

**TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
April 18, 2019**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held April 18, 2019 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
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Absent- Highway Superintendent Ben Perry

Also Present - 3 Public

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

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

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney announced that a long-time Member of the Community and Public Servant, Gil Rabb passed away on April 5, 2019. She read a heartfelt letter from Ted Guterman with comments of her own about what a great Public Servant and friend Gil was. The Town owes Gil a debt of gratitude for his 40 years of service as a volunteer as well as an employee.

MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2019 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Grazin' Spirits, LLC was received April 15, 2019 advising that the plan to open a small branch office to their farm distillery at 138 Bartel Road, Ghent, NY. All alcohol produced at the site will have 90% or more of its ingredients sourced from NYS Farms and will use organic grains, and/or fruits. Traffic is not expected to increase. Food pantry #'s for March: 71 Families, 107 Adults, 51 children, 28 seniors, 4 new clients and 1650 lbs. of food.

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERKS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION # 7 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES FOR MARCH 6, 2019 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Broadband Committee – no news on the Broadband front, they have received a correspondence from Dave Berman and Kevin Egan regarding the wrong IP address. Councilwoman Matheney will ask Dave Berman about IP reports.

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR MARCH made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney, as promised from the March meeting, has provided a Mission Statement from the proposed "Ghent Preservation Committee" and is as follows:

The Town of Ghent hereby creates the Ghent Preservation Committee for the purpose of researching public funds and grant monies available for historic preservation projects with the Town. This citizen advisory committee will offer research, guidance, and recommendations to the Town Board on an ad hoc basis for potential historic preservation projects within the Town. The committee shall not be an active fundraising committee and shall have no oversight over building codes or aesthetic choices. The founding members of the Ghent Preservation Committee shall be:

*Gregg Berninger, Ghent Town Historian
Patti Matheney, Ghent Town Councilwoman
Ed Parran
Jim Guidera*

Additional or replacement members of the committee may be recommended to the Town Board by the committee for appointment by the Town Board.

The Committee will meet on an ad hoc basis.

MOTION # 9 TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF THE GHENT PRESERVATION COMMITTEE made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CLIMATE SMART:

The RFP for Lighting was issued and uploaded on the NYSERTA portal. Two (2) bids have been received and reviewed by the Committee: Leggett Electric's bid was approximately \$34,000.00 and RISE Engineering came in with the lowest bid at \$23,321.00. RISE was recommended by NYSEG and National Grid as they are very familiar with the process. The funds are provided by the CEC grant. Town Attorney Matt Cabral read the Proposed Resolution, awarding the Bid to RISE Engineering for approval.

WHEREAS, the Town of Ghent has applied for and has been awarded a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities Program ("CEC") Grant in the amount of \$35,000.00 to fund lighting efficiency upgrades for its municipal buildings and the installation of photovoltaic panels at the Town highway garage; and WHEREAS, in accordance with the Town of Ghent Procurement Policy, the Town prepared an RFP and solicited proposals from at least three contractors for the lighting efficiency upgrades to be funded by the CEC Grant; and WHEREAS, in response to its RFP the Town received two proposals from qualified contractors; and WHEREAS, RISE Engineering, a division Thielsch Engineering Inc., 16-B Petra Lane, Albany, New York 12205, submitted the least expensive proposal meeting the required specifications for this work in the total amount of \$23,321.00; and WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to accept the aforementioned proposal meeting the required specifications and to engage RISE Engineering to perform the lighting efficiency upgrades to be funded by the CEC Grant in accordance with terms, conditions, and specifications of the RFP issued by the Town. NOW, THEREFORE. BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Ghent, that the Town Board does hereby approve and accept the proposal for the furnishing of all labor and materials necessary to perform the lighting efficiency upgrades to be funded by the CEC Grant in accordance with terms, conditions, and specifications of the RFP issued by the Town. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor of the Town of Ghent is hereby authorized to engage RISE Engineering to perform this work and to take all necessary and appropriate steps on behalf of the Town to effectuate the completion of said work in compliance with the requirements of the CEC Grant.

MOTION # 10 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18 OF THE YEAR 2019 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Town Clerk Michelle Radley to advise RISE that their proposal has been accepted and arrange for the 25% up front.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Supervisor Benvenuto advised the Committee that he has spoken with Karen Schassler and she gearing up for summer camp and started the calendar of events.

DOG CONTROL REPORT:

12/15 Rolling Hills Lot #26 has a Shepard loose had an issue with Lot #13 dog. They handled it within but was advised if it happened again tickets would be issued. 1/9 missing 2 dogs Snyder Rd 518-249-7741 Brittany Female & Black/White Male. 1/15 1337 Cty Rte 9 Blue House caller complained dog being outside....been there before still no issues. 2/3 Stray picked up near airport brought to CGHS. 2/4 missing Border Collie from Liberty Farm Ostrander Rd 518-653-9343 or 518-653-4970. 2/28 young black lab found 10 Housman Ave belongs there but fence has holes in it....spoke to owners

MOTION # 11 TO APPROVE THE DOG CONTROL REPORT made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Matheney, Nelson, Mort, Wood
Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Supervisor Benvenuto read the Superintendent of Highways report as the Superintendent was not present.

- We have been busy with spring cleanup completed last week of the road sweeping which we have once again successfully done in a two week time frame from the 6 week time frame years ago. We have been cleaning up equipment and switching from winter to summer use. Snow fence is down and put away till fall. We have started the final cleanup of shoulder work on roads we intend on resurfacing this season. The State Budget did not include the Extreme Winter Recovery Money this year and we are going to feel it in the Highway operation on what I had intended on doing with resurfacing this year. Some things will change with to 284 form in order to adjust due to this loose of financial moneys. We received the check from the equipment we auctioned of two months ago I would once again request that this check for \$1,960.00 be placed into Highway reserves for future use by the Highway Department. We are getting ready to strip down one of our 2007 Mack plow trucks to rebuild with a body swap from a poorly deteriorating body with the body we were able to save from the new body transplant after this truck we will have only one more truck that has not had a full rehab which is scheduled for next year for a rehab. I would like the boards approval to put the Dump Body on the auction site once it is removed in order to gain what we can in finances for future in house rehab work

MOTION # 12 TO PUT THE DUMP BODY FOR SALE ON THE AUCTION SITE ONCE IT IS REMOVED AND PLACE THE CHECK FOR \$1960.00 INTO THE HIGHWAY RESERVES FOR FUTURE USE made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Matheney, Nelson, Mort, Wood
Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

MOWING

An RFP was issued and one (1) bid was received for the playground, and the six old cemeteries from Northern Columbia Lawn Care at the same price for the last two years.

MOTION # 13 TO AWARD THE BID FOR MOWING TO NORTHERN COLUMBIA LAWN CARE made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Matheney, Nelson, Mort, Wood
Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION # 14 TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR LOCAL LAW 1-2019 PHASE 3 ON MAY 9, 2019 AT 7:30 PM made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Matheney, Nelson, Mort, Wood
Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$20,578.38
S.L.	\$853.62
General B	\$920.30
Highway DB	\$68,540.94
TOTAL:	\$90,893.24

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MOTION # 15 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

MOTION #16 TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:40 PM made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully submitted

Kelly S. Baccaro

