October 2, 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 October 2, 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
Nancy Seifts - budget officer
Guests: Karen McComb (Library President) and Eileen LaVarnway

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #108 To approve the minutes of September 18, 2023
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: McGovern
Discussion: none
Be it resolved, that the minutes of September 18, 2023 be approved as presented
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway announced that the garbage truck body price came in today. After doing the math this body will be $35,000 more than the original truck body on order. This one could be assembled and in by January while the original will be in by April questionably. Board agreed that this is too much extra money for the town to spend just to get the truck four months earlier. Heavy loads during summer months is over and pick up schedule is back to Mondays only.
- Fall paving has started for the HWY crew with paving of Golf Course Rd. and Fawn Lake Culvert which have been completed. Tomorrow, they pave Pelcher Rd. then assist Arietta and Morehouse with paving their roads. Braunius asked when the plants shut down and LaVarnway said usually in November.
- Trail crew started brushing snowmobile trails this week and DEC Forest Ranger let LaVarnway know that they had seen them on the trail cameras, trimming trees.
- Sand is in for winter sanding when it snows.
- Water to cemeteries will be shut off soon.

- Funds of 87.5% for snowmobile money has come in and phase one approval of snowmobile grant money is in. More trails have been approved giving the town an added 5-6 miles of trails from the state.
- Automatic door closure at the Health Center has been installed. It is closing too quickly now, and staff would like it adjusted when it can be done.
- Bridge on Fish Mountain Rd. is complete. Bills are being compiled and will be vouchered and paid soon. Waiting for National Grid to reset poles.
- Waiting for estimate on stainless steel hardware for garage doors in wash bay.
- Discussion about state road paving of Route 30 north and south of Speculator was had by LaVarnway, Bain, McGovern and Braunius. Bain had heard that equipment was coming in on Monday and paving would commence on Tuesday. Lack of supplies was one cause for delay. All agreed that this has been an unsafe situation for our communities.
- The salt reduction task force committee met and reported that liquid brine calcium use is the best way to treat roads during winter snow months. LaVarnway explained this road treatment as a liquid slurry that is sprayed on the roads before the storms, then hours into the storm they must retreat. Cost is the issue from how this chemical is stored to application on roads, it is very expensive. O'Connell asked if this is less destructive for the environment and LaVarnway says that in Lake George they are using liquid brine on their roads and they are seeing a reduction of ½ the chloride pollution. Different trucks are needed to apply this chemical treatment as well as different storage systems. O'Connell asked if more could be done if the state revised their clean road policy and LaVarnway explained that they don't have a policy other than roads need to be cleared and safe. He went on to explain that it is the legal system that pushes the "bare roads" policy. Neil explained about a conference he went to where different interested parties for different environmental reasons discussed ways of moving to better ways of treating the roads. Every time it came down to cost. All better ways to treat roads were so costly that the communities were not going to be able to afford the new treatments. LaVarnway explained that the town is now using the new cutting edges on their trucks, with success.
- Bain asked about the cutting edges grant and LaVarnway hasn't heard from them yet. LaVarnway suspects that 30-40% less salt is being used with the new cutting edges.

Old Business:

1. **Short Term Rentals –**
   A couple of applications have gone out with one coming in, from a resident in Speculator that came in and filled out the form, yet this is only for Lake Pleasant residents outside the Village of Speculator. The process started at the beginning of this month so more forms should be in by the next meeting. Braunius asked if the form could be accessed easier on the website. Martz will reach out to digital towpath to have a new category added to make it more accessible to find forms.

2. **Community Garden –**
   Bain announced that the fence project was completed last Thursday thanks to many volunteers including Dave Redmond, Jeannette Barrett, June Burgholtz, Neil McGovern, Barbara Bain, Jay Bain and George O'Connell who supplied the backhoe. Bain explained

that once a system was in place the job got done quickly. The sod left the ground boggy after backfilling. Bain explained that once the grant comes in it may be used to get the ground level fixed with grade three stone. O'Connell mentioned grade three stone will work well to prevent weed and tree growth.

3. **Budget Officer –**
   Seifts announced that the tentative budget is done and out to the town board tonight with adjustments needed. McGovern mentioned that the biggest driver of the budget is the health cost for town employees and retirees. The Health Committee will be meeting tomorrow with the health broker at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.

4. **RO Systems – tabled** for now. Bain has not heard from the company that has been newly hired for this. Bain asked them for service at the end of October.

5. **Chamber of Commerce 1st Quarter Report –**
   Bain announced that the 2nd and 3rd quarterly reports had not been received so Bain asked the Chamber for them, and she received the 2nd Quarterly report which has gone out to board members with the 1st quarter report from last year for review. Bain asked board members what they thought.
   O'Connell feels that their online information is good, but she wants to know if people are stopping into the chamber office and how many stop by. Discussion about a resident's difficult experience with the chamber in obtaining a gift certificate was had by the board.

New Business:

1. **Foley's Lawn Care –**
   John Foley stopped in last week asking the town if they are interested in his company doing flower bed maintenance at town buildings. Bain asked Foley for an estimate which he provided and Bain distributed copies to board members. Bain went over the estimate provided by Foley's lawn care. Flower bed maintenance is for $1,402.50/year.

Resolution #109 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Moves to Hire Foley's Lawn Care to do Flower Bed Maintenance During the 2024 Growing Season at Town Buildings for a Total of $1,402.50.
Offered By: O'Connell
2nd by: Martz
Discussion: McGovern asked if McComb felt that Foley has been doing a good job at the Library and McComb said she is very happy with his work. McGovern asked LaVarnway if he was against this and wanted the HWY crew to do the work. LaVarnway said that it won't look the same if the HWY crew did the job.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Martz
Nays: None

2. **Event's Promotional Sign –**

Bain explained that KC Morrison had contacted her and suggested that an event sign might be a good idea for the town to advertise events when vehicles enter town. Bain asked what the board thought about this suggestion.
Braunius said that it is a good idea to advertise events but wants to know what size signpost is needed. Discussion on permanent signpost versus temporary signpost and who would be responsible for the signs getting changed out was had by the board. KC had suggested that event holders could apply at town hall to have a sign up.
McGovern stated that he had wanted to erect a community board for years, yet guidelines must be in play. Wells has a very good sign board when entering town where banners are hung under the town sign.
LaVarnway said that in order to put a signpost in the state ROW it must get approval by the state DOT.
Braunius said that a 12' sign would have to go before the zoning board for placement as well.
Bain suggests that it may be time to do new town signs that will allow for event signs to be attached.

Bain went over some news at the Speculator primary care. Savanah is in her last week and is training a new employee named Erin. The clinic has hired a new LPN who lives in Lake Pleasant that will be starting in two weeks. Temporarily the clinic will be requiring that appointments must be made for blood work, no walk ins on Thursday mornings. As soon as a replacement for Amanda is found the clinic can take walk-ins again.

Committee Reports:

Highway Committee – need to get together to discuss equipment and garbage.

Youth Rec. - Received invoice for golf lessons with six children participating and meeting with Laura O'Brian this week about ski lessons for this year.

Health Committee -

Resolution # 110 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #36 dated 09/22/2023, #3021-3031 in the amount of $30,826.29. Abstract #37dated 09/29/2023, #3032-3036 in the amount of $4,868.69.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion:
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, Martz and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- McComb mentioned the sign going out of town that says, "If your business was here, you would be home by now". She finds it a negative, insulting comment. McGovern explained that Dean Lane and Frank Mezzano get credit for that one with his help.
- Seifts mentioned that she misses our local Frontier contact. She just had trouble at her residence with service and it hasn't been resolved yet.

Roundtable:

- Braunius mentioned that Oaktoberfest was a great area attraction on Saturday and a success.
- Martz mentioned that Apple Fest was a success two weeks ago sponsored by the historical society. The Forth of July Parade Committee was present with "Porta Potty Palooza" and 160+ pies purchased.
- Hamilton County Tourism office spent the weekend in Syracuse at the Big East Power Sports Show promoting snowmobiling for our area.
- Smith announced that tomorrow at 5:00 the Planning Board will meet about an area Variance request and a special use request. She also let everyone know that the Clerk's Office will be closed Friday October 13th from 11:00 a.m.- 4, rest of day for the clerks to attend a Tri-County Clerks meeting. This is the first one they are attending this year.
- Bain let everyone know that GAVAC/Lake Valley EMS won't be able to bill patients unless they are transporting them. Increased consolidated health budget this year should have us covered for any funds that are not coming in. SVAC won't be billing patients for transport. Bain encourages all to donate if they get transported to the hospital by local SVAC. These are a great group of volunteers that need support. Wells will be charging their patients to be transported but SVAC will continue to not charge.
- $34,884.00 is the total to date for museum fund raiser. At the Apple Fest, Cris Meixner raised another $218.00. The board gave Cris praise for hard work.
- NEIMER insurance is increasing so working with Digital Towpath to get information they need.
- Tyler system is getting implemented at County Treasurer's Office Wednesday this week.
- LPSA sent a check for $6,402.00 to go back into the funds.
- Adirondog culvert has been approved finally and project will move along.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday October 16, 2023, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Martz
To Adjourn @ 8:06 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk