March 16, 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 Monday March 16, 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:
Deputy Supervisor: Meg Parascandola
Councilpersons: Neil McGovern, Don Braunius, and Kathy O'Connell
Town Clerk: Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Guest: Katrina Cohea (Library Director), Donna Benkovich, Laura Wilt (Library President), Shorty Hoffman, and Pam Pooler
Absent: Supervisor - Betsy Bain

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Parascandola announced that there will be an executive session at the end of the meeting.

Resolution #47 to Approve the Minutes of March 2, 2026.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell pointed out that in Resolution #42 she did not go over the MOU, the buildings and grounds went over the MOU between the town and the library. She also pointed out that under youth recreation, the position youth director is now the youth coordinator position.
Be it resolved, that the minutes of March 2, 2026, be approved as amended.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by:
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Highway and Buildings:

-LaVarnway reported that the HWY crew has been plowing snow and opening ditches for snow melting and rain.
-He has received several calls about what trails are open. To date Perkins Clearing is the only trail open. Indian Lake has closed their trails and DRAG of Speculator has ended grooming for the season. Oxbow and tree farm trails are flooded.
-LaVarnway reported minor setbacks with vehicles on purchase. The pickup has an arrival date of mid-April, that was supposed to be mid-March. The Western Star dump truck is completed

and in Syracuse with the plow and wing at town garage. There is a recall on this dump truck. April 10th they are supposed to come out with a fix for the battery issue on this truck. It is on a do not deliver red flag until the battery issue is fixed. It is questionable if this truck will be delivered by April 10th. Recall is due to the wiring harness connecting the battery that gets corroded and burns out. Braunius asked if they would give out loaners and LaVarnway said that they will not.
-LaVarnway explained that last Monday the HWY crew came into the pole barn that houses the garbage truck and loader to discover that the lights wouldn't turn on in the pole barn. There are two outlets in this barn and one of them that runs the lights was found to be burnt up with melted wires. LaVarnway suggests getting a price on putting a fire alarm up in the pole barn. Braunius asked if there should be a sprinkler system installed. LaVarnway said that it would be expensive but a good idea to get quotes. LaVarnway would like to run more outlets so there is not a need for lead cords. The town board agrees that pricing for what is needed should be obtained. LaVarnway will look into alarm systems, fire suppression, and ask for quotes.

Old Business –

1. **Museum Project Bid Opening –**

   Deputy Supervisor Parascandola reported that bids were duly advertised on February 11, 2026, and February 18, 2026, for the roof replacement and removal of lead paint and painting of the Lake Pleasant Historical Museum in the Hamilton County Express and the New York State Contract Reporter. Bids had to be turned into town hall by today, March 16, 2026, by 3:00 p.m. Two bids were received from the following:

	Time	Name of Bidder	Address	Bidding on	Amount
1.	7:16PM	Stephen Miller General Contractors, Inc. 13790	P.O. Box 291 Mayfield, NY 12117	1. Roof w/exclusions 2. No bid	$14,209.00
2.	7: 18 PM	ACT Constructors, LLC	3 Stephen St. Albany, NY 122022	1. Roof w/no exclusions 2. Painting w/no exclusions	$28,975.00 $28,850.00

Resolution #48 Town Board to Move the Bids to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for Review.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Office NYS DEC Post Closure Monitoring –

Parascandola explained that Bain received information from DEC that she mentioned at the last meeting. Lake Pleasant has been approved for every other year post closure monitoring. Year one monitoring will be completed in-house and will include HWY Superintendent checking for any erosion. Year two monitoring will be completed by Hamilton County Soil and Water. DEC is in communication with soil and water to make sure they have all the proper testing. Hamilton County soil and water will work with all the towns in the county on this monitoring.
Discussion: none

Senior of the Year –
Parascandola reviewed that NYS Office of the Aging is looking for nominations for the 2026 senior of the year. O'Connell has offered a nomination.

Resolution #49 Town Board to Approve Nomination for Senior of the Year.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell explained that a nomination has been sent into The Office of the Aging, they have received it and the board is to wait to see if their nominee is chosen.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Soil and Water Mini Grant –
Town of Lake Pleasant Town Board to Approve Applying for the Hamilton County Soil and Water Mini Grant. - Tabled
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Parascandola reviewed that at the last board meeting ideas were shared about possible uses for this grant. Grants committee met and discussed this grant, and it was mentioned that the tennis court hill will need hydroseeding. Grant funds, if awarded, could go towards these costs. LaVarnway reminded the board that the hill is slotted for wood chips to minimize grass that needs to be mowed. Wood chips will minimize the erosion of this steep hill. Discussion on what types of erosion control is desired was had at the table. Grant final report must be in by December 1, 2026.
The board decided to table the grant so that soil and water can be contacted for more information.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

New Business:

NYS Agriculture and Markets Inspection/Going from a Municipal Shelter to a Holding Facility.
Parascandola explained that on Tuesday March 10, 2026, Bain and Rajca met with AGA Markets to complete an inspection of the municipal shelter. Based on the new 2026 regulations, they have recommended that we move to a holding facility for dogs. In a holding facility the town can hold a dog for a reasonable amount of time if deemed necessary by the dog warden. If

holding is not necessary, dogs may be brought directly to James Brennan Humaine Society, and the owner can collect the dog from Brennan. The towns contract with James Brennan Humaine Society will remain unchanged. Reason for this change is due to new 2026 updates require facilities to be entirely vinal lined.

Resolution #50 Town Board to Approve of Municipal Dog Shelter Changing to Municipal Holding Facility.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

1. **BESS Facilities –**

Parascandola explained that BESS facilities stands for battery energy storage system facilities. During the February 2, 2026, meeting Parascandola made a motion to put a freeze on BESS coming into the Town of Lake Pleasant until there was adequate zoning for such facilities. At that meeting it was tabled until the board could get more information on the moratorium. Then on February 17, 2026, the Town Board made Resolution #26 to Approve two separate moratoriums to stop, 1. BESS facilities and 2. Solar Farms from opening in the Town of Lake Pleasant. To be clear the board is not looking to ban these facilities, it does however want to ensure that laws are adopted in advance to protect public health, safety, welfare and quality of life in Lake Pleasant, says Parascandola. Current laws and zoning need to provide adequate standards and protocol on setbacks, noise, financial accountability of BESS operators and address provisions for variances, therefore the town has enacted the moratorium to allow time to review current zoning.
The town has been offered a training and an invitation by the Village to work collaboratively on such laws. Parascandola has reached out to another town in Hamilton County that has enacted these laws, and she will be meeting with that Town Supervisor later this week to talk about what they did and what has gone well. O'Connell shared some information from NYSERDA with Parascandola and there is a guidebook on creating such laws. Smith has reached out to NYAOT to find out if BESS and Solar can go under one law and AOT recommends separate laws for separate topics says Parascandola.
Motion for Discussion:
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Parascandola informed the room that on April 18th there will be a free, in person training class, at the North Pole Fire Department conducted by retired Lieutenant Paul Rogers who is a former leader of the FDNY Hazardous Materials Unit. Parascandola encourages all that are able, to attend. One of the factors in the emergency response plan is public water. Parascandola reminded the board that the village has this, but the town doesn't so in any zoning the priorities of the town and village will be different on this topic.

Braunius stated that he is against these facilities in the town due to no municipal water and hydrants to source water from. Waste containment going into streams was mentioned. The Village of Speculator has electronic charging stations, but the town has none currently. Discussion went around the table about BESS facilities and the need to get zoning and codes up to date to regulate these potential facilities in the town. Smith let the board know that they can put BESS and Solar under one law if it is under a zoning update to codes law. McGovern asked for the time frame of the moratoriums and Parascandola said one year.

Resolution #51Town Board Passes One Year Moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #52 Town Board Passes One Year Moratorium on Solar Fields.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: Braunius asked if they can be renewed after a year. This will be researched.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

2. **T Mobile Grant –**
   Parascandola introduced the T Mobile Hometown Grant to the board, explaining that it funds projects to build, rebuild or refresh community spaces that help foster local connections in your town. Projects should be, shovel ready, physical buildings or improvements that can be completed within twelve months of receiving town grants funding.
   Motion to Discuss Grant:
   Offered by: Braunius
   2nd by: O'Connell
   Parascandola explained that examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to adaptive use of older and historic buildings, community gathering spaces, improvements to parks and trails, and technology projects for public libraries. Funds may not be used for engineering or architectural plans, fees, salaries or annual operating expenses, or reimbursement for completed projects. Each grant is offered for up to $50,000 for small towns less than 50,000 in population. Recipients are selected and awarded on a quarterly basis. Selected winners will provide status updates on their projects at six and twelve months. Plans must be able to be executed within twelve months of receiving. O'Connell and Parascandola met to discuss if the town should apply for this grant after discussion of replacing signs on the pathways came up. This grant would be a great opportunity to upgrade the signs and implement additional needed updates.

Parascandola asked the board for permission to move forward with the grant application.

Resolution #53 Town Board to Apply for T Mobile Grant.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None
O'Connell explained that three different bids will be needed for signs after discussing with McComb and LaVarnway.

3. **Town Trash Law Discussion -**

Parascandola explained that code enforcer Steve Page has asked the board to review the town's current 2009 junk storage law and amend it to be more effective.
Motion to Discuss:
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: Parascandola continued explaining that she received a copy of the current law and sample letter used by code enforcement when there is a violation. Parascandola reached out to Barry Baker at Real Property Tax to clarify the meaning of the law, who sent back information from Hamilton County on charging fees for special assessments that were shared with the board. Page would like to see the town board revise their current policy.
Parascandola read Bakers response to her inquiries and sample letter to the board then pointed out sections of the current law to the board and reviewed enforcement costs for violations. First violation charges can be up to $350.00, second up to $700.00, and third time up to $1,000.00. Discussion was had by the board about how a ticket will get issued and enforced and if the town should do clean up and then charge the resident.
McGovern said that the town has a good local law that is being ignored in some cases. The Board decided to table to find out from Town Justices if the law can be enforced.

Resolution #54 Town Board to Table the Towns Junk Storage Law.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Resolution #55 Fund Expenditure for Museum Project
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Whereas, the Town of Lake Pleasant has received donations for the Museum Project, and
Whereas, said funds were used to fund account number A.1620.0408 – Buildings, Museum Project in 2025, and

Whereas, the unexpended balance of $298.09 closed to the General Fund Balance at the end of 2025, be it
Resolved, that the unexpended amount of $298.09 be transferred from the General Fund Balance to account number A.1620.0408 – Buildings, Museum Project and the bookkeeper be so authorized.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Committee Reports:

Highway – LaVarnway reported that the committee met and went over the topic of towns plowing, fixing or traveling on private roadways after AOT published an article on the topic. In the past the Town of Lake Pleasant, passed a resolution for the town to plow the ADK Veterans driveway. LaVarnway wanted the board to be aware of this. McGovern explained that it is a small matter that the board approved in the past to be done. Moffitts Beach Road is another road that is sanded,plowed and garbage picked etc. by the town. Years ago, when it was time to pave Moffitts Beach Road the County was paid by the State to pave the road and the town did work putting culverts in and prep for paving until the state issued a stop work order to the town for paving what the state believed was a state road. It was a research project to find out what form of government was responsible for the road if any. The state can't/won't show that they own the road. LaVarnway stated that once again with this article, is it OK for the town to plow this road. A permit was obtained in the past to plow the road from the state that required repairs, cleaning, ditching of the road and made the town liable. Once the town asked the state to take over plowing and taking care of the road, so the town isn't liable for repairs, the state said no permit needed, town can plow it. McGovern stated that the town has been a good steward to the public, serving the needs of residents on this road.

Buildings – LaVarnway was asked about a grant that the library board received for electronic doors for the library. The committee met and had decided that they are not in favor of the electronic doors, but they are in favor of doorbells to let in anyone that needs help getting into the building. O'Connell said that electronic door maintenance was a concern of the committee.
Currently one of the doors sticks and warranty is voided if doors are altered or taken apart. If doors are not timed right, they may not shut all the way. Proposed quotes were reviewed and electrical was discussed. Electrical work will require different grade wires and a transformer. The library was built on ground level so that it was easy for people to access the building. McGovern explained that there is an MOU between the town and the Library Board. The building is the towns, and the library is housed in that building. McGovern stated that those that run the library should be most aware of what the library needs. Town and Library board must work together on building projects by way of the buildings committee.
Braunius brought up that Charlie Johns has electronic doors that work well. He mentioned that there are few ADA compliant STR's or restaurants in the town. Braunius asked if there would always be someone available to answer a doorbell and Cohea said that there are going to be times when staff cannot answer a doorbell. Braunius is not in favor of the doorbell, but he is in favor of the automatic doors.

Parascandola brought up the estimates that were collected by the library board and asked Cohea about electrical needs for this project and if they are included in the quotes.
Cohea stated that the electric hookups and labor are not included in the quotes provided to the town board tonight. Installation and doors with two-year parts and warranty is included, not labor.
Parascandola asked if there would be remaining funds from the grant that could go towards electrical costs. Cohea reached out to ALA to find out that funds must be fully spent during the grant implementation period of May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027, on direct project costs. Remaining funds can be used based on costs directly related to improving accessibility of patrons with disabilities at the end of implementation period.
Parascandola mentioned that a letter was sent to the town board by a taxpayer in support of the grant. Braunius asked if the doors need to be moved manually, will they be easier than existing doors to maneuver.
Cohea explained that she gets comments about this every day. We have 2x the number of ambulatory residents in the area and they have trouble with the heaviness and speed of closure of the existing doors.
Wilt stated that she recently became President of the library has added a grant section to the library board agenda.
LaVarnway mentioned that the framework attached to the concrete could be replaced and leveled. Then put doors back in with openers on them. Two frameworks are needed. Discussion about construction, who would do work and costs were had in the room.

Resolution #56 Town Board Approves of the Library Board Moving Forward with the Grant for Handicap Accessible Doors.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: McGovern
Discussion: O'Connell said that with the understanding that the low bid will be accepted and the difference of $3,550.00 is to be used towards upgrading the frame and electrical.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons – McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell, and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Website- Smith handed out data collected by the town's website on usage and peaks are on dates that town taxes were do in February and March.
Health Insurance – Parascandola asked if things got covered with transfer of HRA funds for an employee and Smith responded that yes it has been taken care of. Smith let the room know that health insurance recipients with issues with bills getting covered need to bring in the bill and EOB to the clerk's office so they can be passed onto Marshall and Sterling for assistance.
Youth Recreation – O'Connell informed the board that on Wednesday March 18th, thirty-five kids are going tubing at Oak Mountain on Superintendents Conference Day through the town's youth recreation program.

Resolution #57 Approve Audit of Abstract #10 dated March 13, 2026, Voucher #4494-4514, Amount $18,374.80.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: None

Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Councilpersons - McGovern, Braunius, O'Connell and Parascandola)
Nays: None

Public Comment:

- Hoffman asked about diabetic test strips not getting covered by Humana and Smith said that the test strips are not a drug so health representative should be contacted for ways to get this medical supply covered if possible.

Round table:
-O'Connell mentioned that the road on Route 8 to four corners of Speculator is horrible. She asked LaVarnway about repair plans on this road and he said that he will get back to O'Connell with an answer by late spring.
-McGovern said Happy St. Patty's Day
-Smith let the board know that she sent out overdue C&D bills for those that have not paid from 2025. Three payments have been paid since the overdue bills went out and there are still a few that are outstanding.
-Smith also mentioned that overdue tax letters went out on March 11th. Town warrant has been collected and on April 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Smith will turn over what is left of the 2026 tax collections to the Hamilton County Treasurer.
-Smith asked departments to send in their forms for their website page so they can go into the document builder. Smith will send department heads a link to site and would like to have forms by March 25th.
-Parascandola mentioned that a generous museum donation of $100 came in from a resident.
-COTW's would like to send in a donation and Bain had asked them to send a letter about the donation to have on file for the parcel that is coming off the tax roll. Parascandola read the letter to the room.

Resolution #58 Town Board to Enter Executive Session at 8:54 P.M. Under Public Officers Law 105, #8 - Discuss Acquisition, Lease or Sale of Real Property or Securities When Publicity Would Substantially Affect the Value.
Offered by: McGovern
2nd by: Braunius

Town Board Came out of Executive Session at 9:02 P.M. with no Action Taken.

Next Meeting: Monday April 6, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Town Hall
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** Parascandola
TO ADJOURN @ 9:03 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk