April 21, 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 21, 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
Councilman: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, Kathy O'Connell, and Meg Parascandola
Deputy Town Clerk: Kristin Yoder
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Eileen LaVarnway, Shorty Hoffman, Nancy Seifts (Budget Officer), Karen McComb (Library President).
Absent: Stephanie Smith (Town Clerk)

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #54 To approve the minutes of April 7, 2025.
Offered by: Braunius **for Discussion:**
2ND by: Parascandola
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – Braunius, and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Abstained: McGovern
Absent: O'Connell

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway reviewed with the board, that at the last meeting he informed the board of a plow truck damaging the wash bay door. A quote came in to replace the door at $7,674.00 and an insurance check for $5,743.14 was received after the $2,500.00 deductible was met. The plow truck did not suffer any damage.
- Generators all ran well during the power outage this weekend.
- Two out of the three plow trucks have had their plows taken off.
- Museum stairs have been built and put on the front of the museum.
- LaVarnway continues to work on the DEC contract that he presented to the board at the last meeting. Prevailing wage is not necessary with the town and state working together.
- The 284 agreement is waiting for funds to be approved to the town by the state.

- LaVarnway has not received any responses yet from the seven individuals at FEMA that he sent paperwork to.
O'Connell arrived at 7:07 p.m.
- The pickup truck that was ordered back in November has been built and should be coming in soon.
- There was an electrical issue discovery when the town workers were working at the museum. LaVarnway explained that between the circuit panel and the meter panel the neutral is faulty. National Grid will come out and disconnect the power so that the town workers can fix the ground wire.

Old Business:

1. **Short Term Rentals/Occupancy Tax –**
   Bain explained that the town can do an occupancy tax if the town decides to implement one. It would have to be voted on by the taxpayers at a general election. Most surrounding towns have decided not to go with an occupancy tax. Bain opened up for discussion and Braunius stated that he would like to see the town implement an occupancy tax. McGovern doesn't think that the town should jump into this alone. O'Connell asked if the Village would be included, and Bain said that they would be on their own. Parascandola asked about what kind of revenue this would amount to for the town. Any revenue for the town would depend on how many short term rentals are housed within the town.
   Discussion continued

   Resolution #55 Town Board to Table the Short Term Rental Occupancy Tax.
   Tabled by: McGovern
   2nd by: Braunius
   Adopted by the following votes:
   Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain – Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
   Nays: None

2. **BTI Report** – Bain reported that the treatments started early April when it was very cold out. DEC contacted Wicks and wanted to come out in the field with the town applicators. This was done on April 16th as protocol. Two new applicators would like to volunteer to do this job and not receive payment. Bain will look into the particulars of this and get back to the board.
3. **Digital Towpath -** Bain explained that Digital Towpath is requesting to have the town pay for the $200.00 bill that the town board decided to dispute. Parascandola mentioned that this was disputed because Digital Towpath agreed to have the town's information available for sixty days after the cancellation of the contract. McGovern stated that a letter should

be sent to the Association of Towns explaining that Digital Towpath is not a company that municipalities should be dealing with.

Resolution #56 Town Board Approves Paying for the Digital Towpath Bill
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain – Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

New Business:

Resolution #57 Town Board Approves the Creation of New Budget Line DB.9050.801 to House Funds for Unemployment Expenditure.
Offered by: Parascandola
Whereas, the Town of Lake Pleasant will transfer $16,200.00 from Fund Balance to fund the new DB.9050.801 line.
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain – Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None
This is the first time that the town has had an unemployment claim go through.

Resolution #58 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Take Funds from Tennis Court Reserve Fund A.7140.0401 to Pay Blanchard Land Surveying the Amount of $4,800.00 and to Reimburse Meg Parascandola for Fees Paid to File Maps at Hamilton County in the Amount of $16.00.
Offered by: McGovern
Be it Resolved that this move will pay for the survey and maps of, Project Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Implementation Phase 1.
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – Braunius, McGovern and O'Connell)
Nays: None
Abstained: Parascandola
Discussion was had about what the tennis court reserve fund can be used to fund.

1. **NY Security Cyber Shared Services Endpoint Detection and Response Program.**
Bain explained that this is a free program through the state that has been offered to the two largest towns in each county. If Lake Pleasant declines, then it will be offered to the next largest town in the County. This program will cover the town for three years with cybersecurity and the town can opt out at any time.

Resolution #59 Town Board to Approve Participation in the NYS Cyber Shared Services Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) Program.
Moved to discussion by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell watched the webinar on the cybersecurity and she thinks the town should participate.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain – Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

- **Website Committee –** Parascandola reported that Community pages have been worked on and will be added soon as well as the link to the library page.
- **Building Committee –** Parascandola explained that the town is waiting for the initial Archaeological review for paint and roofing for the museum. Phase one of the Elm Lake Road paperwork has been submitted and waiting for feedback from the Association. O'Connell and Parascandola have worked on Phase two plans for the second grant. MK Construction met with them on site for review. Jim Reis will do a site plan, and the committee is looking for letters of support. O'Connell expressed that community suggestions and support is necessary on this project. Parascandola explained that eight community groups have been contacted. The grant application is due May 2nd and Parascandola asked for the public to reach out with ideas and input.
- **Youth Recreation Committee** – No trips were scheduled during spring break for children that didn't go away.
- **Cemetery Committee** – Will schedule to meet this week to go over list of work to complete with reopening.

Resolution #60 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #14 dated 04/16/2025, 3990-4006 in the amount of $20,936.71.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell asked about two bills with the same voucher # and Bain explained that they were two bills getting billed to the same company and one check was issued so they were vouchered with the same number.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- McComb mentioned that volunteers help with the pathways and the town should not be concerned with the individuals volunteering for BTI.
- Hoffman mentioned that the tennis court property is under the Village Well Head Protection Plan and the town should be aware of this with any building in this area. O'Connell stated that 500 feet around the well head must be avoided. Discussion about the whole lot and surrounding lands was had in the room.

Roundtable:

- Braunius announced that after the power outage occurred, his land line has not been working. He has reached Frontier for technical assistance, but the phone line is not up and running yet.
- Braunius mentioned that if the town applies for a grant, it should investigate buying an existing property. The town could refurbish a building and use it as a community building for programs, indoor farmers market, meetings etc. Parascandola explained that this grant has a requirement for building not renovation so she isn't sure if purchasing a building would qualify under the grant specifications. McGovern stated that we are the only town that doesn't have a community hall in the surrounding area, and he feels that we are long overdue for one. Parascandola to reach out to Allison Gaddy to see if purchasing a building can qualify for the current grant application specifications. She asked if there would need to be another meeting before the next board meeting. McGovern stated that any further discussions should be in executive session.
- Bain heard back about the NY State Food Drive and was informed that they will be having one every other month in our area. There will be another one in June. The last one in Wells was successful.
- JC Parslow has started working on RO systems. He may take the spare unit at the Town Hall to replace an older unit.
- Bain received a call about the Primary Care center glass window removal at the front desk. This removal has allowing for office staff communication about patients being able to be heard by individuals waiting in the waiting room. Sean Fadale, CEO of Nathan Littauer, with Nathan Littauer, will take care of this.
- The museum telephone is scheduled to be reinstalled on May 14, 2025, and will cost $95 for reactivation.
- There is a new program in the County to provide venison to veterans in the County. Those interested are to call Laura Abrams at the County.
- Bain gave the board the first Quarter Report from the Speculator Chamber of Commerce to review.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday May 5, 2025, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:05 P.M.
All in Favor
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk