Town of Lake Pleasant in Support of Resolution # 338-24 Concerning the Impacts of Efforts to Electrify Highway Department Vehicles by Adoption of the Advanced Clean Truck Rule.

Offered by: McGovern

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) was signed into law to require New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels, and
WHEREAS, the CLCPA directs the development of performance-based standards for sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions including for the transportation sector by reducing GHG emissions from motor vehicles, and
WHEREAS, New York State adopted California's Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) Rule in December 2021 that requires applicable medium and heavy-duty (M/HD) vehicle manufacturers to sell a

percentage of their total sales in New York as zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) starting in model year 2025 with increasing ZEV sales through model year 2035, and

WHEREAS, the cost of transitioning the state and local highway departments' utility and construction vehicles, snowplows and equipment to run on battery power as mandated by ACT and other state strategies is at this juncture incalculable, but expected to exceed the ability to be financed without substantial sources of new revenues directed strictly for the retrofit or procurement of such ZEVs and equipment, and

WHEREAS, as commercial production of M/HD large-scale electric construction vehicles is today a nascent industry, the ability of local highway departments to plan for this transition, with its concomitant mandates that fuel and electricity charging sources be carbon-free, is of tremendous concern considering that the transportation system at all levels of New York government is significantly underfunded, and

WHEREAS, while ACT regulations do not require M/HD fleets, owners, operators, or dealerships to purchase ZEVs, the sales mandates on vehicle manufacturers are expected to lead to shortages in supply of not only complying electric vehicles but of traditional gasoline and diesel vehicles as well, and

WHEREAS, alarmingly, some M/HD vehicle dealerships have notified highway departments that, due to manufacturers' need to plan for the sales mandates adopted by New York and some other states, many orders for trucks are being delayed or canceled, and

WHEREAS, notably, Maine, North Carolina and Connecticut among other states recently stepped back from adopting ACT regulations citing concerns over the availability of heavy-duty vehicle charging stations and the high cost of zero-emission trucks, and

WHEREAS, in July 2024, the New York State Comptroller released an audit on the State's progress in meeting Climate Act goals and noted several deficiencies including the need to increase communication with stakeholders and provide more accurate cost estimates. The audit goes on to add that the lack of cost estimates jeopardizes the chances of success in meeting climate goals. The comptroller urges the state to clarify for key stakeholders, especially energy ratepayers, the extent to which ratepayers will be responsible for Climate Act implementation costs, and

WHEREAS, New York's climate goals must be implemented in a way that is affordable while assuring adequate supplies of these specialized vehicles and functional highway construction equipment that meet state specifications, estimated to increase the cost of a new truck by about one-third, and

WHEREAS, the rush to introduce electric vehicles in New York can be counterproductive to the environment as the bulk of the power generation used to charge new vehicle batteries is produced by fossil fuels, and is a reason to move more slowly to sync with the pace of the transition to a zero-emission electric grid by 2040, and

WHEREAS, recognizing these potential impacts on the ability of local governments to continue to deliver necessary transportation services and facilities to the traveling public it is vital that state elected representatives and agencies assist county highway departments in developing strategies, funding sources and realistic timelines for achieving these aggressive GHG emissions reduction goals in the face of market and fiscal barriers to the transition, and

WHEREAS, all levels of government need to work together throughout the regulatory process to assure strategies and mandates put in place to meet the CLCPA goals for the transportation sector are realistic and achievable and will benefit the environment, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Lake Pleasant of New York State calls on the Governor, the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), NYSERDA, PSC, Commissioners and legislative leaders to commit to providing support for addressing these concerns in the regulatory and implementation process and to dedicate the funding necessary to fully cover the counties' costs of complying with the state mandates under the CLCPA, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Governor consider a pause or suspension of the implementation of ACT until there is strong evidence that the state has in place the necessary direct financial assistance and incentives and charging infrastructure necessary, and can definitively determine that vehicle manufacturers are prepared to effectively supply the New York market without disruption to the critical work needed to maintain the state's vast and aging infrastructure, be it further

RESOLVED, that the state recognize that highway construction, maintenance vehicles, and equipment are critical to governments' mission to maintain a safe and functional transportation system by designating these municipally owned vehicle and equipment as a category among "transit buses, motor coaches, and emergency vehicles," and thus exempt from ACT regulation, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town of Lake Pleasant shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Walczyk, Assemblyman Smullen and the Commissioners of NYSDOT, NYSDEC, NYSERDA, PSC and all others deemed necessary and proper.

2nd by: Braunius

Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: All (Deputy Supervisor McGovern, Councilpersons - Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)

Nays: None

Committee Reports:

Highway – Braunius told the board that he was impressed by the new laborer interviewee.

Cemetery – Braunius and O'Connell will be meeting in the cemetery tomorrow.

Buildings – McGovern let the board know that the Buildings Committee will be meeting at 3:00 Monday to work with the Highway Superintendent on work to be completed at the museum. The museum needs steps, power back on, piers, and porch repairs. Discussion was had in the room about what projects could fall under grant specifications and not involve ground disturbance that would involve archeological monitoring that could delay work completion.

Brauius asked about back fill around the building so that it is above frost and LaVarnway replied that this is not needed with the Alaskan slab. Drainage will flow towards the road through a stone laid drainage for moisture to soak into ground away from foundation. He asked about plumbing and LaVarnway explained that it has been shut down and will remain shut down for winter. New plumbing will need to be included in the future project for the museum.

Resolution #164 Approve Audit of Abstract #46, November 14, 2024

Voucher #3747-3747, Amount $10,000.00, Abstract #47, November 14, 2024, Voucher #3748-3764, Amount $20,040.76.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion about the Chevy Impala in the bills. The company that parts come from has the town account for all vehicles under Impala. LaVarnway keeps maintenance records of his own for each vehicle. For audit purposes the board would like LaVarnway to have the company list the town vehicles for parts orders and not have them listed under a vehicle that the town no longer owns.
Resolved that all bills in the following funds be paid as presented – General, Highway, Landfill, fire district and Library
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Deputy Supervisor McGovern, Councilpersons - Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Speculator Chamber of Commerce Contract - Tabled

Public Comment :

Hoffman talked about the school buses not functioning if they are electrically powered.

Round table:
-Parascandola let everyone know that one of her neighbors painted another neighbor's house as an act of kindness.
-Smith let the board know that letters went out to retirees about the insurance change with an enclosed letter to them from Benistar Administration Services, Inc. who is administering the Heartford medical plan. Retirees are to look out for their cards to come in the mail.
-She thanked the HWY department for moving heavy boxes back into storage after organizing and clean out.
-Smith made the board aware of bills that will be in the next bill pay in December that are due by the end of November. This is a result of P.O. Box 358 getting changed to P.O. Box 799 and a few of the bills getting caught up in the shuffle. Smith has contacted billing companies to make address changes for the town's billing. The treasurer's office is aware and will do these bills in a utility audit.
-O'Connell let everyone know that the Holiday stroll is coming up on Friday November 29th 1-5 p.m. and light up the library will be on December 12th from 4-6 p.m.
-McGovern mentioned the change to winter transfer station hours.
-Highway department went to winter hours last week.

Next Meeting: Monday December 2, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M. @ Lake Pleasant Library
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius **2nd by:** Parascandola
TO ADJOURN @ 8:08 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk