January 20, 2026

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 January 20, 2026, at Lake Pleasant Town Hall, 2679 State Route 8, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108. 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: Aaron Weaver (Town Historian), and Shorty Hoffman

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #13 to Approve the Minutes of January 5, 2026
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Be it resolved, that the minutes of January 5, 2026, be approved as presented.
Discussion: None
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 his crew has been plowing snow, pushing water, scraping ice, and grooming trails by filling in holes with brush.
-Seifts is working on FEMA paperwork with 900+ e-mails being downloaded into zip drives. Parascandola asked if his time to gather this information counts and LaVarnway said that it does.
-Hamilton County's Soil and Water has received a large $200,000.00 grant for the blade system that the town has been using. This is a salt reduction program that is working. A considerable amount of paperwork went into this, and receipts need to be kept from this point forward to get reimbursement for parts and maintenance. LaVarnway went over the specifics of the blades and parts and how they work effectively to remove winter debris from roads. Discussion was had at the table about the condition of the roads and the state using the blades.
-LaVarnway explained to the board that Arietta would like to extend their wastewater agreement from two years to three years. This only needs to be done a few times a year. The Village doesn't charge to dispose of the wastewater and LaVarnway would like the board to not charge Arietta but renew the contract for three years. Braunius is fine with shared services if there are no changes.

Resolution #14 Town Board Agrees to Sign Contract with the Town of Arietta to Dispose of Arietta's Wastewater up to a Few Days a Year at no Charge as Shared Services and Extending the Contract to Three Years.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

******SEE ATTACHED******

Old Business –

1. **Nathan Littauer Contract –**

Bain explained that she has not received a copy of the revised contract to date. Braunius asked if there was anything in the contract about how many employees need to be in the office during operation hours. Bain said that number of personnel is not in the contract, but Nathan Littauer is trying to hire a new office employee. Discussion continued about what Nathan Littauer is doing to improve after personnel changes.

2. **Museum Grant Building Committee –**

O'Connell explained that the building committee met last week and they would like to make two separate bids out of the original bid. One for roofing and one for painting. If the projects are staggered it will be better. O'Connell went over the previous bid packet and revisions that the grant committee went over. They would like to edit the existing notice to bid. They would also like to have the work done by May 31, 2026. Grant funds are $40,125.00 with a projected cost of the project at $53,500.00 with the town match at $13,375.00. Final report must be in by June 30th, 2026. O'Connell asked if there are any budgeted costs for this project for this year and are there any funds left from donations? Goal is to have the notice to bids drafted by the next board meeting. Committee requests are that bids be split into two projects, highlighting new dates, staggering work with roofing done first then painting before groundwork is completed.
The committee is aiming to have the bids collected in March and work done by May.

O'Connell, McGovern and LaVarnway went over the Alarm Systems prices that they received to put new systems in town buildings. The most recent building to have system installed was the library that is now considered out of date. Buildings committee recommends the company, Chimera, to update town hall and the bus garage to bring these buildings up to code for a cost of $14,854.00 with $15,000.00 in the 2026 budget for the work to be done. The long-term goal is to update all town building systems over the next three years.

Resolution #15 Town Board to Approve Highway Superintendent LaVarnway to Purchase Security Systems from Chimera for Town Hall and Bus Garage.
Offered by: McGovern

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

New Business:

1. **Historian Aaron Weaver –**

Mr. Weaver asked the board if they had any questions for him about his annual report. The board praised Mr. Weaver for his great work. For the 250th anniversary of the United States of America Weaver would like to put commemorative garden flags up on revolutionary solders graves in the town's cemeteries with the board's permission. He presented the flag illustration that he has designed. He would like to have the flags up from Memorial Day through Labor Day. He has contacted the Mayor of Speculator about his idea and hopes to put up the flags in the village cemetery as well. McGovern asked how many will be erected and Weaver said there would be seven or eight. Discussion about where these veterans are buried and where to put flags for non-defined burial plots was had in the room.

Resolution #16 Town Board Approved Historian Aaron Weaver to Purchase Garden Flags to Honor Revolutionary War Veterans for the Country's 250 Year Anniversary Within his Budget for 2026.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Parascandola
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **Tennis Court Reserve Fund –**

Resolution # 17 Town Board to Approve Payment to Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board from The Tennis Court Reserve Fund.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: Parascandola
Whereas, the Town of Lake Pleasant has received an invoice from Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board related to the Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Implementation Project, and
Whereas, said invoice, in the amount of $1,500.00 will be paid using Tennis Court Reserve funds, be it
Resolved, that $1,500.00 be paid from account A.7140.0401 – Parks & Rec, Buildings Reserve – Tennis Courts
Discussion:
Adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

3. **Emergency Agreement Between Town and Lake Pleasant Fire Department –**

Bain reviewed the agreement between the town and Lake Pleasant Fire department that she and Fire Chief, William Wharton, reviewed and made changes to last week.

Resolution #18 Town Board Approves the Emergency Agreement Between the Town of Lake Pleasant and the Lake Pleasant Fire Department.
Offered for discussion by: Braunius
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: Braunius questioned some of the wording in the contract. Board members discussed some of the wording and decided on best phrasing. It was decided to pass the contract as is.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

******SEE ATTACHED******

Committee Reports:

Grants – Parascandola mentioned that when the town applied for the grant for the Elm Lake Road Project, the stipulation was that the town be a Pro-Housing Community. On December 29th, 2025, the town received a letter **(see attached)** that Parascandola read to the board, congratulating the town for its certification of becoming a Pro-Housing Community. The town is now eligible to apply for various discretionary programs with up to $750 million in funding available.
The town can now set the dates to bid for surfacing and fencing of the tennis courts.
Parascandola proposes that they get the invitation to bid in the paper as soon as possible so that bids can advertise for 30 days and opened at the March 2nd board meeting.

Resolution #19 Town Board to Discuss the Elm Lake Road Project Resolution to Pass.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius
Parascandola read the resolution:

Resolution #20 Town Board to Approve Advertising for Elm Lake Road Project Phase 1.
Whereas, town clerk to advertise for bids for the Elm Lake Road Project Phase 1 where the town received a grant from NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation to complete phase enhancements to the Elm Lake Road Park and
Whereas, the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board has prepared bid documents for the Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Project Phase 1
Be it resolved, that the town board authorizes the town clerk to advertise for bids in the Elm Lake Road Park Enhancement Phase 1 Bids will be opened at the regular town hall board meeting on Monday March 2nd at 7:15 P.M. Bids to be delivered to clerk's office by 3:00 P.M. on March 2nd, 2026.

Discussion: The board discussed how the machinery will do the work on the tennis courts and when the fencing will go up.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Youth Recreation – Advertisement for youth recreation director is in the paper and will run for two weeks. All three pages and ad can be found on the website. Deadline to apply is 2/15/2026. Ski lessons are up to lesson three for the season.
Website – Parascandola let the board know that the website contract has been renewed. O'Connell asked about the .org domain maintenance and Parascandola said that the .org domain has to be maintained. LaVarnway asked about the Microsoft contract Smith explained that when he is due for renewal, he will go under the town Microsoft contract not individual.
Smith let the board know that Civilly has implemented data collection on the back side of the website where public usage data can be collected. There were hundreds of views to the Lake Pleasant website during the last big power outage storm.
Parascandola mentioned legal notices in the newspaper being a topic that is being discussed by AOT as a source that in the future maybe a thing of the past as website resources are used instead of the newspaper.
Weaver asked if there is data showing how many interests for individual pages. Parascandola will look into individual page analytics from Civilly.

Resolution #20 Approve Audit of Abstract #2 dated January 2, 2026, Voucher #4413-4415, Amount $50,987.47. Abstract #3 dated January 5, 2026, Voucher #4416-4416, amount $26,414.85. Abstract #4 dated January 16, 2026, Voucher # 4417-4437, amount $161,449.25.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
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 years ago water-soluble adhesives were tried to fill voids in the roads to find out that they didn't work. Winter potholes in town were discussed.

Round table:
- Bruanius asked about the fillers that the state is using and LaVarnway explained that the hypoxy's that they are trying are very slippery and are not safe road surfaces.
- McGovern mentioned that there will be a 4:00 p.m. meeting on Friday with the Fire Department and Bain and LaVarnway representing the town about VFIS.
- Smith thanked Nancy Seifts for filling in for her at the last meeting. Tax collection is going on at this time and the deadline without penalty is February 2nd.
- Bain reminded all that the social services heat program is available for anyone, especially seniors.
- Consolidated health on the tax bills is for the fly car, BTI, clinic and seniors.

- Seniors who are 60 yrs. and older can utilize the congregate meal site at Arietta school for meals. There are discrepancies in the senior center minutes. Bain stated that the town is not giving the seniors $5,000 towards the meal site. It is the Arietta school board not the Arietta town board that the senior meal site is involved with.
- Bain thanked the fire department for all they did during the power outage.
- The town received $800 for the youth recreation program this week.

Next Meeting: Monday February 2, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Town Hall
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** Parascandola
TO ADJOURN @8:25 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk