December 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 December 15, 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
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Guest: Karen McComb (Library President), and Shorty Hoffman.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #167 to Approve the Minutes of December 1, 2025.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: None
Be it resolved, that the minutes of December 1, 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 that the CHIPS payment of $150,000 was received last week from the state for 2025. This state funding is to go towards paying down loans for the 2024 John Deere backhoe and 2023 John Deere Loader.

Resolution # 168 Town Board to Approve John Deere Financial Lease Payments.
Offered by: McGovern
Whereas, it is the desire of the Lake Pleasant Town Board to satisfy the lease on the 2024 John Deere Backhoe and make an advance principal payment on the 2023 John Deere Loader, and
Whereas, these lease payments can be offset with revenue received from maintenance work performed on Perkins Clearing, be it
Resolved, that Expense account number DB.9788.0600 — Debt Principal, 2024 John Deere Backhoe Lease be increased by $16,404.88 and Expense account number DB.9788.0601 - Debt Principal, 2023 John Deere Loader Lease be increased by $20,000.00 to be totally offset by increasing Revenue account DB.3089 - State Aid, Perkins Clearing by $36,404.88.

2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Braunius asked what the town made on this from the state. LaVarnway explained that just under $4,000 will be left over and can go into fund balance. All agreed that the project was worthwhile for the town and the board is looking forward to participating next year.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Bain mentioned that in the next bill pay the board will see a bill for the loader for the 2026 payment.

- LaVarnway informed the board that the liability insurance needs to be increased due to the state road plowing contract which now requires 3 million in coverage that will cost the town another $3,000/yr. for insurance. LaVarnway reassured the board that the town will recover this money by plowing the roads with shared services to the county.
  McGovern has no problem with covering this, he is just surprised that the town was not made aware of the increase prior to this year's budget deadlines.

Resolution #169 Town Board to Approve the $3,000 Increase in the Towns Liability Insurance to Cover the Policy Increase to $3,000,000 Coverage.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

- LaVarnway reported that last week the town hall septic pump stopped working and the tank had to be pumped out and pump replaced.
- During the snowstorm, the town's Dodge truck got stuck in the ditch at the library and had to be pulled out by the loader and the sander had to be reset back to center. No damage was found.
- Town's backhoe was in Perkins pushing a tree that came down and hit the backhoe breaking the plastic hood. Parts are on order to repair the backhoe hood and hinge.
- There are new locks on the town hall and back garage doors.
- Garage door has been installed at the bus garage.
- LaVarnway would like to have a buildings committee meeting before having the town clerk advertise to bid. He let the board know that there are materials such as acrylics for tennis courts that vary in quality and he would like to research and make sure the right product is planned for. He would like the buildings committee to meet and work on the planning process along with quality and grade and specifications for the project in general.
- Bain asked what committee needs to meet and LaVarnway said that it would be best to have a committee specifically for this project.

Bain appointed LaVarnway, Parascandola and O'Connell to the Grant Committee.

- The newly formed committee will meet, review and make recommendations regarding the scope of work. Contingent upon the committee's recommendation, the town clerk will advertise to bid the scope of work.

Tabled

Resolution # Town Board Authorizes the Town Clerk to Advertise for Bids for the Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Project Phase I

- LaVarnway let the board know that truck bid specs came in for another standard cab pickup truck coming in at $57,624.00. It is another extended cab with no special features other than a remote start.
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Resolution #170 Town Board Approves Highway Superintendent Purchasing a Standard Cab Chevrolet Pickup Truck for $57,624.00.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Old Business –

1. **Chamber Contract –**
   Bain provided the board with the fourth quarter chamber report.

Resolution #171 Town Board Approves the Speculator Regional Chamber of Commerce Contract for 2026 and for Supervisor Bain to Sign the 2026 Contract.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: The board discussed upcoming events and LaVarnway mentioned that Gilmantown snowmobile trails are closed due to logging in the area.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

******See Attached******

New Business:

1. **Town Historian Report –** Aaron Weaver provided the town board with a thorough report.
2.

******See Attached******

3. **Karen McCombs – Library Appointments**

McComb explained that her five-year term is up at the end of this month and she will be passing the library president position onto a new president. She plans to remain involved.
Library board approved to appoint Katie Mendez from 01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026 to fill Elizabeth Knapp's position for the remaining term.
Caitlin Caswell was approved to be appointed to fill Karen McCombs term from 01/01/2026- 12/31/2030.
McComb was on the library board for over 25 years.

Resolution #172 Town Board to Approve of the Library Boards Recommendations to appoint Katie Mendez and Caitlin Caswell to the Library Board to start their terms in 2026.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None
Bain asked McComb why the library hours are staggered and McComb explained that it was to provide open hours for all as a diversity. McComb thanked the town board for supporting the town library. She explained that the town is like a puzzle and doesn't revolve around any single entity, it's all the pieces that make the community work. She also thanks the library board for all that they do and how pleasant they have been to work for.

4. **Brennan Contract Agreement for 2026 –**
   Bain explained that she has passed the contract from Brennan to the board for review.

Resolution #173 Town Board to Approve the Brennan Contract Agreement for 2026.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Bain explained that she and McGovern will meet with Sean Fadale and Megan Goodman tomorrow to go over the Nathan Littauer contract that is due to renew. Bain asked the board to pass a resolution for herself and McGovern to approve the two-year contract with minimal changes. If changes are significant then Bain and McGovern will not approve of the contract and will bring it back to the town board for approval.

Resolution #174 Town Board to Give Permission for Bain and McGovern to Review and Approve of the Nathan Littauer Two Year Contract.
Offered by: Braunius

2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #175 Town Board to Approve Transfer of Funds to Cover Costs for Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Implementation Project from the Tennis Court Reserve Fund.

Offered by: Parascandola
Whereas, the Town of Lake Pleasant has received invoices related to the Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Implementation Project, and
Whereas, said invoices, in the amount of $20,752.35, will be paid using Tennis Court Reserve funds, be it
Resolved, that $20,752.35 be paid from account A.7140.0401 - Parks & Rec, Buildings Reserve — Tennis Courts, and be it further
Resolved, that account A.7140.0401 - Parks & Rec, Buildings Reserve Tennis Courts be increased by transferring $16,023.35 from the General Reserve Fund Balance and the bookkeeper be so authorized.
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

Youth Recreation – O'Connell reported that ski lessons started this past Friday at Oak Mountain for youth recreation. Participating youth will be able to do two ski lessons before Christmas and the rest after the Holidays.
Building committee – Meeting on updating security systems to be scheduled between Christmas and New Years.

Resolution #176 Town Board to Approve Audit of Abstract #40 dated December 12, 2025, Voucher #4357-4375, Amount $55,248.44.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- Hoffman mentioned that a neighbor slipped on the ice and was injured. He reminded everyone to be careful.

Round table:

-Braunius thanked the town highway department for all that they did for his mother's burial.
-McGovern praised the event for 293 wreaths that the LPCS students placed on graves in the surrounding graveyards today during the Wreaths Across America ceremony today at LPCS.
-Parascandola mentioned that on December 8th she and Bain were at a meeting at Oak Mt. organized by Bill Farber. In attendance were Senator Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, Village Mayor Jeannette Barrett, Long Lake Supervisor, Clay Arsenault, Hamilton County Tourisms Christy Wilt, Oak Mt's Kevin and Matt O'Brian. The gathering was to discuss what municipalities are working on and why grants are not being awarded to the area. One reason for grants not being awarded is because these communities are not considered disadvantaged communities. Projects and DEC recreation plans were discussed along with concerns. NY forward and DRI grants momentum from the community is ongoing. Discussion continued and the Republican committee is planning an event in the future.
-Smith informed the board about PERMA points that the town has earned that can be redeemed as gift cards. Smith and Bain decided that the best gift card for town use would be for Staples, to purchase office supplies with.
-Smith reminded the newly elected town officials to get their Oaths turned into the clerk's office by the end of this month.
-Smith informed the board that on December 5th she attended a Tri County clerk's lunch honoring retired town clerks. Lake Pleasant retired clerks Chari Smith and Debbie O'Rourke were in attendance too.
-Bain mentioned that the installer for the carpet in the clinic only quoted for the main lobby not including the office. Installer reassured Bain that the office will be added on for a reasonable amount. The waiting room is done and it looks great. Late January the office will be carpeted.
-Ken Kuhrt came into town hall to report that SVAC has had 220 calls this year to date. On March 2, 2026, there will be an EMT class starting in Speculator and anyone who would like to sign up can contact Ken at SVAC.
-Bain has done up a donation for youth recreation program letter that will be going to LPCS next week.
-The county has reported to the town that STR renewals are not all caught up and Steve Page has called the owners that are not registering. There is a local contractor that is not registering his STR's with the town and doesn't have a certificate of occupancy.
-Bain mentioned the town junk law and that one resident has not done their clean up yet.

Next Meeting: Monday January 5, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Town Hall
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** Parascandola
TO ADJOURN @ 8:08 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk