September 15, 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 September 15, 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: Chris Ambrose, Nancy Seifts (Budget Officer), and Shorty Hoffman.
Absent: Councilman - Neil McGovern

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Followed by a Prayer for Councilman Neil McGovern

Resolution #122 To Approve the Minutes of September 2, 2025.
Offered by: O'Connell for **Discussion**
2ND by: Braunius
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway reported that the boat wash station was picked up today. He thanked the employees running the wash for cleaning and packing wash station up for storage. Fence and wash station were picked up, winterized and stored away in less than two hours.
-Tennis courts are progressing with the County helping to haul gravel in from Adirondack Gravel. Grading will need to be done on the dirt then gravel will go down.
-Work in Perkins Clearing is going well with widening the road and putting in new culverts that Lyme Timber donated to the project.
-Auctions International has been listing the towns old recycling truck and LaVarnway is asking the board to approve selling it for $1,075.00.
Resolution #123 Town Board to Approve Sale of Old Recycling Truck on Auctions International for $1,075.00.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius

Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

-FEMA status of award has been moved to award pending at this time. O'Connell asked how long it was in review and LaVarnway responded with, two years.
-Stage 2 of Snowmobile grant has been sent in.
-The town highway department will be doing shared services with paving other towns next week.

Old Business

1. **Museum Bid Process –**
   Smith reported that the notice to bid was duly advertised in the Hamilton County Express and the NYS Contract Reporter starting on August 20, 2025 with seventeen electronic requests in to date with one bid packet into town hall. Special meeting to open bids will be held on Monday September 22, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at town hall.

2. **Budget Process Report** – Seifts reported to the board that the budget committee met with most department heads about their budgets for 2026. They will be meeting with the rest of them this week. Seifts thanked the Hamilton County Treasurers office for their help with the program.

New Business:

1. **Temporary Deputy Supervisor -**
   Bain would like to appoint a temporary deputy Supervisor while McGovern is out.

Resolution #124 Town Board Appoints Meg Parascandola as Temporary Deputy Supervisor to Fill Position While McGovern is out.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Bain explained that this is needed while McGovern is out so there is a deputy Supervisor to fill Bain's shoes if necessary and to have someone extra to help with the upcoming budget process. This temporary appointment will not affect the budget.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – Braunius and O'Connell)
Nays: None
Abstained: Parascandola

2. **POW Flag at Airdville Cemetery –**
   Bain explained that Charlie Vandermallie has offered to purchase and donate a flag to the Airdville Cemetery and she would like the board to discuss the topic.

Resolution #125 Town Board to Discuss Having a POW Flag Flown over Airdville Cemetery Under the American Flag.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: Braunius says that he is fine with the town purchasing the POW flag to go up on the flag pole under the American flag. LaVarnway stated that if the town flies the POW flag, then when requests come in to fly other flags, will the town meet those requests too. O'Connell doesn't want the memorial to become just a veteran's memorial spot. Parascandola stated that if this additional flag is put up it will set precedence to the next flag request to be flown.
Discussion continued and the permission to fly a POW flag under the American flag in Airdville Cemetery was tabled.

3. **2026 Association of Towns Annual Training –**
   Bain let the board know that this coming year AOT annual training will be at the Marriott Marquis in New York City from February 15th-18th.
   Parascandola had expressed that she is interested in going this year. Board members that are interested in attending are to see the town clerk to get registered for conference.

4. **DEC Draft Management Plan –**
   Bain informed the board about the County drafting a letter of support and that the towns can draft a similar letter of support from each town if they choose.

Resolution #126 Town Board Opened to Discuss the Draft Management Plan Provided by DEC.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Each board member gave their varying thoughts on the meeting and management plan that was presented at the meeting. Discussion about trails and possible improvements such as handicap accessibility to trails was had at the table.
Bain mentioned that board members could send individual letters into DEC if they wish to instead of the town submitting a letter. Discussion continued resulting in board members deciding to submit individual letters of support.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

- **Cemetery Committee** – Braunius- flag is up and LaVarnway mentioned that the fence in South Shore has been fixed.
- **Website** – Parascandola mentioned that she and Smith met with an IT Consultant last week. Waiting on an estimate from this IT Consultant for services he could provide to the town.
- **Building Committee** – LaVarnway asked to schedule a meeting about budget.
- **Health Insurance Committee** – Smith reported that coverage figures have been coming in from Marshall and Sterling for 2026. MVP figures not in yet but Humana scripts and Hartford are in and figures will be turned into Seifts for budget.

- **Youth Recreation -** O'Connell reported that budget planning for 2026 has begun. Looking at possible activities for the fall season.
- **Highway Committee –** Meeting to get scheduled for budget reasons.

Parascandola mentioned that for the grant requirements a sign needs to be purchased.

Resolution #127 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #31 dated 09/11/2025, 4225-4241 in the amount of $18,852.94.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Braunius asked how LaVarnway is able to keep up with all the calls he has to take on the town HWY cell phone.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
- Seifts mentioned a man hunt is out for an individual from Cohoes in Franklin County.
- Hoffman reported that he and Beverly have been cleaning up the museum and they had over 60 visitors this summer since reopening. He mentioned that Alba Buyce's great granddaughter came in to do research and one of the original school teacher's decedents came in. He brought up the state and IP lands and how people leased the lands from IP years ago for camps and outfitting.

Roundtable:

-Braunius said that everyone did a great job with the flag ceremony. School students that attended were well behaved and respectful of the ceremony and the grave yard.
-Bain explained that she and Parascandola got coffee going at the VFW and Mel O'Connell had made a beautiful cake. Bain thanked the sheriff's department for directing traffic and the local fire departments and EMS as well as the Veterans and townspeople that attended the ceremony. Bain thanked Mr. Hartman for spreading the word to the local volunteer agencies about the ceremony.
-Bain mentioned that she and LaVarnway had an insurance meeting with Steve Sawn and the library building was assessed at a much higher value than the clinic so Sawn will look into this.
-Amy Granger from Probation stopped by to let the Supervisor know that she has set up for Chris Herren, from the Boston Celtics, to come to Wells school to do a presentation for the students on his addiction to alcohol and drugs on Thursday November 6, 2025. This presentation is open to the schools and the public.
-Bain has provided the septic replacement list put out by soil and water at the table.
-Bear and Wine Festival is scheduled for Saturday September 20th from 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the Speculator Pavilion.
-Friends of the Library member Sandy LaVarnwa, presented a check to Library Director, Katrina Cohea in the amount of $6,000.00 to support the library programs, activities, and events in 2025.
-Apple Fest is scheduled for Saturday September 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Speculator Pavilion.

-Oaktoberfest is scheduled for Sunday September 28th from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Oak Mountain.

Next meeting: Our next regular meeting will be on Monday October 6, 2025, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library. Special meeting Monday September 22, 2025, at 4:00 PM to open Bids at Town Hall.
***ON A MOTION BY: Braunius 2ND by: Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 8:05 P.M.
All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk