November 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 November 6, 2023, 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. Public hearing for 2024 budget held during this meeting.

The following were present:
Deputy Supervisor: Neil McGovern
Councilpersons: Kathy O'Connell, RaChelle Martz and Don Braunius
Budget Officer: Nancy Seifts
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway, Debbie O'Rourke, Meg Parascandola, Paul Allen and Carrianne Grexa-Allen
Absent: Supervisor Betsy Bain

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #116 to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023
Offered by: Braunius **2nd by:** O'Connell
Be it resolved, that the minutes of October 16, 2023 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

McGovern let the board know that two weeks from now, on the 20th, the town will have the budget passing. Tonight, will be a chance for the public to speak about the budget that is currently in the preliminary stages.

Highway and Buildings:

- LaVarnway asked the board for a resolution to move funds of $245.72 for lodging at HWY conference.

Resolution #117 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Move Funds from Highway Contingent line A.1990.400 to Highway Contractual Line A.5010.400 in the Amount of $245.72 so that Highway Superintendent can Have Funds to Pay for Lodging at Highway Conference.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:

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

- Loader lease agreement, has been signed by LaVarnway. He let the board know that there is no pressure on the town to go through with this. When the loader comes in, we have first dibs on it. Delivery should be by May in hopes that the price will stay the same. LaVarnway has connected with the county to have the parts delivered at no cost to the town. This is a lease and must be signed off in the end if the town wants to keep the loader. Braunius asked about hrs. and LaVarnway replied that it will be on a yearly calculation.
- Saturday the garbage truck loaner went back and is missed. Crew liked the automatic can lift on the loaner.
- Accident to the library building happened when a vehicle backed into the steps on a Tuesday or Wednesday night. Railings were falling off the building upon inspection by LaVarnway who removed the rest of the railings. Library personnel are to let the town know as soon as damage is discovered in the future.
- Back to the loader, LaVarnway would like to see if Auction International would auction off the existing loader for more funds back to the town. LaVarnway will try to get a better price than $25,000 or hang onto the loader.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Deputy Supervisor McGovern declared the public hearing open at 7:15 P.M.
Following distribution of the preliminary 2024 budget to the town board members on October 23, 2023, notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Hamilton County Newspaper on October 25, 2023 and again on November 1, 2023, with same being posted on same date in the Town Hall Shadow Box.

Tax cap is around 2% this year so far with restructuring still in the process.

HWY cont.

- LaVarnway asked if he needed a resolution to list the loader on Auctions International and McGovern told him that he did not need one.
- Our mechanic has left as of last Tuesday after a 2 weeks notice, moving onto another career. The job has been listed in the Hamilton County News and on Indeed.com to broaden the search area. If no Mechanic is found by January, LaVarnway will need someone to ride in the trucks during winter snow removal. Braunius voluntered to tend a wing if needed.
- Tennis court plans are drawn up and in at town hall for Supervisor Bain to look over. Included in the plans are plans for a building for DRAG to have a two-bay garage next to the snowmobile trail set back from the road away from the community garden and the tennis/pickleball courts.
- Paul Allen spoke on behalf of DRAG, to the board about DRAG leasing an acre of land to put up a groomer barn. They would like the opportunity to lease the land for a set fee

and time with opportunity to renew lease. Allen reported that there is $300,000 worth of equipment that DRAG would like under cover. This is so the club can get equipment out of the elements to get repairs done in a warm enclosed area. The goal is to raise another $100,000 by DRAG before they want to build on the leased land from the town. McGovern agrees to solidifying a location. Allen let the board know that they picked this location due to proximity of trails with alternate routes. LaVarnway will leave the maps in the Supervisors office for review.

- Back to tennis court maps they are changing the location of the courts by 90 degrees so there is room for two pickle ball courts and two tennis court. Pine trees at the road will be taken down for a parking lot in front of the courts. McGovern stated that this will be wonderful if in a few years the town can have recreation at this site for all ages and work with the snowmobile club.

  Allen stated that any input from the town and their parks and recreation committee will be appreciated.

  A useless 1,000-foot sewer pipe in the ground that is the responsibility of the Village of Speculator was brought up and the board was informed that this pipe is not in the way of construction.

  Braunius asked about the brush dump and the larger pieces of logs that have been dumped on site and if they are being brought in by commercial vehicles or not. The chipper can handle them but if contractors are not charging the customer for removal and the tax payer is paying for chipping and disposal then this is not right. LaVarnway explained that commercial contractors are not allowed to dump in the brush dump pit, personal vehicles only, all others will be fined. New posted signs and cameras were discussed by the board to enforce this rule. O'Connell wants to table and do research first on what other municipalities are doing with fines. Chips are being used for flood control on trails, roads and right-of-ways.

Resolution #118 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Moves to Table the Posting of New Signs with Fines for Illegal Dumping in Towns Brush Pit.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

- November 14th will be the date that the State will paint the permanent lines on the new road on Route 30. No center line signs are still up.
- McGovern asked how the center line grooves affects the plow. LaVarnway explained that during storms these are helpful when snow is blinding and the driver needs to know where the center line is in the road.

Old Business:

1. **Budget Review –**

Seifts let all know that currently the budget is at a 2.42% tax cap. McGovern mentioned that starting on January first, there will be a change in the dog warden from the Pecks to Frankie Page who owns Adirondog Suites and Treats. Dogs needing to be sheltered will get placed in the town's kennel and Frankie will care for them and get them to James Brennan Humane Society.

Seifts explained that NYMIR health insurance will need to be worked on in the budget. Health Insurance is still getting adjusted in the budget.

McGovern went over what new employees have been making and what comes out of their pay when % is taken out for health insurance. Going forward the town is considering taking away this % contribution and giving every employee 100% contribution and 7% raise to pay for all employees and elected officials. LaVarnway let everyone know that the health insurance is going up and as a result contributions were going up as well for new employees.

Braunius let everyone know that when the budget goes up it is the employees who suffer. The only way to keep employees is to invest in them. Currently it costs $3,500.00 for CDL licensing training. The County has training opportunities that can cut these costs down reports LaVarnway. There are two non CDL positions in the town and all other HWY department positions require CDL licensing. Discussion about the positions and ones that need CDL licenses was had by the board.

With all persons desiring to be heard, Deputy Supervisor McGovern closed the public hearing at 7:58 P.M.

2. **RO Systems -**

LaVarnway reported to the board that reverse osmosis systems have been removed and water drained. RO systems are housed at town hall for the winter. The bill for new filters with one extra filter to have in stock, will be coming in the spring. One house couldn't be done because of the alarm system. Service technician will take care of this one if need arises. Another RO system had a bad float system and was having to get unplugged when residents were not home. This system will get repaired in the spring Another resident has new owners who are learning how the town works with them to keep their water clean.

New Business:

1. **Health Insurance Committee Report -**

McGovern let the board know that the Health Committee met with Arnold Morehouse, the towns health representative, on October 3rd to go over plan options for 2024. On October 17th the budget committee worked on the figures with Mr. Morehouse's help on health insurance cost adjustments.

Discussion about the differences in the current MVP Gold 2024 plan and the desired MVP Silver 2024 plan was had. O'Connell had questions about the higher cost of deductible and LaVarnway explained that the higher deductible will go onto the HRA cards for

employees and their health care will be covered at 100% with no cost in deductible or copays to the employees. HRA cards are limited to use for approved medical procedures and prescriptions only and employees are to make themselves aware of the list.

Resolution # 119 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Recommendation from Health Insurance Committee to Switch Health Care Plan for Town Employees from MVP EPO HDHP Gold 2(HSA) "Exchange Certified Plan" National Network Gold Plan to MVP EPO HDHP Silver 8 (HSA) "Exchange Certified Plan" National Network Silver with HRA Continuing Collectively with MVP Insurance for the Year 2024. Board also Approves Continuing with Humana for Retired Employees for 2024.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

NYMIR -

Resolution # 120 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Approves Fund Transfer of $4,248.61 from A Fund Balance to A.1910.403 to General Liability – NY NYMIR to Pay the Annual Bill.

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

Handbook Addition –
Resolution #121 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Table the Handbook Addition at this Time.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

Youth Recreation – O'Connell announced that they are firming things up with ski lessons and working on an alternate activity for those who don't want to ski. Youth recreation changes will be explained at the next board meeting.
Martz mentioned that a voucher is done up to get reimbursed for Arietta kids that participated in summer recreation.

Resolution #122 Approve Audit of Abstract #40, October 24, 2023
Voucher #3061-3073 Amount $30,327.71, Abstract #41, November 3, 2023, Voucher #3074-3094 Amount $133,887.72.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Martz
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 (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #123 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Approves the Payment of NYMIR Bill in Abstract #42, November 7, 2023 Voucher #3095 in the amount of $36,811.91.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- Allen thanked LaVarnway and committee members for support to the snowmobile club and their endeavors.
  Saturday February 24, 2024 will be Groomer and Winter Worker Appreciation Day down by the pavilion for all.
  Adirondack Artisan ceramics shop has opened up with classes for kids and adults. They are on FB this week.

Round table:

- Braunius asked about the flags put up around town today and asks that they remain up until after Veterans Day.
- Election day chili take out will be tomorrow November 7th, Election Day, from 11- sold out, at Lake Pleasant Methodist Church and preorders are recommended.
- LPCS will do an annual breakfast for Veterans this year on Thursday.
- O'Connell let everyone know that the Lake Pleasant sixth graders will be doing the Wreaths across America this year if anyone is interested in sponsoring a wreath call the school. Ceremony will be held with date to be announced. Goal is a wreath for every Veteran in the five cemeteries.
- McGovern went over order forms for address markers for emergency 911 access that SVAC is taking orders for at this time.
- Tax cap paperwork for Consolidated Health has been filed with the Comptroller's office.

- Town of Lake Pleasant Tax Cap paperwork will get filed on November 14th. This has to be done before the budget is approved.

Next Meeting: Monday November 20, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M. @ Lake Pleasant Library
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** RaChelle Martz
TO ADJOURN @8:26 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk