August 4, 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 August 4, 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
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent: Randy LaVarnway
Guests: Karen McComb (Library President), Nancy Seifts (Budget Officer), and Shorty Hoffman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #106 To approve the minutes of July 21, 2025.
Offered by: Parascandola for **Discussion**
2ND by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway got a call about the bus garage after a door came crashing to the ground. No one was hurt. The door cables had uncoiled and went from open to closed. As a result, the windows were crashed and it crumpled like an accordion. A company was called out the next day and they installed pogo sticks on each end to prevent the cable from uncoiling. They will give LaVarnway an estimate to have other doors installed with these parts.
-There has been a bear issue twice at the clinic where the bear has gotten into the garbage shed. Braunius recommends an electric fence or bear proof dumpster.
-Crew has been working on ditching in Sacandaga Estates and replacing culverts on Page Street. They will be paving next Tue-Thurs. on Page St.
-All paperwork is back in order for the Perkins Clearing Project. LaVarnway has ordered the machine, and the County will pick it up so the project can start next Wednesday.

-The newest HWY employee has his permit and is ready to work towards his CDL license.
-An employee application for a mechanic came in and the interview was on Friday evening. A new mechanic will be able to start next week if all paperwork is in and a drug test is passed.
-Discussion about CDL license getting acquired from training at the County through shared services and how the board can come up with a plan to keep the employees once they acquire their CDL license was had. The Highway Committee will work on a resolution to the handbook for employees once they acquire their CDL license.
-Grant for pickleball/tennis court

Old Business:

1. **Elm Lake Road Project Grant –**

Parascandola reviewed that on June 22, 2025 the application was in and the state made changes. Supervisor Bain signed and resubmitted the application and the state has the grant contract in pending status. Until it is out of pending status no further steps can be taken.
-Road signs that advertise for businesses and such are not legal on roadside corners.
-Flagpole positioning has been looked into and will be placed on the originally planned for site in Airdville cemetery on the second level. Flag raising ceremony was discussed and the board decided to reach out to the veterans for organizing the flag raising ceremony.

2. **Chamber Snowflake Lights –**
   Bain tabled for tonight explaining that at the last meeting the board had give Bain the go ahead to meet with the Village Mayor and the Chamber to discuss moving forward with the snowflake lights. The three parties have not been able to meet yet so Bain tabled this until they can meet.

3. **Password Management Policy –**

At the March 24th Town Board meeting the board reviewed the draft, but it wasn't approved at that point due to edits that needed to be made.
Resolution #107 Town Board to Approve the Password Management Policy.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

New Business:

1. **Solar Farms in Lake Pleasant –**

Bain informed the board that code enforcer, Steve Page has gotten calls about solar farms in the town and Page recommended the board discuss this topic.

Resolution #108 Town Board to Move to discuss Solar Farms coming into the town.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion:
Braunius asked where a solar farm could possibly be established on town lands without cutting a large number of trees down and Parascandola stated concern that there is nothing stating that they can't cut large numbers of trees down.
The board discussed that companies are reaching out to land owners about leasing properties for solar farms.
McGovern would like this to go to the zoning committee to examen and discuss the likelihood of this going in our town.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #109 Town of Lake Pleasant Places a Moratorium on Any and All Solar Farms to be Placed in the Confines of the Town of Lake Pleasant, Outside of the Village of Speculator, Until the Planning Board has had Time to Review and Devise a Long-Term Policy.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. Short Term Rental Renewal Increase for 2026-2027-
Bain explained that with expenses for postage, paper, printing and envelopes up, Page would like to increase the cost of the STR fee from $50 to $100 annual fee in another year. October renewal letters are going out next month and can include an information note about the $50 increase for the 2026-2027 renewal year.

Resolution #110 Town of Lake Pleasant STR Annual Fee Increasing to $100 for the Year October 1, 2026 – September 31, 2027.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: O'Connell stated that the purpose of the STR $50 fee is to make sure STR's are safe and to get owners to register them with the town. With rising costs in postage and supplies the $50 increase will get the expense of registration covered.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

- **Cemetery Committee –** Braunius already went over the flag pole.
- **Website –** Parascandola asked about the new computers getting installed and Smith let all know that the new computers are up and running, next step is to install CrowdStrike and Microsoft 365.
- **Youth Recreation** – O'Connell let the room know that she and Parascandola are working on updating the job description for youth director. Water Safari trip is this week and the planetarium was last week. Planning events around school Superintendent days and school days off for fall and winter.
- **Building Committee –** O'Connell reviewed at the last board meeting the bids for the museum new roof and painting of siding were opened. The committee reviewed and contacted the lowest bidder to find out that they are certified with the state for lead paint removal. LaVarnway did some research on the company and he and the committee suggest that the board go with this company.

Resolution #111 Town Board to Approve AGT Constructors LLC out of Albany, NY as the Bid Winner for the Museum New Roof and Lead Paint Removal and Repainting for $38,475.00.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Parascandola asked if they will be paying prevailing wages, and LaVarnway said that it was requested in the bid packet.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #112 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #25 dated 07/29/2025, 4150-4153 in the Amount of $25,222.64. Abstract #26 dated 08/01/2025, 4154-4170 in the Amount of $30,489.96.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
- McComb asked how many STR's are in the Town of Lake Pleasant, and Bain said that there are twenty-eight registered. The board explained that registration costs cover the time and supplies Page spends working on getting the properties registered and other municipalities are charging much more. McComb also mentioned the Quack-a-Palooza with duck races and chicken BBQ coming up on the 12th of August from 4-6 p.m. The tickets are $20 apiece and can be purchased at the library or from any library board member.

-Hoffman stated that the solar farms destroy the land they are on and the temperature is always higher around the solar farms.

Roundtable:

- Braunius mentioned the two giant chip piles in town and that he heard that sewage treatment plants are looking for chips to use them as filters.
- Parascandola informed the room that the 100-year anniversary of the Village of Speculator picnic will be on Aug. 16th from 11-3 at the Speculator Pavilion. Next Tuesday, 800 ducks will be dropped off the bridge during Quack-A-Palooza.
- O'Connell saw someone go down the pathway on a bike so she took pictures of the signs. She had to look for the one that said no biking on the pathway. She thinks that it is not visible enough. LaVarnway will look for the no bike sign at town hall and put it up.
- Smith asked the board to repass the Standard Work Day Resolution after the date was incorrect on the state resolution that was sent to the State Comptroller.

Resolution #113 Amendment to Resolution #82 Town Board Approves of the New Record of Activity Results for Judge Smith.
Whereas, new resolution is needed to change date.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

- Bain let the table know that letters went out certified from buildings and codes about the junk storage law to those that are violating this law in the town.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday August 18, 2025, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

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