April 7, 2025

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 April 7, 2025, 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
Councilmen: Don Braunius, Kathy O'Connell and Meg Parascandola
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Shorty Hoffman, Kristin Yoder, Karen McComb (Library President), Michael Visscher, and Paul Allen.
Absent: Neil McGovern

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #40 To approve the minutes of March 17, 2025.
Offered by: Braunius **for Discussion**
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Abstained: O'Connell

Contractor, Michael Visscher came to ask the board for funds to cover the $405.00 increase to the heat/AC split unit quote from contractor. The JCAP grant awarded funds for purchase and installation for the exact amount of the original quote.

Resolution # 41 Town Board Approves of Contractor, Michael Visscher Collecting New Quotes for Heat/AC Split Unit.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Whereas, if new quotes come in higher than the previous quote, the town board approves covering the $405 difference in the existing quote, if funds are available in the town budget.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- Museum porch materials were ordered and arrived last Friday. Once the weather is warmer, highway crew will begin tearing down the old porch and building the new porch back onto the museum.
-FEMA sent a notice that the town's paperwork was not complete to their specifications. LaVarnway did some research and filled in the blanks to send the FEMA paperwork back into FEMA to get coverage for the bridge project. This all had to do with the National Grid telephone polls in the wetlands getting moved during this project. Requests keep coming back and paperwork keeps going back to them.
-Groomers are all put away and Perkins Clearing gates are all locked. LaVarnway has received many calls about when the gates will reopen and the sign says reopening is May 31st.
-An accident occurred when a town employee hit the wash bay door after he hit the gas instead of the brake in a plow truck. Damage from plow hitting wash bay door amounted to four bent panels and broken glass windows. The plow truck did not have any damage.
-Replacement of doors will cost less if replaced in full rather than in pieces and parts. The insurance company will be contacted after the estimate for replacement is in. Currently the wash bay front door is locked and entry/exit has to be from the back.
-LaVarnway thanked William Warton for taking care of a nuisance beaver that was causing trouble flooding a resident's property and the town road.

Old Business:

1. **Short Term Rentals/Bed Tax –**
   Bain explained that the County will be doing a registry, and a percent of the sales tax money will come back to the County. They have gotten three quotes and will hire a company to set up and manage the registry. After long discussion, the County has decided not to do an occupancy tax. The towns of Arietta, Morehouse and Lake Pleasant voted yes to the occupancy tax and the remainder of the towns voted no. Bain asked the board to go online and watch the NYSAC webinar for educational purposes.
   Bain asked if the town board would like to institute a occupancy tax even though all the towns around the County won't be instituting it. Braunius mentioned that Hamilton County will be the only County in the surrounding area that will not be instituting an occupancy tax. O'Connell asked how it would affect the Village of Speculator if the town put a bed tax in play. Bain stated that the town might not be able to put a bed tax in play on its own as a town without the County support. Discussion about liability insurance and collecting platforms was had at the table. Bain suggested tabling for now and the board members will look into and do research. O'Connell and Braunius are very disappointed in the County.

2. **BTI Report** – Tabled due to delay with weather not permitting treatments to start.

New Business:

Resolution #42 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Appoints Kristin Yoder as Deputy Town Clerk to the Town Clerk to fill term vacated 2/28/2025-12/31/2025.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #43 Town Board approves the new Town Clerk Hours.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, and Parascandola)
Nays: O'Connell

Town Clerk Office Hours 2025
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Court goes into session at 5:00 p.m.
Fridays by appointment only 518-548-3625 Ext. 2
Feel free to use the drop box to left of door.

Resolution #44 Town Board to Approve the Office of the Aging Contract Between Warren and Hamilton Counties.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: O'Connell asked how this affects the senior meal site. Bain explained that it doesn't affect the meal site only covers the bus trips and interaction between the seniors in the town counties.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

****See Attached****

Resolution #45 Town Board to Approves Receiving JCAP Grant Funds and Creating Expense and Revenue Budget Lines.
2024 -2025 Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant
Offered by: Parascandola
WHEREAS, the Town of Lake Pleasant has applied for and been awarded the 2024-25 Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant through the NYS Unified Court System, and

WHEREAS, grant funds have been received in the amount of $11,664.18 and must be expended within 180 days for eligible Justice Court expenses, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Expense account number A.1110.0404 – Justices, JCAP Grant, be created and funded in the amount of $11,664.18 to be totally offset by creating and funding Revenue account A.3089.0100 – State Aid, JCAP Grant, by $11,664.18, and the bookkeeper be so authorized.
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)

Nays: None

Resolution #46 Town Board to Approve the Memorandum of Inter-Municipal Agreement Between Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES and Town of Lake Pleasant.
Offered by: Braunius **to Discuss:**
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell asked about the fee schedule increasing. Lavarnway said that the cost goes up on occasion depending on who is contracted. She also asked how often the drug testing is done. LaVarnway said that they do random drug/alcohol testing four times a year. There is very little notice to the Highway Superintendent that the testing contractor is coming to perform testing.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #47 Town Board to Rescind Resolution #37 of March 17, 2025.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution # 48 Town Board Approves Applying for Financial Assistance from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) Under Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993.
Offered by: Braunius
WHEREAS, the Town of Lake Pleasant applied for financial assistance from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) under the **Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993** for the purpose of funding the development of Elm Lake Road Park and;
WHEREAS, the Town was awarded $255,795 for the *Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Implementation Phase I* project and;
WHEREAS, the Town now wishes to accept this grant and proceed with the State Contracting Process;
NOW THEREFORE,
RESOLVED, that the Town is authorized and directed to accept these grant funds in an amount not to exceed $255,795 for the project described in the grant application;

RESOLVED, that the Town is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of the State of New York Contract for Grants ("Contract") with OPRHP for such development of the Elm Lake Road Park;
RESOLVED, the Town is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of any required deed of easement granted to OPRHP that affects title to real property owned by the municipality and improved by the grant funds, which may be a duly recorded public access covenant, conservation easement, and/or preservation covenant;
RESOLVED, that the Town Board delegates signing authority to execute the Contract and any amendments thereto, any required deed of easement, and any other certifications to the Town Supervisor.
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #49 Town Board to Approve the Town of Lake Pleasant Website User Password Management Policy.
Offered by: Parascandola **to discuss:**
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Parascandola explained that an advisory committee was formed to go over best practices and how to apply safe passwords for the town of Lake Pleasant employees and elected officials. O'Connell asked about administrator use and access to passwords and Parascandola reassured that this will be done securely. Allen brought up that it will be individual password usage only with no sharing of passwords. Smith stated that this practice cannot be fully applied to the clerk's office where she and her deputy share program access. Discussion about different departments needs to share passwords was had at the table.
Board decision:
Edit to password sharing will be done to the policy and approved by the board for final policy at the next meeting.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

HWY Committee - LaVarnway explained that a year ago Allison Buckley with DEC spoke with LaVarnway about the town maintaining the road from Perkins Clearing Road to the Spruce Lake gate. The state would pay for all the maintenance and supplies while the town would do the work. The state will do the Miami junction and take care of the flooding problem areas. The state has asked the town to lay down the crushed stone phase one on the last two miles of the road that is washed out. Last Thursday, Braunius, McGoven, Buckley and Eldredge from the County met and discussed how the road would get repaired to a passable level. The cost

estimates started at $30,000.00 then after phases were broken down to get the road passable, it amounted to $47,131.00.
Priority one is to get the road passable safely. Priority two is to finish the road.
Discussion about time frame for the work, equipment prevailing wages and hourly rates was had at the table. LaVarnway explained that in June and July the town HWY crew will be working on shared services. Page St. will get paved this summer when the state releases the funds. These shared services will allow the town to get equipment paid for with revenues collected.
Parascandola wanted to make sure the town will not get penalized for not doing the work within a certain time frame. O'Connell asked if the town employees have time for this work around their usual seasonal work to be done for the town. LaVarnway said they would work around the work for the town and the town will not get penalized for work not completed in the time frame.

Resolution #50 Town Board Approves the Scope of Work for the Jessup River Road Improvements.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion:
The board discussed approving the resolution after it is approved by the Highway Committee.

