July 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 Monday July 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 - Meg Parascandola
Councilpersons- Don Braunius, and Kathy O'Connell
Budget Officer- Nancy Seifts
Town Clerk- Stephanie Smith
Highway Superintendent – Randy LaVarnway
Guests- Eileen LaVarnway, and Katrina Cohea (Library Director)
Absent: Councilman Neil McGovern

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag Followed by a Moment of Silence for Steve Woehrle

Resolution #129 to Approve the Minutes of July 6, 2026.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: None
Be it resolved, that the minutes of July 6, 2026, be approved.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Highway and Buildings:
LaVarnway reported to the board that he spoke to the salesman about the lawn mower the town was to purchase to find out that the quoted 70 horsepower is to heavy for what the HWY department needs. A new quote from the dealer was given and a second quote was collected for a smaller mower that will save the town money. LaVarnway asked the board if he could purchase a Del Morino FLISU186M Flail mower with three-point hitch and PTO drive for $9,900.00 and a factory freight cost of $550.00.

Resolution #130 Town Board Approves of HWY Superintendent Purchasing a Del Morino Mower from Capital Tractor, Inc. for $9,900.00 with factory freight cost of $550.00.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

-Highway crew is working on drainage and parking down at the pickleball/tennis courts.
-LaVarnway and his crew have been asked by the public at the site if public drinking water will be available at the courts complex. Parascandola responded that it is not part of the original plan. LaVarnway has also been asked when the court complex will be ready for recreation and tentatively the courts will open in September of 2026.
-Golf Course Rd. culverts are being installed to help with drainage in the area. Slick, an old wells cable company was called and they are telling LaVarnway that they are not servicing the area, yet conduit was found by the highway crew. Utility said to go ahead and dig so the crew is working on the culverts this week.
-LaVarnway received a doctor's note letting an employee back to work next Tuesday.
-A highway employee will be leaving in August to pursue another career. Resignation letter was turned into the highway superintendent today.
-The 2016 truck with the recycling rack installed has been at Mangino's for 1.5 weeks with a computer problem.

Old Business –

1. **New Computers-**
   Parascandola informed the board that two new computers arrived with one for the HWY Department and one for the Codes Enforcement office. The new computers are currently being installed.

2. **Solar Moratorium –**
   Table for tonight as O'Connell and McGovern are working on the moratorium.

3. **Speed Limit** –
   Parascandola explained that it was discussed at a previous board meeting with different opinions on the topic. It was decided to table until a full board could discuss further and decide for the town.

New Business –

1. **Library Update –**

Katrina Cohea the library director, gave the 2025 library report to the board highlighting the main points.
Programs are thriving and doing well. Cohea asked if the board had any questions. Braunius said that they are doing an excellent job.
Parascandola asked how the grant is going. Cohea explained that she has been collecting feedback from library visitors.
Cohea has submitted the building permit to the town for the new doors.

2. **Board Resignation –**
   Parascandola announced that Lisa Johnson resigned from the board effective July 17th, 2026, after she felt that the position would be a conflict of interest with her current job at

the Hamilton County DPW office. Johnson expressed that she is grateful for the opportunity to serve in her resignation letter to the board.

Resolution #131 Town Board Accepts Lisa Johnsons Letter of Resignation from the Town Board.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

3. **Occupancy Tax –**
   Parascandola informed the board that on May 19, 2026, the Villages Mayor Barrett, arranged a meeting between the Village of Speculator and the Towns of Wells and Lake Pleasant and the NY Conference of Mayors to discuss the implementation of an occupancy tax.
   This past Saturday, July 18th, the Village of Speculator had a community conversation regarding the proposed tax. There was a good turnout with over a dozen people in attendance containing a good mix of businesses and residents. This proposed occupancy tax will apply to hotels, motels, STR's and religious facilities, but not children's camps. Hamilton County voted against an occupancy tax yet there are ways to pass legislation for towns that want to have an occupancy tax. Next step would to be to hold a community conversation in the town to gage support. If the community is for the tax, movement of the legislation could move forward. Local laws will need to be formed for each form of government to move forward. The earliest implementation date would be July of 2027.
   STR's that are registered on a platform will have the tax collected by the platform and that platform will be responsible for collecting the tax from the renter and turning the funds over to the town. Hotels and motels, and private owners of STR would have to collect the tax and then turn it over to the town. The town will have to establish the rate of tax. Penalties can apply for not paying the taxes. There are roughly 40 STR's in the Town of Lake Pleasant.

Resolution # 132 Town Board Motion to Move Forward and Have a Community Conversation on August 17, 2026, at the Regular Board Meeting to Move Forward with the Interest in Developing an Occupancy Tax Based on Discussions.
Offered by: Parascandola
2nd by: Braunius
Discussion: O'Connell asked how this will affect the town's current STR law and Parascandola stated that the current law will still apply with the guests paying the occupancy tax.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

4. **FOIL Request Policy –**
   Parascandola explained that the clerk's office has been receiving continuous FOIL requests via e-mail in the past few months. Smith explained further that most of them are from data collection companies that are seeking information on products that the town doesn't utilize. Smith would like to have the town develop a policy on foil requests so that these easily e-mailed requests can be weeded out. She suggests policy on requiring physically mailed requests and charging for copies of information.
   Parascandola asked Smith to search for samples of policies to bring to the board.
   Braunius asked if the town can have a foil request form that must be filled out.

5. **2026 Annual Forward Together Conference & Association of Town Legislative Conference -**
   Parascandola would like to register for these conferences. She feels it would be advantageous to attend after the town was awarded a grant through the Lake George Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board. Cost is $175 and includes lunch on October 1, 2026. NYOT is having their legislative conference on September 22&23, 2026. A Certificate of Designation will need to be signed for Parascandola to vote at the conference on behalf of the town.

Resolution #133 Town Board to Approve of Supervisor Parascandola Attending the NYOT, September 22nd &23rd Conference and The Annual Forward Together Conference on October 1st.
Offered by: O'Connell
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #134 Town Board to Accept Grant Funds and Agrees to Terms and Conditions of the NYS Parks and Recreation Grant.
Offered by: O'Connell
RESOLVED, that The Town of Lake Pleasant applied for financial assistance from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("OPRHP") under the **Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993** for the purpose of funding the development of the Sagandaga Pathway Restoration Project;
RESOLVED, that The Town of Lake Pleasant is authorized and directed to accept these grant funds in an amount not to exceed $145,000 for the project described in the grant application;
RESOLVED, that The Town of Lake Pleasant is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of the State of New York Contract for Grants ("Contract") with OPRHP for such development of the Sacandaga Pathway Restoration Project;
RESOLVED, that The Town of Lake Pleasant is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of any required deed of easement granted to OPRHP that affects title to real

property owned by the municipality and improved by the grant funds, which may be a duly recorded public access covenant, conservation easement, and/or preservation covenant; and **RESOLVED**, that the governing body of the municipality delegates signing authority to execute the Contract and any amendments thereto, any required deed of easement, and any other certifications to the individuals who hold the following elected or appointed municipal office and employment position titles: Town Supervisor and Grants Committee.
2nd by: Braunius
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

I, Stephanie Smith, Clerk of The Town of Lake Pleasant, hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and accurate copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted by the governing body of the municipality, at a meeting duly and regularly held on July 20, 2026, at which quorum was present throughout, and the required majority of the governing body voted in favor of this resolution. I further certify that this resolution is still in full force and effect and has not been revoked or modified.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery Committee- The committee meet at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday July 7th. LaVarnway reviewed changes that the committee would like to make to the rules and regulations governing the cemeteries. The committee would like to include that free burials are for primary residents only and all others must pay a fee at the time of securing a reservation. More plots are being mapped out in fish mountain cemetery with the cemeteries filling at a rate that may have them full in ten years. Discussion between LaVarnway and the board was had at the table about the governance of the town cemeteries. The committee also shared possible changes to the reservation form. They would like to include a signature line for reservations with next to kin information on reservation forms. Fees were discussed and discussion continued.

Buildings Committee – The committee meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday July 7th. O'Connell informed the board that in preparation for budget time, she, LaVarnway and McGovern walked all of the town buildings and she is doing up a list of needs so that any needed work can be budgeted for next year.

Youth Recreation Committee – O'Connell reported that the bubble man event went well at the farmers market on July 16th there is a trip to Howe Caverns on July 22,2026 with sixteen children registered.
O'Connell announced that the historical society will hold their open house at the town museum on August 1st from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Website committee – Smith informed the board that the garbage schedule is on the website Calander grid. LaVarnway reminded everyone that the transfer station cannot accept black garbage bags. Parascandola will come onto the website committee to work on social media policy with Johnson resigning.
Grants Committee – Parascandola announced that payments for reimbursements are pending. LaVarnway asked about paint colors for the courts for contractors and Parascandola pointed out that the colors were specified in their bid packets.
Parascandola thanked the HWY department for their efforts and hard work on the site.
Parascandola is hoping for safety netting and working on estimates. This will be a temporary netting. She had gotten feedback from the grantee on whether fees and scheduling rules of the courts can apply and the response was no. It would be an act of legislation down the road to implement this due to the grant being open and rules would have to be submitted as part of the grant. Discussion went around the table about signage and rules and regulations of the courts.

Resolution #135 Approve Audit of Abstract #27 dated July 13, 2026, Voucher #4691-4692, Amount $50,600.00, Abstract #28 dated July 17, 2026, Voucher #4693-4711, Amount $26,125.41.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Discussion: O'Connell asked about the Miller ready mix for the drainage at the pickleball/tennis courts. She wanted to know if this was above and beyond the bid costs. LaVarnway stated that it is extra. Braunius asked about the crush-n-run and if ADK natural resources loads the product or if the town does. LaVarnway explained that the town does and the 214 truck hauls more and LaVarnway explained that the boxes are different sizes.
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: All (Supervisor Parascandola, (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Public Comment:
-Hoffman mentioned that other cemeteries sell deeds to plots in their cemeteries and family members can sell these deeded plots to whom they want.

Round table:
-Braunius noticed that the Whiskey Brook culvert state project is complete and you cannot park there anymore to get to the falls. The falls are on the list of waterfalls that people can hike up to. LaVarnway suggests talking to the guard rail DOT office in Utica.
-Smith shared the Local law drafted list that she and her deputy have been working on.
-LaVarnway asked about the hillside at the pickleball courts that will need erosion control. Cob rock is the pleasure of the town board with weed block underneath. Discussion was had about the path to the gardens and where the driveway will be.
- Parascandola let the board know that a check for $8,550.00 for a PERMA reimbursement came in today and is going into the town funds.
-Parascandola mentioned that the Lake Pleasant Fire Department had their annual Picnic on Saturday with a great turn out.

-Parascandola passed out to the board The Town of Lake Pleasants Comprehensive Plan for review. She asked the board to think about it as still being relevant as they review it and bring feedback at meetings about the plan currently.

Resolution #136 Town Board Entered Executive Session at 8:28 p.m. for a matter under #6 and of Town Law under Medical Financial, Credit or Employment History of a Particular Person or Corporation or Relating to Appointment, Promotion, Demotion, Discipline or Removal and #8 Acquisition, Lease or Sale of Real Property or Securities when Publicity would Substantially affect the value.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Resolution #137 Town Board Left Executive Session with No Action Taken at 9:14 p.m. with No Action Taken.
Offered by: Braunius
2nd by: O'Connell
Adopted by the following vote:
Ayes: Supervisor Parascandola and (Councilpersons – Braunius, and O'Connell)
Nays: None

Next Meeting: Monday August 3, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. @ the Lake Pleasant Town Hall
*****ON A MOTION BY**: Don Braunius **2nd by:** O'Connell
TO ADJOURN @ 9:15 P.M.
ALL IN FAVOR
Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Smith, Town Clerk