

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held February 15, 2018 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a pledge to the flag.

Present were: Michael Benvenuto	Supervisor
Charles Wood	Councilman
Peter Nelson	Councilman
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

No Audience members- Public Comment waived.

MOTION #1 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING JANUARY 18, 2018 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort, Nelson

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Paraco /Kosco gave the Town a credit on their account for the damage caused in West Ghent by running out of fuel. A letter was received from the Scannells commending the highway department on a job well done during the recent storms.

MOTION #2 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort, Nelson

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING & COMMITTEES:

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINTUES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017 AND THE ZONING BOARD MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 13, 2018 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

COMMITTEES:

GRZC- On going, making progress. The next meeting is February 26, 2018. Broadband is looking for a firm launch date from the PSC regarding service. Climate Smart is waiting on approval from NYSEG regarding installation of charging station. The Bicentennial journal is almost done and ready for the printer. Historian Gregg Berninger submitted a report for the Board for January.

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT ALL THE COMMITTEES REPORTS FOR JANUARY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been very busy with storms back to back not amounting to much but kept us going round and round for sure. I attended a meeting representing Columbia County Towns and Highway as president. I will be attending advocacy day March 7 meeting with state senators and lobbyists requesting and showing a presence for our much need state money CHIPS. We are in very good shape at this time with our salt sand mixes and salt with a large stock pile of straight sand outside yet. I signed another contract two weeks ago to order my sand to be made early spring and hauled late summer. Over three weeks Colarusso ran out of winter sand due to others not planning ahead and having enough on hand to get through the winter. In between the poor weather we have been doing tree work for upcoming road projects. I have been talking back and forth with the bridge engineer regarding final design of bridge footing to make things easier and less costly doing project ourselves. We have been slowly changing all of our plow cutting edges over to carbide which is a much better and longer lasting we are now on 4 year on some of our front plows were we would estimate have worn through around 12-15 blades not including shoes and hardware.

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR JANUARY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 15 FOR THE YEAR 2018: * Originally LL # 1 was amending the zoning code that was tabled until County Planning approves.*

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2018, SETTING FORTH CHANGES TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 161 (TAXATION) BY AMENDING ARTICLE IV (VETERANS EXEMPTIONS) AND ARTICLE VI (COLD WAR VETERANS EXEMPTION), AND BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE VII (GOLD STAR PARENT EXEMPTION); AND WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD REGARDING THIS PROPOSED LOCAL LAW BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD, ON FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 6:45 P.M. AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD UPON THE CLOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW IF ADOPTED WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT.

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #15 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #16 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 2 FOR THE YEAR 2018, SETTING FORTH CHANGES TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 36 (PERSONNEL POLICIES), ARTICLE V (SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY) AND ARTICLE IX (WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION POLICY); AND WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD REGARDING THIS PROPOSED LOCAL LAW BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD, ON FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 6:55 P.M. AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD UPON THE CLOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW IF ADOPTED WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT.

MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #16 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #17 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT HAVE SUBMITTED A PETITION REQUESTING A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR THAT PORTION OF NEW YORK STATE ROUTE 203 EXTENDING FROM THE MARANATHA CHRISTIAN CHURCH, LOCATED AT 2165 NY-203, TO THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM BORDER (HEREINAFTER THE "SUBJECT ROADWAY"); AND WHEREAS, THE SUBJECT ROADWAY CURRENTLY HAS A SPEED LIMIT OF 55 MPH; AND WHEREAS, THE SUBJECT ROADWAY IS HEAVILY USED BY PEDESTRIANS WALKING TO MAC-HAYDN THEATER, EDGEWOOD ACRES MOBILE HOME PARK, AND CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL; AND

WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR THE SUBJECT ROADWAY WOULD IMPROVE SAFETY ON THE SUBJECT ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES REDUCTION OF THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR THE SUBJECT ROADWAY IS WARRANTED. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS A REDUCTION OF THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR THAT PORTION OF NEW YORK STATE ROUTE 203 EXTENDING FROM THE MARANATHA CHRISTIAN CHURCH, LOCATED AT 2165 NY-203, TO THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM BORDER; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NYS DOT) AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE NYS DOT AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH REVIEWING THIS MATTER, TOWARD THE GOAL THAT THE SPEED LIMIT BE REDUCED AS REQUESTED HEREIN.

MOTION #10 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #17 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT FOR DECEMBER
AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$74960.88
S.L.	\$1256.36
General B	\$253.31
Highway DB	\$36492.59
TOTAL:	\$112963.14

MOTION# 11 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS BUDGET made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

Public comment waived.

MOTION #12 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney, approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley