October 7, 2024

State of New York
2679 State Route 8
County of Hamilton
Town of Lake Pleasant

A Meeting of the Lake Pleasant Town Board was held on October 7, 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: Eileen LaVarnway, Nancy Seifts (budget officer), Shorty Hoffman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #133 To Approve the Minutes of September 16, 2024.
Offered by: Braunius
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion – none
Be it resolved, that the minutes of September 16, 2024, be approved as presented.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #134 To Approve the Minutes of September 20, 2024 and October 1, 2024.
Offered by: McGovern
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion – none
Be it resolved, that the minutes of September 20, 2024 and October 1, 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 asked the board if they would like the entire clinic roof redone or half of the roof. McGovern wants to know if the damaged section will get covered by insurance before a decision is made. Tabled until insurance gives final estimate.
- LaVarnway shared a photo of cut logs, larger than the 6" limit, delivered to the town brush pit. Sign says $500 penalty for illegal dumping. The board decided to send a certified letter to the violator asking the resident to remove the oversized logs that were dumped in the brush pit. If the logs are not removed the town will serve the $500 fee for illegal dumping.
-Heat is on at the health center and in good working order confirming that tree damage did not affect the heating unit.
-Two quotes were presented to the board to purchase a new leaf blower from Capital Tractor, Inc. and a new heavy-duty trailer from Northland Trailers this year. This new equipment will allow the highway crew to leaf blow ditches in the fall and the trailer will replace the old trailer that moves around the groomers.

Resolution #135 Town Board to Approve the Purchase of a new 8.5X25+5 Heavy-Duty Low-Profile Beavertail Deck over Trailer from Northland Trailers and a Three Point Hitch Buffalo Turbine Leaf Blower from Capital Tractor, Inc.
Offered by: McGovern
Whereas, funds from line DA.5130.402 in the amount of $6,000.00 and line DA 5130.403 in the amount of $1,000.00 will get moved to line DA.5130.200 to purchase the Leaf Blower for $6,994.15 and,
Whereas, funds from line A.7140.405 in the amount of $9,000.00 and line A.7140.404 in the amount of $4,000.00 will get moved to line A.7140.200 to purchase the trailer for $12,119.00.
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

- Boat wash stations can be broken down after Columbus Day after all the equipment has been cleaned and prepared for winterization.
- Parascandola asked about the State route 30 detour and if large trucks are allowed on the detour. LaVarnway let the room know that starting October 15, 2024, for a two-week period the town allows the State to use Old Indian Lake Rd., and they will put all signs up, stripe the roads and put steel plates over an existing culvert. Any damage after this detour to the town road will be repaired by the state. The state is replacing a 6' culvert with a box culvert on State Route 8. All large trucks get rerouted through Wevertown, NY for the two week period.

Old Business:

1. **Alarm System –** O'Connell let the board know that the town has to implement the change from copper to digital. Copper is no longer allowed. The library is already

digital. Town Hall will cost $500.00 per unit with Central Security and Central Security will contact frontier to see if the bill can be decreased after a phone line is removed. The current bill has gone up due to the fee the town will now see moving forward.

Resolution #136 Town Board to Approve Moving from Copper to Digital for Security Systems at Town Buildings.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **Health Insurance** – Bain let the board know that the Health Insurance Committee had a meeting with the towns representative, Arnold Morehouse, from Marshall and Sterling to go over the 2025 rates for employee and retiree health coverage. Smith gave the highlights and the committee's recommendations to the board to stay with MVP Silver 8 and to change the retiree insurance to Hartford with Humana prescription coverage. Employee insurance will go up by approximately 11% and the Retiree insurance will be over 100% increase in costs for the 2025 calendar year.

Resolution #137 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Employee Health Coverage for 2025 to remain on the current Plan MVP EPO Silver 8 (HSA) "Exchange Certified Plan" National Network.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #138 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Retiree Health Coverage for 2025 to move to Hartford Plan 5 With Humana Prescriptions PPO.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Abstained: Braunius

3. **Downtown Revitalization Initiative and NY Forward –** Parascandola informed the board that on October 1, 2024, there was a great turn out for the public informational meeting at the library with over thirty attendees. The grant application is due on October 18, 2024, with Allison Gaddy helping to write the grant and Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineering also assisting with the application. Both the Village and the

Town will partner together in submitting the Downtown Revitalization Initiatives (DRI), ten-million-dollar grant. Application for a four and a half million-dollar NY forward grant will be applied for by the Village of Speculator with the Town of Lake Pleasant as a sponsor to the Village. The board needs to approve supporting the DRI and NY Forward grants. Two million needs to go to a business for improvements. The business would have to come up with 25% of the funds and the other 75% would be given through the grant.

LaVarnway asked if prevailing wages need to be paid to employees. He asked if he could submit for projects the town needs to have done. Projects are for long range and most likely not started until 2026. McGovern mentioned that Brendon Becker said it is a good idea to go over the ten million and get requests in for more in hopes that they will take requests for less. The grant writer and the engineer feel that this area of the Adirondacks has a good chance of getting grant funds at this time.

Resolution #139 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board in Support of the Town and Village Jointly Applying for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Grant and are in Support of the Village of Speculator Applying for the NY Forward Grant.
Offered by: Parascandola

WHEREAS, New York State's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) program Round Eight and NY Forward Round Three are now available to interested New York Communities; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Speculator and the Town of Lake Pleasant area working together to apply for the 2024 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) and NY Forward (NYF) funding for projects that will fund business development, economic growth, and community building; and

WHEREAS, the projects identified in these applications will be transformative for both the Town and the Village and the Town's park revitalization project has been included as a public project in this application; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lake Pleasant strongly supports the joint application to the DRI/NYF funding sources, supports the Village of Speculator as the applicant of the NYF applicant and lead agency.
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

4. **Pro- Housing Community Designation –** Parascandola explained to the board that in order to be eligible for the DRI and NY Forward grants etc., the town needs to be designated as a pro-housing community. Housing permits that have increased by a set percentage in the last year will qualify the town for this designation. In order to find out if The Town of Lake Pleasant qualifies, the last five years of planning, building and

zoning data will need to be collected. The Village of Speculator will do data collecting as well.

Resolution #140 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board is Committed to Receiving the Pro-Housing Community Designation.
Offered by: Parascandola
Whereas, the Town of Lake Pleasant believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State's economic growth and community well-being;
Whereas, the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, we believe that every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;
Whereas, we believe that supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;
Whereas, we believe that evidence showing that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and
Whereas, we believe that affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;
Now, therefore, it is hereby resolved that the Town of Lake Pleasant, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the Pro Housing Communities pledge, which will have us endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

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

5. **Budget Report –** Seifts reported that the tentative budget was submitted to the town board by the town clerk and is now the preliminary budget. The public hearing will be on November 4th and the budget must be adopted before November 20, 2024.

6. **Museum Update –** Parascandola praised Jim Reis for submitting a letter to the grantors stating that the museum must be restored before this coming winter, to avoid further deterioration of this historic building's foundation. Bain reached out to Elise Stefanik's

office and there will now be a meeting tomorrow with Jim Reis, Christine Bush and the Archeologist reviewers to see what questions they may have.

7. **Lake Stewards –** Bain let the board know that the lake stewards are done for the 2024 season, costing the town $4,500.00 with LPSA contributing $6,264.00 to cover the total payroll cost of $10,764.00 this year. The wash station will remain open until October 13, 2024 and will be closing down for the season on October 14, 2024.

8. **Community Gardens –**

LPCS 4th grade students came down to the community gardens and picked popcorn, beans, garlic, onions, beets, tomatoes, basil, pumpkins and squash. They cleaned up the gardens and prepared them for the next year. Mrs. Crouse said that the students would be preparing their crops into dishes back at school to try. O'Connell reported that the students made salsa and pesto sauce on pasta. Bain thanked June Bergholtz and her family as well as Mina Swanson for working so hard at the gardens.

New Business:

1. **Operation Green Light –** Encourages towns and Villages to light their towns green in support of Veterans for Veterans Day.

Resolution #141 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board approves Operation Green Light.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **2025 Annual Meeting and Training School (NYC) –** Bain let the board know that Feb 16-19 at the Marriott in NYC, Association of Towns is having their annual training for Elected and Appointed Officials.

McGovern let the board know that this is a great session for training. Let the clerk know if you plan to attend.

Committee Reports:

Parks and Recreation Committee – scheduling a meeting for Thursday at 11:00.

Youth Recreation- O'Connell let the board know that the committee met with Laura O'Brian about the advanced lessons for interested students. Free ski times for the students in grades 4+ that don't want lessons, but want to ski, was discussed. Bain mentioned getting the refund check from the Town of Arietta for summer recreation.

Cemetery Committee – O'Connell thanked the committee for removing the tree in South Shore Cemetery.

Buildings Committee –

Resolution #142 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #39 dated: 9/26/2024, #3680 - 3685 in the amount of $27,163.93. Abstract #40 dated: 10/01/2024, #3686 – 3701 in the amount of $40,264.51.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Braunius asked about the street lighting bill. Costs have gone up. O'Connell asked about the late charge to the library credit card and a taillight for a tractor that had a cracked taillight. She asked about the two P.O. Boxes for the town, one in the town and one in the Village. Smith explained the history of why there are two town boxes and one court P.O. box. It was discussed that the town P.O. boxes could be reduced to two.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

-Seifts mentioned that the library is doing town clean up on October 15 3:00 p.m. on route 30 south of Speculator starting from the parking area.

Roundtable:
-Braunius mentioned that he was on ADK experience online where he found, explore our small towns, where several are listed but they have Speculator listed not Town of Lake Pleasant. Bain to address this.
-McGovern mentioned that he went to primary care that led to an ambulance ride with the Wells EMS and he got a bill. He wanted to praise SVAC for not charging for transport in our area.
-Parascandola mentioned fire training on her street that scared neighbors who were not notified about the training. She is asking if the emergency training drills can be notified to the public prior to the trainings. Bain will contact training officers.
- O'Connell let all know that the last event for the historical society will be on Oct. 19, 2024, at 7 P.M. at the Speculator cemetery.
-Smith mentioned needing to replace a computer in the clerk's office next year.
-LaVarnway asked about the greenhouse plastic covering, needing to be taken down for winter and O'Connell will look into if it can withstand snow load or not.
-Bain went over the septic system replacement fund. Currently there are 239 eligible residents and soil and water will bill the municipalities for mailings.
-Bain thanked soil and water for the nice educational event they put on about forest roads and bridges withstanding storms, management etc.
-Bain mentioned the contract for Consolidated Health and another meeting is in the planning.
-Speculator Chamber of Commerce is working through new quotes and will be working on doing snow mobile maps.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday October 21, 2024, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius 2ND **by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:50 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk