

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
April 20, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held April 20, 2016 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Deputy Supervisor Wood opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag.

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Present were: Michael Benvenuto | Supervisor – via video conferencing |
| Charles Wood                    | Councilman                          |
| Peter Nelson                    | Councilman                          |
| Patti Matheney                  | Councilwoman                        |
| Mallory Mort                    | Councilman                          |
| Matthew Cabral                  | Attorney for Town                   |

**MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT** made by Deputy Supervisor Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Tom Curran- Mayor of the Village of Chatham- Referenced communication between himself and Supervisor Benvenuto.

Chris Jones- Disappointed in the Board passing of Local Law # 2. Asked for transparency in regards to communication and asked whether comments at the end of the meeting could also be questions.

Richard Coon- referenced the current lawsuit involving himself and the Town of Ghent.

Martha McMaster- questions the lack of this month's agenda on the website.

Peter Coan- Ask the availability of the reports the Board is discussing can be accessed by the public beforehand or copies provided.

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING FROM MARCH 17, 2016** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Supervisor Benvenuto and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Food Pantry Numbers for March- 77 Families, 70 Children, 148 Adults, 20 Seniors, 2 New Clients, 4198 pounds of food.

Deputy Supervisor Wood read aloud letters received by the Town Board. Koethi Zan thanked the Board for considering appointing her to the Zoning Review Committee. Kathy Burke submitted a letter resigning as secretary for the Planning Board. Correspondence emails between Supervisor Benvenuto and Village Mayor Tom Curran regarding recent Zoning changes.

**MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

**MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH** 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 TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING AND ZONING:

**MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING BOARD FROM MARCH 2, 2016 AND THE ZONING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 10, 2016** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #8 TO APPOINT JEN STONER THE PLANNING BOARD FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #9 TO APPOINT MARK LEGGETT THE ZONING BOARD FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Supervisor Benvenuto and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 10 TO APPOINT LAEL LOCKE AND KOETHI ZAN TO THE ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**YOUTH PARKS AND RECREATION:**

Superintendent Perry reported on the status up the conditions of both Town parks. Fencing will be repaired by Berkshire Fence, broken playground post in West Ghent was replaced by manufacturer and installed, both playgrounds mulched and tennis nets are up.

**DCO REPORT:**

**MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR MARCH** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**HIGHWAY:**

Superintendent Perry took a second to apologize for not being able to stay at the last board meeting. That night I had to put a different hat on to deal with one of my employee's family after he took his own life. We had some flooding 5 roads were impacted which we are just about finished with repair with doing one road completely from one end to the other making adjustments as needed adding additional pipe on one road in trying to help control heavy water in future we only had one road damaged that we have completely re-ditched two years ago due to a bank eroding and sliding down into ditch due to no frost in ground. Attended Advocacy day at the state office in Albany on the 9th in attendance with almost 700 other Highway Supt and vendors in supporting us for our lobbying of 26.1 billion for the next 5 years. The DOT was awarded 27.1 Billion dollars for the next 4 years & an additional 100 Million to pave New York. We continue to move forward with road projects we are about two months ahead of this year's schedule do to the unusual weather this winter. We just got done with freshening up a 1997 1 ton engine and cab and chassis now we have one of the international plow truck engine pulled apart doing an in- frame engine over haul. We are in the middle of an in-frame engine rebuild right now as we speak which is normally a 12-14k job out sourced we will be in around 5k in cost to do this kind of a job. We continue to better the drainage system on each and every road we work on with it showing with less impact to the highway road system with less water sitting on road ways. We had our first real snow storm of the year the first week of April which at this time of year adds greater concern & chances to damage the roads so we have to be very careful on which truck can and can't plow such roads.

I was able to pick up a left over brand new poly plow which is much lighter and scrapes better than the big plow for a discounted price saving of \$1500.

**MOTION# 12 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR APRIL** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Local Law # 3 for the Year 2016:

Attorney Cabral read aloud the Short Environmental Assessment Forms pertaining to Local Law # 3 for the year 2016.

**MOTION # 13 TO ISSUE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SEQRA, PERTAINING TO LOCAL LAW # 3 FOR 2016** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 18 FOR THE YEAR 2016

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 FOR THE YEAR 2016, WHICH WOULD AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 190 (ZONING), SECTION 190-21, PARAGRAPH (A) TO PROVIDE THAT SITE PLAN REVIEW SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR PRIVATE USE STRUCTURES IN THE RURAL RESIDENTIAL/AGRICULTURAL-1 AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL/AGRICULTURAL-2 DISTRICTS; WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016 HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE TOWN OF GHENT PLANNING BOARD; WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD REGARDING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016 BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD ON JANUARY 27, 2016, AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING; WHEREAS, PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016 WAS REFERRED TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, WHICH REVIEWED THE MATTER AND INDICATED THAT ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 HAS NO SIGNIFICANT COUNTY-WIDE OR INTERCOMMUNITY IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH IT AND, THEREFORE, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT MAY PROCEED TO TAKE FINAL ACTION WITH A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD AFTER REVIEWING ALL OF THIS INPUT, HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2016, IF ADOPTED, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD CONDUCTED A REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT AND DETERMINED THAT THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW WOULD HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THAT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION BE ISSUED.

**MOTION #14 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 18 FOR THE YEAR 2016** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION #15 TO APPROVE MOWING SERVICES RENEWAL BY NORTHERN COLUMBIA LAWN CARE** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 19 FOR THE YEAR 2016:

WHEREAS, THE BUILDING INSPECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT IS TEMPORARILY UNABLE TO SERVE DUE TO A MEDICAL ISSUE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT A DEPUTY BUILDING INSPECTOR SHOULD BE APPOINTED ON A TEMPORARY BASIS TO ASSIST WITH THE DUTIES OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR. NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, IT IS RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT VINCE CONCRA BE, AND HEREBY IS, APPOINTED DEPUTY BUILDING INSPECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT FOR A PERIOD OF THIRTY (30) DAYS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

**MOTION #16 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 19 FOR THE YEAR 2016** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR YEAR END 2015 AS PREPARED BY THE ACCOUNTING FIRM PKHB TO BALANCE THE AUD FOR THE YEAR.

**MOTION # 17 TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE YEAR 2015** made by made by Councilwoman Matheney, 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:

AUDITED BILLS:

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| General A  | \$32228.65 |
| S.L.       | \$787.46   |
| General B  | \$3918.44  |
| Highway DB | \$48820.96 |
| TOTAL:     | \$85755.51 |

**MOTION# 18 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS** made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #19 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT LIMITED TO THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT MEETING** made by Deputy Supervisor Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Gunner Wordon- Glad to see Lael Locke was appointed to GCZC.

Peter Coan- Information regarding unusual activity would be more useful rather than normal activity. Commented regarding the communication between Supervisor Benvenuto and Mayor Curran.

Sheldon Evans- When will the other remaining Zoning issues be addressed by the GZRC?

Councilwoman Matheny- The committee continues to meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 6:30 pm at the Town hall.

Chris Jones- Felt the communication from Supervisor Benvenuto was inflammatory. Commended Superintendent Perry on a job well done.

Tana Thompson- Commented the Mayor and Lael Locke had legitimate concerns. Asked about the County waste water treatment plant.

Rich Coon- Asked Supervisor Benvenuto to apologize as a good gesture to Mayor Curran.

Deputy Supervisor Wood – We will be meeting with the Mayor upon Supervisor Benevento's return from vacation.

Supervisor Benvenuto- I will address when I return and speak with the Mayor further.

Gunner Worden- Can you clarify comments made at last public hearing?

Supervisor Benvenuto- was concerned about comments made that were not accurate.

Peter Coan- Agrees appointing Lael to the GZRC was the right thing to do.

**MOTION #20 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:15PM** made by Deputy Supervisor Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley

