November 17, 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 17, 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.

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
Guest: Karen McComb (Library President), and Shorty Hoffman
Absent: Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #151 to Approve the Minutes of November 3, 2025
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Be it resolved, that the minutes of November 3, 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:
Bain gave the highway report as follows:

- The Hamilton County Transfer Station at the Lake Pleasant location will start its winter schedule on December 1, 2025, and will be closed on Fridays and Sundays. Bain asked Seifts to get the schedule posted on the facebook page and Smith to get it posted on the town web page.
- Highway crew has been out plowing already this season.
- Snowmobile trails are cleaned up from the windstorms and are ready for the snowmobile season.
- Snowplow turn around signs are all up. Snowmobile trail signs on Fawn Lake Rd. are all up for the season.
- The meeting with the Speculator Chamber of Commerce about snowmobile maps went well and map updates are complete. The Chamber will be having new maps printed.
- Town cemeteries are closed for winter and the Airdville Cemetery flag is down for the winter.

- Tennis/pickleball courts construction is completed for this season and are ready for spring work.
- The 2025/2026 snow and ice contract has been signed and turned over to Tracy at Hamilton County Highway Department.

Old Business –

1. **Budget Adoption –**

Bain explained that the town budget was able to stay under the tax cap with an increase of 1.75 %.

Resolution #152 Town Board Passed the 2026 Town Budget.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Bain thanked the budget committee and Budget Officer, Nancy Seifts for all that they have done to keep the budget under the 2% tax cap for 2026. The tax cap was filed with the state comptroller's office back on November 5, 2025.

2. **Snowflake Agreement –**

Resolution #153 Town Board Approves of the Snowflake Agreement between the Village, Town and the Speculator Region Chamber of Commerce.
Offered by: Parascandola **for discussion:**
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: All in agreement for Supervisor Bain to sign the contract. O'Connell liked that the contract is now for two years instead of three years.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

New Business:

1. **Energy Choice Act Resolution –**

Bain reviewed the resolution from Congressman Nick Langworthy, asking towns and counties to pass this resolution to end NY's ban on new propane and natural gas hook ups scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2026.

Resolution #154 Lake Pleasant Town Board in Support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) and in Opposition to Government-Mandated Natural Gas Bans.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Board members all agreed that this needs to be supported.

Whereas, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and
Whereas, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and
Whereas, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**,** which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and
Whereas, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and
Whereas, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such manda tes
will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and
Whereas, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and
Whereas, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945), federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Ameri cans; and
Whereas, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an "all of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Lake Pleasant strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State's natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and
Be it further resolved, that the Town of Lake Pleasant urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve Reliability access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and
Be it further resolvoed, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick

Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **NYSDEC Shuttleworth Property –**

Bain received a call from Phill Bernard with DEC region five. He wanted to let the community know about the new project that will be starting at the Shuttleworth property by Moffett beach campground on Sacandaga Lake. Buildings on the property have been deemed unsafe and will be removed. The plan is to have a pavilion around one of the stone fireplaces, a hiking trail and a fishing pier with the whole project being ADA compliant. The project will have to be contracted out and could take up to five years to complete. A sketch of the plans will be sent to Bain in a few weeks. Parascandola would like DEC to reach out to Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), to make sure that there isn't anything that can be salvageable. Discussion about ADA compliance in the state parks and electrical resources was had at the table.

Resolution # 155 Town Board to Discuss the Proposed Health Insurance Renewal Plan to Switch from the MVP EPO HDHP Silver 8 (HAS) "Exchange Certified Plan" to the MVP EPO HDHP Bronze 11 "Exchange Certified Plan" with HRA Continuing Collectively with MVP Insurance for 2026.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Discussion: O'Connell was not aware that this would be a change in the employee health insurance and would like time to review the plans before a decision is made. McGovern explained that the health insurance committee and health insurance representative met, and it was decided that the recommendation to the town board would be to go with the Bronze 11 for 2026. Smith explained further that the plan that is recommended will cost the town less for the same coverage that the town employees have been utilizing under the Silver 8 plan.
Bain suggested tabling to the next meeting to make a decision after Smith gets information out to the board about the plan comparisons.

Resolution #156 Town Board to Table Employee Health Insurance Coverage Plan for 2026 for the December 1, 2025, Town Board Meeting.
Offered by: Bain
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)

Nays: None

Resolution #157 Town Board Approves to Continue with Humana Prescription Coverage and Hartford Health Insurance for Retired Employees for the year 2026.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: McGovern
Abstained: Braunius

It was agreed upon that employee health insurance and retiree health insurance will be separated for approval each year.

Committee Reports:
Highway- Braunius informed the board that he, LaVarnway and McGovern met to talk about the water drainage on Golf Course Rd. Properties were surveyed by soil and water from Hamilton County and Warren County Soil and Water. Culvert repair needs are planned to be addressed over the next few years or more. McGovern explained some technicalities with this project to the rest of the board.
Buildings – Parascandola reported that LaVarnway is finished with the work for winter at the tennis/pickleball courts and will be submitting the final timesheets and work logs. The orientation of the courts has been changed slightly, and this change has been submitted to Sunshine, the project manager from the state, for final approval. Once the town hears back from her it can get the legal to bid in the paper.
Youth Recreation – O'Connell reported that winter plans are wrapping up and an ad for youth recreation director will go in the newspaper. Arietta has sent in payment for summer activities and trips they owed the town. Ski lessons are coming together.

Resolution #158 Approve Audit of Abstract #37 dated November 13, 2025, Voucher #4320-4336, Amount $20,874.58.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell asked what the WOT charge on the water bills stands for on the museum and garden bills. Discussion went around the room, and it was decided that this is for the water getting shut off for the season at these locations.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
- McComb thanked the town board for passing a great budget in challenging times and she thanked the board for their hard work.

- Shorty reported that the community lost another longtime member, Mary Jane Blanchard passed away at the age of 90, earlier this month. There will be a gathering for friends and family at the Speculator Global Methodist Church this coming Saturday.

Round table:

- McGovern mentioned that the wreath ceremony that the Lake Pleasant Students organize and put on each year is a big undertaking and he encourages their support. O'Connell let everyone know that this year's ceremony will be on December 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
- Parascandola announced that this year there will be a horse and Buggy at the Holiday Stroll sponsored by the Perks of Speculator and vendors will be down at the pavilion. The library will have craft vendors, and this event has several changes.
- Bain announced that the senior bus trip schedule is out and they will have four shopping trips and scheduling two cruises, one on Lake George and one on Raquette Lake next year. Bain explained that any seniors can participate in the bus trips.

Resolution # 159 Town Board to go into Executive Session over an Employee Matter 7:57.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

The Town Board came out of executive session at 8:28 with no action taken.

Next Meeting: Monday December 1, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Library
***ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** Parascandola
TO ADJOURN @8:29 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk