October 6, 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 October 6, 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: Katy Novosel-Diedrich, Karen McComb (Library President), Rick Swift, Robert Carr, Nancy Seifts (Budget Officer), and Shorty Hoffman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #129 To Approve the Minutes of September 15, 2025 and Special Meeting on September 22, 2025 Minutes for Opening Bids.
Offered by: Parascandola for **Discussion**
2ND by: O'Connell
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Abstained: Braunius

Highway Report:

- LaVarnway updated the board on where the town is with FEMA close out of the Fish Mt. Rd. culvert project, $40,000 bridge. FEMA informed LaVarnway a while back that the funds would come back to the town. Last Friday LaVarnway called the state to find out that his e-mails had been dropped from the report notices. Today he received the report from FEMA that has taken out $28,000 of the final reimbursement total for costs not covered by the state. The costs not covered are legal fees and interest. LaVarnway had been given sixty days to file an appeal in the original e-mail chain that he didn't receive. He is asking the board to help him file for the appeal for $20,000 that FEMA should be covering for this project. Bain asked the board to decide about continuing with this. Parascandola and O'Connell have offered to help get this moved along. Tuesday October 14th they will meet and go through the paperwork.

-Chips forms are all in and are over what was budgeted for. One of the roads recently paved, Pelcher Rd., has started to break up already. This is the asphalt itself that was not good. LaVarnway had the company that they bought the product from come up and look at the road. He agreed that the product was not good. This needs to be repaired before winter and the plow trucks plow it. LaVarnway talked them into covering 50% of topping the road. Money made in chips will also go to repairing this road.
-The Elm Lake Rd. tennis courts have sub base and base prepared for next spring. There is work left to do but it is in good shape for next year. Parascandola asked about stairs going in on the walls and LaVarnway said that he is planning on stairs going in. O'Connell asked about parking and LaVarnway said that the parking will go near the road between the telephone poles. There will not be room for trees between the courts and parking area.
-LaVarnway reported that the Perkins Clearing Project is completed as of today. Parascandola asked if the state will contract for work next year and LaVarnway said that they are planning on work for next year.
-LaVarnway let the room know that he has contacted National Grid about large trees along the town roadways that need to be taken down to a safe level after Golf Course Rd. and Page St. residents have asked the town to do tree removal. Today LaVarnway submitted a work order request with National Grid to remove the trees that are near power lines.
-Parascandola asked about the shoulders on Page St. and LaVarnway said that when the equipment is available through the county, possibly week after next, this work will get done to put shoulders in along town roads that need them.

Old Business:

1. **Airdville Cemetery Flag –**

Bain reviewed that a resident asked about putting a POW flag in the Airdville Cemetery and on September 15th the board had a long discussion about this request that ended in tabling the request to tonight's meeting for a decision from the board.

Resolution #130 Town Board to Open for Discussion the Request to Fly a POW Flag in Airdville Cemetery.
Offered by:Parascandola for **discussion:**
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell said that she was undecided until she discovered that the veterans post does not fly a POW flag. She doesn't think the POW flag should be flown at the town cemetery. Parascandola mentioned that all national cemeteries fly POW flags, and the town is not a national cemetery. Braunius feels that the reason not to fly the flag is so that when the next flag request to be flown comes to the town, the town does not have to feel obligated to fill additional requests after filling this one. Bain asked for a vote and two board members would like the flag flown and two would not like the flag flown.

Vote: Braunius and Parascandola would like to have the POW flag up and O'Connell and McGovern don't want the flag to go up. Bain voted no to the POW flag for now and the board decided that they could revisit this topic in a year.

Whereas, the town board decided not to fly a POW flag at Airdville Cemetery.

Adopted by the following votes:

Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)

Nays: None

2. **Budget Report –**
   Seifts announced that the tentative budget is out to board members and department heads. More information is needed on the health insurance and Workman's comp from PERMA. She brought up that deputy court clerk and deputy town clerk lines are budgeted for yet no one is employed at this time for these positions. Budget committee will get together to discuss the budget for fine tuning and the public hearing will be on November 3rd at the next town board meeting at 7:00 PM. A meeting will be set up for the health and budget committees to meet with the health insurance representative.

3. **Clinic Flooring –**
   Bain has contacted multiple contractors since June to get estimates for flooring and has only secured two estimates. She has handed them out to the board.

   Resolution #131 Town Board made a Motion to Discuss the Clinic Flooring Estimates.
   Offered by: Braunius
   2nd by: O'Connell
   Discussion: Bain mentioned that the work will be covered by clinic funds donated for these projects. O'Connell stated that there is a $2,000 difference in the quotes. Comparison discussion went around the table.
   Parascandola pointed out that added fees can apply if there needs to be any extra repairs in one of the quotes.

   Resolution #132 Town Board to Accepts the Flooring Bid from Ruby & Quiri to Redo the Speculator Primary Care Waiting Room Floor.
   Offered by: Braunius
   2nd by: Parascandola
   Whereas, conditionally as long as the bids are still valid.
   Adopted by the following votes:
   Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
   Nays: None

4. **D.R.A.G. Agreement Discussion –**

Resolution #133 Town Board to Open for Discussion the DRAG options of Lease or Concession.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Parascandola explained the restrictions on leases within parkland based on grant requirements. Putting a lease on this area could cause restrictions for the towns use of the property in the future. When questions came up the town reached out to AOT about the leasing of town land and AOT gave the requirements for a lease vs. concession and what would be allowable. Concession is allowed within designated parkland and it would work like a concession stand with the town owning the property and DRAG having a contract to use a portion of the property.
A lease would have a thirty-day time period where the public has the opportunity to give their input which could lead to a permissive referendum and a public vote.
Concession requires a public hearing for public concern to come forward, prior to making the commitment. AOT recommends that with both directions, the municipality secure that the property can be used by the town at any time. Parascandola is asking DRAG to decide what direction DRAG would like to go in moving forward before lawyers and expenses are involved.
Rick Swift stated that he was not at the meeting but spoke on behalf of DRAG, explaining that DRAG wants to pursue the concession with the town land. He asked what the land is classified as now. Parascandola stated that the specific area of interest is not classified as park land at this time but it will be classified as park land if the town is accepted for grant funding. Carr asked if other areas of the lot are considered park land. Parascandola explained, the tennis court area is designated parkland. She mentioned that if there are restrictions placed on the land then it can make it difficult for the town land to qualify for grant funding.
The town has one other lease that is with the school paying $10,000 a year for the bus garage.
Bain mentioned that legal fees would have to be covered by DRAG. Bain will get in touch with the town attorney and see if they will meet with the town and DRAG to come to a mutual benefit for the town and DRAG.

New Business:

1. **October 20th Town Board Meeting Cancelled –**

Bain is canceling the next town board meeting and she asked the board to approve the bill pays contingent upon the boards review and approval.

Resolution #134 Town Board to Approve the Cancellation of the October 20th Meeting.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **Warren and Hamilton County office of the Aging Contract Lease Agreement**

Bain read a letter to the board that was sent to the Lake Pleasant Senior Citizens Group, Inc. from Warren/Hamilton Counties Office for the Aging that notifies the seniors group that they are terminating the lease agreement for operation of congregate meal site at the Speculator Senior Center in thirty days. Bain explained that in August of 2024 the senior center was originally closed due to a mold situation. Meals have since then been prepared elsewhere and brought up for pick up. The senior group has done everything they can to have the mold removed and the site back to a mold free site.

Resolution #135 Town Board Opened for Discussion.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: McGovern said that this is unfortunate for the senior group. If there is not a senior meal site here then the town can't budget for one. Bain said that the town budgets $5,500 each year for the meal site for seniors. Discussion went around the table about what could qualify for a meal site in the town.
Hoffman stated that the seniors have spent over $13,000 in cleaning up the center and having mold removed. Office of the aging was paying for half of the plowing and utility bill. Seniors pay for sewer and water.
Bain to contact Dee to see if the meals will still come up from Wells.
McGovern would like the funds to stay in the budget while the town and seniors work out everything.

Committee Reports:

- **Website Committee** – Smith explained that the Microsoft 365 program that was sold to the town by DELL would not install on the new device. She is now waiting for a credit to go through to reimburse the town for that program and to get a quote for the Microsoft 365 program that will work on the new device. Bain explained where town offices are at with new computer install and Parascandola said that she has not heard back from the IT tech. that came to meet with town offices. Smith is in the process of having the senior mechanic job listing taken down from the highway department page as this position has been filled.

- **Building Committee –**
  O'Connell went over the museum roof and paint bids and there were three that could be considered with the fourth coming in past time to submit. The lowest bid would cost the town $24,000 more than the $16,000 already spent this year for back room and steps. O'Connell would like to see the Town put this project to rebid in February and work would need to be done prior to June 1st.

Resolution #136 Town Board Made a Motion to Discuss the Museum Roof and Paint Bids
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: McGovern

Discussion: The grant will cover $41,000 and town would have to cover $24,000 with the lowest bid. The grant is a federal grant. Bain is concerned about waiting and losing the grant money. McGovern questions why February and not January and O'Connell said that January will be fine as well. McGovern wants to go with the committee's suggestion.

Resolution #137 Town Board to Accept the Buildings Committee Recommendation to Put the Museum Roof and Painting Project to Rebid in January of 2026.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Bruanius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

- **Youth Recreation** –

O'Connell informed the board that the committee is in discussion about the ski program and alternatives. This Friday a trip is planned to go to Teel Farms in Barneveld where there is a corn maze, pumpkin picking and barn activities.

- **HWY Committee** –

LaVarnway mentioned that it was contingent on CDL permit to get the new senior mechanic in the CDL program and a $3 raise. LaVarnway would like a policy in play for the employment. The committee will meet and discuss policy.

Resolution #138 Town Board Approves $3 raise for HWY Department Senior Mechanic.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #139 Motion to pay Bills: Abstract #32 dated 10/03/2025, 4242-4270 in the amount of $82,908.68. Abstract #33 dated 09/26/2025, 4271-4275 in the amount of $27,585.63.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell has not reviewed all of the abstracts so she will abstain from voting.
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Abstained: O'Connell

Public Comment:
- Novasel-Diedrich explained that National Grid informed her and her sister that they are not responsible for the trees along the road, the town is, and they are dangerous. LaVarnway stated

that he plans to ask National Grid to work with the town to get the trees to a safe situation. There are five trees that he is working to resolve safety issues about along town roads.
-McComb said that it is great to see a full board back at town hall. She took a ride through Perkins Clearing and complemented on the good work that was done. She asked about senior centers in other towns and who owns them. Bain explained that other towns fund or are involved in their senior centers. Parascandola mentioned that the seniors sent in letters of support and going forward other grants may come available that could be for a community center with a kitchen that could benefit the seniors.
She asked if the town would ever lease a building from an owner for a senior center. The public and the board discussed options in town for meal sites.
-Hoffman explained that after the senior center building was cleaned it was tested again and there was more mold found outside the building than inside the building.

Roundtable:
-Braunius gave kudos to the Fire Departments and EMS for working together on the forest fire yesterday in Arietta.
-McGovern thanked the board for their support and gifts while he was out.
-Parascandola mentioned that Oak Mountain and Camp Store are new members of the Speculator Regional Chamber of Commerce.
-Parascandola gave kudos to Ai for having the Bear and Wine Festival listed and that it directed some people from out of the area to come to the festival.
-O'Connell mentioned a large fire in Stratford and that we are under a burn ban.
-She mentioned proposition one of 2025 on the NYS election ballot this year that if voted for will allow for the expansion of Nordic ski and biathlon trails in the ADK park forest preserve at Mt. Van Hovenberg.
-Bain announced that in 2026 there will be four more towns that will be responsible for assessor services from the county. Lynn Billings will remain as the sole assessor for Lake Pleasant and Indian Lake. Towns will be responsible for dividing up the salary costs and the county will provide benefits. For Lake Pleasant the assessor salary cost to the town will be $26,000 which is down from 2025 at $39,000.
-Zoning/Codes officer has been busy with permits and STR renewals. Tax payers that were given notice to comply with cleanup have all complied except for one. The last date to comply was on October 1st. A compliance notice will be given again stating that if the town doesn't hear from them in two weeks, the town will clean up at the property owner's expense.
-Bain let all know that Ken Kurt came in to give an update on SVAC. They have purchased a new used snowmobile and enclosed sled to be used on smaller trails. The core is looking for EMT's and drivers and will have a class starting in January or February.
-Town dog warden was called out to a lost dog over the weekend but the owner was found before the dog needed to be housed in the town shelter.
-Bain was notified by the Town of Wells that their seniors do not want to go on bus trips and Wells will not be budgeting senior bus trips for the coming year.
-Bain will be meeting June Bergholtz and Mina Swanson for lunch tomorrow to thank them for all that they do in the town community gardens.

Resolution #140 A Motion was made to go into Executive session at 9:04 P.M. to discuss acquisition, lease or sale of real property or securities when publicity would substantially affect the value.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following votes:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #141 Town Board came out of Executive session at 9:18 P.M. with no action taken.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be on Monday November 3, 2025, at 7PM at the Lake Pleasant Library

***ON A MOTION BY**: Braunius **2ND by:** Parascandola
To Adjourn @ 9:19 P.M.
All in Favor

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk