

A Special Meeting of the Town Board of Long Lake, Hamilton County, New York was held March 7, 2025, at the Long Lake Town Hall at 05:00 PM and called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and prayer by Supervisor Arsenault. 30 people attended.

Roll Call: Members present:

Clay J. Arsenault	Supervisor
Mark A. Bird	Councilman
Thomas L. Donnelly	Councilman
Nathan S. Hosley	Councilman

Absent: Councilman: Richard Dechene

Also in attendance: Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Matt Newby, Town Attorney, Carl Ferrentino and First Deputy Town Clerk, Amber Wamback.

There was a quorum to conduct the business of the Long Lake Town Board.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Supervisor Arsenault started the meeting by thanking all who were in attendance with there being such short notice of the special meeting.

Supervisor Arsenault spoke of John Hendrickson sudden passing in 2024. John Hendrickson and his beloved wife Marylou Whitney were such strong supporters of Long Lake during their lifetime, they both felt welcomed as members of the community in Long Lake. They were beloved and respected in the community and contributed generously to the Long Lake Library, Medical Center, annual fireworks show, and many other causes.

Supervisor Arsenault had a meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2025, with representatives for Mr. John Hendrickson's estate at the Whitney Office in Long Lake. Mr. Hendrickson's brother Ed Hendrickson attended the meeting remotely.

Ed Hendrickson explained that John Hendrickson designated the Town of Long Lake as the sole beneficiary of the net proceeds from the sale of Whitney Park. The estate will manage the marketing and sale of the property. The sale will require the obligations of the estate to be settled, the estate will then give the Town the net proceeds.

Supervisor Arsenault said that this is going to take some time to sink in for the Town, and he is sure we will start hearing mountains of requests, ideas, and criticisms. He commented that he knows lots of people are going to think this means no taxes, all the pet projects will get done, and every little thing is suddenly getting done tomorrow. However, that's not what is going to happen. We are extremely financially healthy right now as a Town. He plans on prioritizing protections for this gift to make sure we stay that way for many generations to come.

In previous conversation Councilman Donnelly reminded Supervisor Arsenault, the quickest way to end up with a small fortune is to start with a large one. The Board will not let that happen

We as the Town want to live like no other government and prioritize a few things: smart investments to provide the Town with perpetual income from the lion's share of this money; infrastructure and town property maintenance; and impeccable business practices within the town government. This is what living like no other government looks like, so that this Town can live like no other Town. These responsibilities must come before all the novel, fashionable, or politically trending impulses that we may have. We will show the discipline necessary to make sure that this gift does not become a footnote in our history. Everything we do with this money must produce a sustainable and lasting product for the community.

The Board will work with financial advisors, the State Comptroller, Town attorney, professional planners, and community members to make sure plans are in place for this generous gift. Specific funds should be established for the highest priority goals of the comprehensive plan, and committees formed to work with the planners, financial advisors, and engineers to ensure that each project is properly budgeted, funded, and the work overseen.

Supervisor Arsenault stated that he has lived his whole life in Long Lake. He loves this Town, loves the people, and is proud of everything the Town has accomplished. He can't wait to work with the community to forge the best possible future for the Town of Long Lake.

Supervisor Arsenault commented that as long as he sits in his position as Town Supervisor, that he and the Board will treat this gift with the respect it deserves. Though it will likely be a few years before the Town receives any funds, the Town must start thinking about how this gift will be managed responsibly, be transparent, and faithful John Hendrickson and Marylou Whitney's memory.

The Town will honor John and Marylou's legacy by making sure the gift serves the public good.

COUNCILMAN COMMENTS

Councilman Hosley commented that it's an amazing gift.

Councilman Donnelly expressed his gratitude for this monumental gift.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Bateman asked What does the family plan to do with the property.
Supervisor Arsenault responded that the estate will be listing the property soon.

Joe Widay asked how many acres the property the estate is planning to sell.
Supervisor Arsenault responded that it is 36 thousand acres.

Michael Black asked, isn't there a limit of money that the Town can have?
Supervisor Arsenault replied that it will be looking into.

Kent Stanton asked if the property being sold includes Camp on the Point, which is on Little Tupper?
Supervisor Arsenault said that Camp on the Point is not included.

Michael Black asked if the Town is obligated to sell to the highest bidder?
Supervisor Arsenault replied that the Town is not selling the property, the estate is selling the property.

Michael Farrell asked if the Town will be getting proceeds once each lot is sold off.
Supervisor Arsenault replied that the estate will not be selling all lots as one.

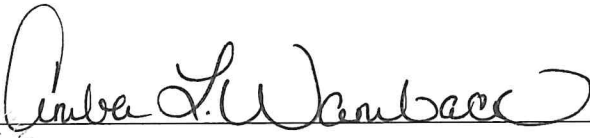
Don Winter asked if the public would have access to the property?
Supervisor Arsenault said no the public will not have access.

Keith Austin asked if the sale includes the "Bill Gross" property?
Supervisor Arsenault said that the property is included in the sale.

ADJOURN

Motion by Supervisor Arsenault, seconded by Councilman Bird to adjourn at 5:19 PM.

Adopted:	Clay J. Arsenault	Aye
	Mark A. Bird	Aye
	Thomas L. Donnelly	Aye
	Nathan S. Hosley	Aye

Attested by: 
Amber L. Wamback, First Deputy Town Clerk