Resolution #51 Amending Resolution #50 Town Board will Approve the Contract after the Highway Committee Approves the Draft.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Website – Parascandola reported that the website continues to get updated. Please e-mail with requests to remove old data off the website if they are found.
Building Committee –Parascandola explained the survey has been completed and maps drawn up, opinion of municipal council is complete. Everything that was asked for has been submitted to the grantor. A sign marker for the location will be needed and that will complete what is needed for Phase 1. Parascandola and O'Connell met with Allison Gaddy about the MPR Grant. It is a short application with a deadline of May 2, 2025. They discussed the grant requirements, and one request is for a building to be built with the grant funds. The grant seeks to protect the environment, and the pathway upgrades will help protect the wetlands. After applying for the grant the town would need to request letters of recommendation from the school, DRAG, garden club, library, senior center, County Tourism, public, etc. The idea of phase two is for the Sacandaga Pathways to connect with the park and tennis/pickleball, garden, and possibly restricted restrooms. Public input to see what the public would like to see in their community is desired for applying for this grant. Braunius mentioned that if the town can get awarded 1M then we should propose building a building where community events can be held year-round. O'Connell feels that the application

deadline is too soon for a quick throw together plan for phase two. She would like to have more time for planning. Parascandola explained that the town doesn't have to ask for the full amount, but the town could ask for a portion of the funds for a specific project.
It was decided to have Parascandola submit an application letter and invite the public to the next town meeting to hear what towns people have ideas for community improvements. An engineer will be contacted for a schematic of the site. Discussion about the best area of land in the lot for a building and parking lot was had in the room.

Resolution #52 Town Board approves Parascandola Submitting a Sight Plan and bring back the Information for the Next Board Meeting.
Offered by: Bain
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Parascandola mentioned that the museum's new plan for roof and exterior painting has been submitted to the grantee and LaVarnway has lined up the work to be done for the rest of the project.

Youth Recreation – O'Connell reported that the committee is working on activities for students that are not going away on spring break.

Resolution #53 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #11 dated 03/26/2025, 3962-3965 in the amount of $27,970.84. Abstract #12 dated 04/04/2025, 3966-3988 in the amount of $22,071.28. Abstract #13 dated 04/07/2025, 3989 in the amount of $4,032.00.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Bain mentioned that the BTI ad went into the paper in color that is why cost is high but this will not happen again. The library had another late fee payment in the bills. Hamilton County Treasurers office is going to set up wire transfer payments in the future to avoid this happening again.
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
- McComb mentioned that Community Pride Day is on Wednesday, May 7th at 3:00 p.m. and the library will be doing the Rt. 30 clean up that same day. She asked about the timeline for putting the back room on the museum and LaVarnway said that it will be done after the porch is put back on. He is delayed due to weather and ground thaw.

-McComb asked about the Senior of the year award and what the town will be doing for it. Bain explained that Warren County Office of the Aging invites the senior to a luncheon in Albany.
- McComb mentioned the wonderful historical display at the local NBT bank that was put up by the town historian, Aaron Weaver.
-McComb mentioned that the town board should ask the taxpayers if they want a bed tax on STR rentals in their town. Bain said that it would need to go on the ballot at elections if the town can implement this.
-McComb mentioned what a big step the town made when they rebuilt the library. If that group of individuals didn't have the vision that they had, and dove for it, the town wouldn't have the library that it has today. O'Connell said that she wants the plan down before applying for the grant.

Roundtable:

- Braunius mentioned a food giveaway in Wells that had so much food that his wife, who was collecting for others, got her car filled. Discussion was had about how it was advertised and why the food drive has not come to Lake Pleasant.
- Smith mentioned that she closes out the taxes with the County on Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- Bain informed the board that Ken Kurt gave her a report that SVAC received a $45,000 grant from a bank in Western New York. SVAC used the funds to purchase a Zoll Cardiac Monitor for the Speculator ambulance. The same day that SVAC received the grant they got a call from a foundation that is donating $45,000 to the core. The core will be purchasing a new rescue machine for all seasons and the core still needs two more drivers and EMT's. Contact Ken if anyone is willing to volunteer.
- Museum donations are up to $8,530.00.
- Sally Cross wants to know if the Speculator donated fire truck can be stored behind the museum under cover.
- Bills have to be turned in by Wednesday next week due to the Friday Holiday.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday April 21, 2025, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:53 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk