November 3, 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 November 3, 2025, at the Lake Pleasant Library, 2864 State Route 8, Lake Pleasant, 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. Public hearing for 2026 budget held during this meeting.

The following were present:
Supervisor: Betsy Bain
Councilpersons: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, Kathy O'Connell, and Meg Parascandola
Budget Officer: Nancy Seifts
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Guest: Shorty Hoffman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #142 to Approve the Minutes of October 6, 2025
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Be it resolved, that the minutes of October 6, 2025, be approved as presented.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway and Buildings:
-LaVarnway reported to the board that the topcoat of pavement is down on Pelcher road. He thanked Hamilton County for their help with putting shoulders on town roads with the county's new equipment. This was all completed in one day, with extra help.
-The highway crew is back to five 8 hr. days. Due to this shift in workday hours, LaVarnway wants to remind residents that garbage may get picked up at a different time. The town garbage schedule notice says that residents should have their garbage out by 7:00 a.m. on the day of pick up.
-Driver training is going well with one employee taking the road test soon. Two employees have received their letters of completion from Hamilton County for CDL driving school.
-One plow truck is ready to plow the state road, and another one we will start preparing tomorrow.
-The new plow truck that was ordered in 2022 to replace the 2007 Sterling truck was delivered to Henderson in Watertown, NY in August of 2023 and should have the plow and dump body on it by mid-December of this year. This truck is three years in assembly if it comes in December.

-Paperwork was completed to get reimbursement for work done in Perkins Clearing. LaVarnway received confirmation that paperwork was correct and that the town should get reimbursement within thirty days. This was two weeks ago so the funds should be given to the town in two more weeks.
-LaVarnway and Parascandola called about the FEMA funding that the town is waiting for, to be told that they will look up the paperwork. To date they have not gotten back to the town about this funding. If a dispute can be made, they are ready to file a dispute.
-LaVarnway reported that he received good news from Parks and Recreation about snowmobile grant money. They are adding close to ten thousand to grant funds.

Old Business –

1. **Bus Garage Lease Agreement –**

Resolution #143 Town Board to Agree with the Bus Garage Lease Agreement between The Town of Lake Pleasant and Lake Pleasant Central School.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Whereas, the term of lease will go from a five-year lease to a two-year lease beginning on July 1, 2026, and terminating/renewing on June 30, 2028, for a sum of $14,000.00 per year to be paid monthly.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Contract will go to the school board for review with their budget committee.

2. **Snowflake Lighting Agreement –**
   Bain reviewed the snowflake lighting agreement where the town, village and chamber met and agreed to cover 1/3 of cost each. The cost comes to $113.58 a month, that comes to $1,362.96 so the town's cost will be $454.32 for 2025. The village has agreed to put up, take down and storing the snowflakes. There will be eight new snowflakes this year for a total of eighteen.

Resolution #144 Town Board to Accept the Snowflake Lighting Agreement between the Village of Speculator, Town of Lake Pleasant and the Speculator Region Chamber of Commerce.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Whereas, the town agrees to pay one third of the costs in 2025 to maintain the snowflakes and the Village of Speculator will be storing the snowflakes in the off season.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

PUBLIC HEARING – 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Bain declared the public hearing open at 7:18 P.M.
Following distribution of the preliminary 2026 budget to the town board members on October 22, 2025, notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Hamilton County Newspaper on October 22, 2025, with same being posted on same date at the Town Hall Shadow Box.
Tax cap is 2% this year and the town's preliminary budget is currently below the tax cap.
Bain asked the board to go through the budget review and give input. Currently the preliminary budget is at a 1.94% increase.
Move to discuss:
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell asked about the health insurance affecting the budget decreasing. Seifts explained the timeline with deciding on the insurance and McGovern explained further that the insurance will remain under MVP yet under a different plan that will cost the town less than originally expected under the current renewal plan. It was explained that the insurance cards with HRA cards covering extra medical expenses not covered by insurance plans will still be available to the full-time employees again next year.
Discussion about the dog kennel agreement with Brennan going up in the budget was reviewed.
Budgeting for the snowflakes was considered and discussed.
O'Connell asked about stream monitoring in the budget and Bain explained how that washes out with what Consolidated Health covers.
Bain asked the public if they had any questions about the budget. Hoffman asked if the retiree health insurance would change. The town retiree insurance will not be changing for 2026.

New Business:
Resolution #145 Town Board to Review the Chamber Contract for 2026.
Motion to discuss:
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: Braunius asked about some wording in the contract under schedule A about scheduling. Hours and scheduling were discussed at the table with the board looking for a more definite schedule of open hours.

Resolution #146 Town Board Moved to Approve the Chamber Contract for 2026
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, Parascandola and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #147 Town Board to Reappoint Lynn Billings as Town Assessor for a New Term 10/01/2025 - 09/30/2031.
Offered by: O'Connell

Whereas, The Town of Lake Pleasant town board appoints Lynn Billings to a new six – year term as assessor for the town starting October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2031.
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Library Board –

McGovern explained that the library board would like the town to approve them investing library funds in the NY Class through Hamilton County Treasurers office.

Resolution #148 Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board Approves the Town Library Investing in New York Class Investments through the Hamilton County Treasurers Office.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Abstained: O'Connell

1. **Petition Received –** Bain went over the petition signed by residents that was turned into town hall asking for a speed limit reduction on Route 8 from North Woods Lodge to Page Street. Bain spoke with the County Highway Superintendent, Tracy Eldredge, who has been in touch with the NY State DOT in Indian Lake. DOT requested a copy of the petition which Eldredge provided them with. NY State DOT is planning to do a traffic study that could take months to complete. Bain will keep the town board informed of progress.

2. **County IT Department –** Bain, informed the board that Hamilton County had hired Zack Small to update the County department's IT. Once all departments are completed at the county level there will be an opportunity for the towns to work with Hamilton County with any trouble shooting they need.

Committee Reports:
Highway- Meeting will be held Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
Buildings – Parascandola asked when ad for bids will go back out for the museum new roof and painting. O'Connell said in January the ad will need to go in for invitation to bid. Tennis court project is progressing with amendments to the layout in progress. When complete the legal ad can go in the paper to bidders.
Youth Recreation – O'Connell reported that the committee is finalizing end of year activities and ski lessons.
Website - Smith announced that the 2026 preliminary budget is up on the town website and can be found by going to lakepleasantny.gov home page, under public notices - notice of public hearing, click see details button and then click on the 2026 preliminary budget PDF file.

Budget – meeting on Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.

Resolution #149 Approve Audit of Abstract #35 dated October 28, 2025, Voucher #4299-4303, Amount $25,671.47. Abstract #36 dated October 30, 2025, Voucher #4304-4319, Amount $28,105.71.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
-Hoffman asked about the town museum and if it is listed as getting repaired or restored. McGovern and Parascandola reassured Hoffman that the museum is classified as getting repaired with the roof getting replaced.

Round table:
-Braunius asked LaVarnway about the snowmobile maps and if they were being redone. LaVarnway may get answers when he meets with the Chamber of Commerce this Wednesday. O'Connell asked about trail changes such as Fawn Lake Rd. and LaVarnway said that no alternate trails have been made and the Fish Mt. Rd trail connect is still needed this coming winter. Discussion about trail options was had at the table.

Resolution #150 Town Board to Approve Using Fish Mt. Rd. as a Trail Connect for Another Year for the 2025-2026 Snowmobile Season.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and Parascandola)
Nays: O'Connell

-McGovern let the board know that the Lions Club Halloween Party at LPCS was a success during the day for the first time this past October 31st.
-He mentioned the colon cancer screening clinic that will be held at the Lake Pleasant Library on November 13, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. where they will screen participants with a blood draw.
-The Speculator Region Holiday Stroll with vendors at the pavilion this year as an all-day event on November 28, 2025. Local stores will be participating plus a new gift shop with candy at the new campstore location.
-Parascandola mentioned the cemetery tour and Haunted Route 66 with the historical society. These events were a success with great participation. The cemetery tour brought in over sixty people.

-O'Connell informed the room that the sixth graders are preparing for Wreaths Across America. There will be a Veterans Day Ceremony at LPCS on November 12, 2025, with students helping to take flags down on November 17th.
-LaVarnway brought up the spray liquid treatment that the state will be expanding to use on state roads through the town. LaVarnway expressed his concerns at the last meeting in Indian Lake about this program. The decrease in salt use per lane-mile is the state's concern. Discussion about the product being used and how effective it is, was had at the table.
-Bain mentioned that soil and water up at Hamilton County has applied for a grant to cover the new plow blades for all the towns to more efficiently plow town roads.
- Bain let the board know that Ken Kurht stopped by to let the town know that SVAC will no longer be collecting bottles and cans as of October 29, 2025. This is due to the difficulties of hauling large volumes of bottles and cans to facilities far away for processing. SVAC has applied for a firefighter grant in hopes that they can use funds to put a second story on their building to use as a training room and to connect the two buildings. He mentioned that they are struggling for volunteers with the last new driver coming on a year ago. With the lack of volunteers they are concerned about their future as a volunteer ambulance core.
-Bain spoke to Dee Parks about the Senior meal site situation to be told that the meals will continue to be brought up from Wells to be distributed in the Speculator Fire Department parking lot. The process will be the same with seniors calling in advance to order meals for the week and they pick up or get meals delivered. A new meal site location is being looked into. Office of the aging picked up their equipment from the Speculator senior center last week.
-Operation green light for Veterans is in November and the town will be showing support by lighting town hall with green lights.
-Local elections are tomorrow and a sample ballot is on the table for those who want to look over.
-This past Wednesday the Lake Pleasant Fire Department had their annual dinner at the Oxbow Inn. It was well attended by the firemen, family and guests.

With all persons desiring to be heard, Supervisor Bain closed the public hearing at 8:18.

Resolution #151 Town Board to Close Public Hearing on the 2026 Preliminary Budget.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Next Meeting: Monday November 17, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Library
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** Parascandola
TO ADJOURN @8:20 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk