

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
March 15, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held March 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

Three 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

Chief Tony Brahm GFD- Has a formal request been made to NYSDOT for repair of the bridge on Route 66 by post office?

Supervisor Benvenuto- Yes, they are awaiting on their final budget figures. A letter from the fire company will help as well. Ben will also take all information to the next Traffic Safety Board meeting this month.

**MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN MEETING** made by Councilman Wood 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 AND PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 15, 2018** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

COORESPONDENCE:

Food Pantry numbers for February 2018 Families- 69, Children 74, Adults 116, Seniors 25, New Clients 3 and 2559 pounds of food.

**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 FEBRUARY** 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 FEBRUARY** 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/ TAX COLLECTOR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort  
Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Broadband Report:

Charter audit requested, a letter will be sent by the Town. Fairpoint to be installing new broadband by January 1, 2019.

Climate Smart- NYSEG has been notified to request power by pole for charging station.

Bicentennial Committee- Postmarks will be available on April 3, 2018 at the Ghent Post office.

Historian Report- submitted by Historian to the Town Board.

DOG CONTROL:

**MOTION # 8 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney, Wood  
Nays: 0

**HIGHWAY:**

We have been very busy chasing snowflakes and trees falling. We weathered the two back to back storms better than some other town's. Roads were very slippery having to chain all trucks. We have been doing road mowing and have started to prep some projects for this upcoming spring. We have been filling pot holes like crazy since the warm weather came a few weeks ago when frost went out of the ground and all the rain we had. It is truly nice to have a large array of equipment in our fleet to handle what Mother Nature throws at us which she has not been friendly lately from 70-15 degrees swing to heavy rain and 40" of snow. We have a few units that need to go I would like permission to move with trying to sell these units whether it be by bid or by an auction site. Truck 4 1997 diesel dump with bad engine -Truck 3 2004 diesel 4 door dump -Two 10' chip boxes - 8.5' minute mount plow 2002 -grease air pump system and two 30gal barrels of grease and steam Jenny with burnt out heater box. We are in the middle of working on a complete rebuild of our tow behind road broom which has been modified for the Operator to control unit from inside of the cab of a truck. I have a 284 form for the board to sign for my files for the chips appropriated funds for where I intend on spending the state monies added this year. I have been going back and forth with the engineers regarding the final design the blue prints are in the hands of the final phase and I should be seeing them shortly.

**MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR FEBRARY AND SIGN THE 284 FORM FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE ROADWAYS** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #10 TO APPROVE SALE OF EQUIPMENT VIA AUCTION OR BIDS UPON ATTORNEY REVIEW** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT KEITH KANAGA'S RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATLEY FROM THE ZBA AND BAR** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #12 TO APPOINT ELEIZABETH ACCIANI TO THE BAR FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS AND APPOINT TARA GROOM TO THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF KEITH KANAGA FOR THE BAR** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #13 TO APPOINT CHRISTOPHER KEEFE TO THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF SCOTT LEGGETT ON THE ZBA** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

**MOTION #14 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18 FOR YEAR REGARDING RETIREMENT REPORTING FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

**MOTION #15 TO DEFER TO CLAVERACK REGARDING COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

**MOTION #16 TO GRANT PERMISSION TO THE CHATHAM LADY REDS TO USE THE WATER STREET BALL FIELDS PENDING ATTORNEY REVIEW** made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

**MOTION #17 TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE EMILT ECKSTOM 5 K RUN TO BE HELD IN GHENT ON MAY 19, 2018** 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:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$23456.07
S.L.	\$858.43
General B	\$468.00
Highway DB	\$30412.49
TOTAL:	\$55194.99

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT WAIVED

**MOTION #19 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:08 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Radley

