February 17, 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 Tuesday February 17, 2026, at the 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, and Kathy O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Budget Officer: Nancy Seifts
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Zoning/Codes Enforcement – Steve Page
Guest: William Pastella, John Seifts, and Shorty Hoffman
Absent: Councilperson - Meg Parascandola

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Resolution #25 to Approve the Minutes of February 2, 2026
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Be it resolved, that the minutes of February 2, 2026, be approved as presented.
Discussion: None
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Highway and Buildings:
-LaVarnway informed the board of the latest update on the new tandem dump truck that has been on order. Still awaiting its arrival date to town hall. This is the truck that the town ordered in 2022, waited, then bought a 2024 chassis. Warranty doesn't start until the town receives the new truck.
-The rest of the towns plow trucks are doing well. Grooming is going well and snowmobile trails are in good condition. LaVarnway has received much positive feedback about snowmobile trails from riders. He attributes the good trails to it being a good winter with plenty of snow.
-LaVarnway continues to work with the FEMA representative and has submitted over 600 e-mails and 32 pages of phone calls to be told that not even ½ of funds spent by the town can be claimed. LaVarnway continues to argue the point and push the data collected to get the state to hand over the FEMA funding to the town.

Old Business –

1. **Lithium-ion Battery Storage Facility** –

Bain reviewed that at the last meeting Parascandola brought up the town passing a resolution to ban lithium-ion battery storage facilities in the Town of Lake Pleasant. Since that meeting Bain and Page have discussed the town passing a local law to ban these storage facilities. There are seven more locations slated in the park to allow these storage facilities.
O'Connell asked if a moratorium could be placed on the Lithium-ion battery storage facility and solar farms in the area to temporarily stop such activity so that the town has time to adopt a local law on these two topics.

Resolution #26 Town Board to Approve Two Separate Moratoriums to Stop 1. Lithium-ion Battery Storage Facilities, 2. Solar Farms (extension), from Opening in the Town of Lake Pleasant.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: Board agrees that in the meantime this will give the town time to form a local law against these entities opening in the town of Lake Pleasant.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

New Business:

Resolution # 27 Town Board to Approve 2025 End of the Year Budget Adjustments.
Offered to discuss: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Bain asked if there were any questions for Seifts. There were no questions.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

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

Zoning/Codes Enforcement Yearly Report-Steve Page -

Steve reviewed his year 2025 report with the Town Board. There were 25 STR's in 2025 and 90 building permits issued with seven new houses built in town. He will be sending out letters in August to remind STR owners to renew for the coming registration year. He let the board know to contact him if they have any questions after going over the data he distributed tonight. Discussion about the town's STR program within the town and how it has benefited renters and homeowners was had in the room. Discussion about the Village not regulating their STR's and the problems that may arise was had in the room.

Office NYS DEC Post Closure Monitoring- tabeled

BTI Pesticide Permit Application- Bain reported that Wicks called the APA and got good news from them. She was told that if water is flowing it can be treated with BTI product. The town is

approved by the NYS DEC to apply BTI to streams. This permit is good until December of 2030. There will be an ad going into the paper next week about the application for 2026. Wicks will contact Barry at the County to get the correct address information for new residents that will need to be contacted about the application.

Resolution #28 Lake Pleasant Town Board Reviews the Town Justice 2025 Reports.
Offered by: McGovern
Whereas, the Town Board is required annually to audit the financial reports of the Town Justices in accordance with Section 2019-a of the Uniform Justice Court Act and said fiduciary duty is memorialized into the minutes of the Board's proceedings
Resolved: that the Town Board accepts the Audit Report of Judge Visscher and Judge Smith for the year 2025
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #29 Town Board to Approve of the Town of Lake Pleasant Financial Services Intermunicipal Agreement Between the Town of Lake Pleasant and Hamilton County Treasurers Office for Bookkeeping Services for 2026.
Offered by: O'Connell **For Discussion:**
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: McGovern stated that this agreement is the best of the shared services.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Camp of the Woods-

Last week Bain received a call from Rich Armstrong (liaison for COTW's) about a change coming that will affect the town. COTW's is working with their attorney on seven properties that are currently on the tax roll to be removed from the tax roll and on the camp. COTW's is willing to donate the amount that is due for taxes each year to the municipalities to make up for this.

Town Board to Discuss COTW's Owned Properties Going off the Tax Rolls.
Offered to discuss: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: Braunius said that if the town isn't losing any funding and if COTW's gives their donation intentions in writing then it is OK. O'Connell asked if tax exempt applies to housing. McGovern said that it does. McGovern reminded the board that they don't have the control here. Bain said that their attorney advised them to notify the municipalities. Discussion went around the table, and it was agreed upon that the town board appreciates the good neighbor gesture and they would like to have this in writing for municipal records.

Resolution #30 Town Board to Discuss Community Pride Day on May 6, 2026.
Offered by: McGovern

2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Bain reviewed that separate departments in town participate in cleaning up in the month of May. The board discussed further and decided not to participate officially but with separate groups around town unofficially.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #31 Town Board to Disapprove of Covering RO Residents Damage Costs After Pipes Broke During Cold Weather.
Bain explained that she had received a call from a resident with an RO system that stays in year-round. The residents came up to check on their home and found their garage was flooded and there was a broken pipe. When they went downstairs the RO storage tank was empty and the pump was running. Their power bills for two months were over a thousand dollars due to the pump running continuously.
Move to discussion: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: The board discussed and decided that the homeowner should take responsibility for their negligence and not push their repair costs on the taxpayers of the town. Braunius asked why the resident doesn't turn the pump off when they are not home or have someone look after the home while they are away. Bain will call the resident back and explain that the town board will not have the town reimburse them for costs for damages that are not the responsibility of the taxpayers. O'Connell stated that the town's only responsibility is to take the salt out of the water by way of the RO system, and nothing else.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

Buildings – O'Connell would like a building and grounds meeting to follow up on a project. Committee decided on Friday February 20th @ 1:30 p.m. in LaVarnway's office.
Smith mentioned in Parascandola's absence that invitation to bid for the museum roof and painting and invitation to bid for the Elm Lake Road Enhancement Project Phase 1 are out to bid with requests for bid packets coming into the clerk's office. All requests are issued with the bid packet for the project they are requesting and there are no addendums to date. Technical questions are directed to LaVarnway and Grant questions are directed to Allison Gaddey.
Website- Smith mentioned that the town's website is currently ADA compliant. The board may see literature or receive e-mails about the new law that requires municipalities to be ADA compliant with their websites by April 2026 for large municipalities and April 2027 for small municipalities like Lake Pleasant.

Resolution #32 Approve Audit of Abstract #7 dated February 13, 2026, Voucher #4456-4476, Amount $367,182.43.
Offered by: O'Connell

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

Public Comment:

-Pastella introduced himself and asked about the seven properties that COTW's wants to take off the tax rolls. He wanted to know if the Mayor of Speculator had been aware and Bain said that she is aware. Pastella asked about the twenty-five short term rentals in the town and why the Village has no program. O'Connell explained how the committee got together from varying walks of life from the town and village to decide that STR regulations would be helpful and to focus on safety. The Village decided not to have a law after the committee met and the town decided to move forward with a law and regulations. Pastella asked about the reasoning for why the Village has no local law or ordinance on STR's. O'Connell said that he would need to consult with the Village about why they did not adopt a law.
-Hoffman mentioned that the state was looking into having an STR law and the Village wanted to wait to see what the state would do.
Bain let all know that the STR's must pay sales taxes and fees to the state.
-Hoffman stated that COTW's doesn't have to pay taxes to the town and village but they do donate in good faith. Deerfoot lodge does the same. He also mentioned that at a meeting in Northampton last week there was discussion about the lithium battery storage facilities.

Round table:

- Braunius mentioned that an 800-acre solar farm is being fought down in Fort Edward. There is an Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electronic Transmission that can override DEC and APA on these issues. Discussion about solar being bad for the environment was had at the table.
- Braunius wanted to give kudos to the VA on how helpful and useful they are to veterans.
- McGovern reminded all about the poker run this Saturday February 21st by car or by sled from 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. ending at the Inn at Speculator.
- O'Connell reported on the Valentines dinner at LPCS being a success with more tricky tray baskets than in years past.
- Town Historian has ordered garden flags that he designed to commemorate Revolutionary War Veterans in the town for this year's 250 Anniversary of the Country. The Village has approved displaying the flags in their cemetery.
- Bain announced that the Town of Lake Pleasant was the first town in the County to meet their tax warrant.
- Bain reported that the Chamber of Commerce updated their website with a summer job page on the site.
- Bain asked the board to be thinking of nominees for the Senior of the Year for 2026.
- Affordable broadband home internet service is available to those that need it. Flyer will be on the table at town hall.

- Bain mentioned the Frontier bills with taxes included that Parascandola had questioned about. Clerk Smith has a request for tax exemptions into Frontier but has not heard back from them to date.

Resolution #33 Town Board to Enter Executive Session - 8:16 P.M. Under Public Officers Law 105, # 6 - Discuss Medical, Financial, Credit or Employment History of a Particular Person or Corporation Relating to Promotion, Demotion, Discipline or Removal.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #34 Town Board Came out of Executive Session - 8:38 P.M. With no Action Taken.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Bain, Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Next Meeting: Monday March 2, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Town Hall
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** McGovern
TO ADJOURN @ 8:39 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk