

DRAFT
TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 16, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held November 16, 2017 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

Five audience members

MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Dr. Merrill Johnson- Could the Board give clarification regarding the West Ghent Fire Department?

Supervisor Benvenuto read aloud a letter to be sent to the West Ghent Fire Company from the Town Board regarding their funding for 2018. (Letter attached).

Dr. Johnson- Commended the Town Board on their conclusions regarding funding and appreciates the time taken in addressing his concerns.

MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN MEETING made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 19, 2017 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Communication from Charter regarding the Broad Band Committee's requests. An email from Columbia County Planning Department thanking Rick Martino for his service on the Board representing the Town of Ghent. The Tax Cap form has been submitted to the State of New York. Food Pantry numbers for October 2017 Families- 107 Children 112, Adults 189, Seniors 26, New Clients 3 and 3914 pounds of food. Thanksgiving dinners to be distributed on November 18, 2017.

MOTION #4 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 #5 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING & COMMITTEES:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINTUES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 AND OCTOBER 4 2017 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

GZRC- Just finished reviewing use table, almost done.

BROADBAND- Call with Broadband program office on Monday to discuss timeline.

MOTION #9 TO APPROVE THE RFP FOR THE CHARGING STATION TO PLUG IN STATIONS made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

The Bicentennial Committee is still looking for photos and hope to set up more interviews with residents. Ads for the journal should be in by mid-December. Community day will be held on October 13, 2018.

DOG CONTROL:

MOTION #10 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR OCTOBER made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been busy cleaning leaves out of ditches making sure our pipes are free as possible from debris. Couple of weeks ago we had some pretty heavy winds and blow down trees.

We worked with tree crew taking down a bunch of dangerous and dead trees we could not safely do which we do every fall. We are days away from finishing our first new Dodge plow truck which we have been building in house. We have been putting snow fence up once again and prepping our winter equipment.

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR OCTOBER made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT THE FINAL BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT FOR 2018 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

The Tree lighting has been scheduled for December 1, 2017 at 6:00pm.

MOTION # 13 TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2018 FIRE CONTRACTS ON DECEMBER 21, 2017 BEGINNING AT 6:45PM made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #14 TO APPROVE THE RESCUE SQUAD CONTRACTS, GHENT / CHATHAM SENIORS CONTRACT, MORRIS MEMORIAL CONTRACT AND THE COLUMBIA GREENE HUMANE SOCIETY CONTRACT ALL FOR 2018 MADE BY made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #15 TO SET THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR JANUARY 4, 2017 AT 6: 00 PM made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT AND BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 FOR 2017

AUDITED BILLS:

General A \$34166.82

S.L. \$807.26

General B \$1286.00

Highway DB \$30734.72

TOTAL: \$66995.16

BUDGET AMENDMENT #3 FOR 2017:

	DECREASE	INCREASE
A1620.4	\$26875.00	
A878		\$26875.00
H99019	\$26875.00	
H878		\$26875.00
DB5120.4	\$60,000.00	
DB9710.6		\$60,000.00

MOTION# 16 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS AND APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFER # 3 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #17 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT LIMITED TO THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT MEETING made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Matheny and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

No comments

A brief discussion was held by the Board members regarding West Ghent Fire Company.

MOTION #21 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:50PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted, Michelle Radley