

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held November 15, 2018 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a moment of silence in honor of Ken Wilber and the 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

Public comment waived.

MOTION #1 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE TOWN BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2018 AND THE PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 8, 2018 made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from spectrum Business regarding the Town's new service account representative. Food Pantry numbers for October 2018 Families- 104, Children 102, Adults 159, Seniors 35, New Clients 5 and 2976 pounds of food.

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

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

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS 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 #4 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS 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

MOTION #5 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 AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION # 6 TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING BOARD OCTOBER 23, 2018 AND THE ZONING BOARD FOR SEPTEMBER 12, 2018 AND OCTOBER 10, 2018 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN HISTORIAN 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

HIGHWAY:

We have finished our 2018 paving season witch is always bitter sweet summer has ended and winter is upon us. We have been doing end of the year hauling stock piles for next year. We have been preparing equipment for winter. We just finished our body transplant and put truck back into service Tuesday this week things went very well and this unit should serve the town for many more years.

MOTION # 8 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

LOCAL LAW #4 FOR 2018:

RESOLUTION #33 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 4 FOR THE YEAR 2018, SETTING FORTH CHANGES TO THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 36 (PERSONNEL POLICIES), ARTICLE V (ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY); AND WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD REGARDING THIS PROPOSED LOCAL LAW BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD ON NOVEMBER 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 #9 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 33 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT- the Public hearing will remain open on this until December 20, 2018 at 6:40 pm.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET

RESOLUTION # 34 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2019 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET THE TOWN OF GHENT MUST SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE 2019 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM TAX CAP INCREASE ALLOWANCE, INCLUDING THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CALCULATING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR; WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERVISOR HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FACILITATE AND ENSURE THAT THIS FILING IS COMPLETED AS REQUIRED; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO FILE THE REQUISITE INFORMATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR IS AUTHORIZED TO COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND FILINGS TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER'S TAX CAP FILING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS RELATED TO THE 2019 TOWN BUDGET AND ITS ADOPTION.

MOTION #10 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 34 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 11 TO ADOPT THE 2019 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION #12 TO ENTER CONTRACTS WITH THE CHATHAM GHENT SENIORS AND MORRIS MEMORIAL FOR 2019 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #13 TO ENTER CONTRACTS FOR 2019 WITH THE CHATHAM, VALATIE AND GREENPORT RESCUE SQUADS made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION# 35 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF ITS TOWN ASSESSOR LYNN HOTALING TO UPDATE THE 2021 ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT AND TO MAINTAIN SUCH ASSESSMENT ROLL AT FULL-MARKET VALUE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD SUPPORTS THE ALLOCATION OF SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, INCLUDING TOWN STAFF AND SERVICES, AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY EXPRESS ITS SUPPORT FOR TOWN ASSESSOR LYNN HOTALING TO UPDATE THE 2021 ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT AND TO MAINTAIN SUCH ASSESSMENT ROLL AT FULL-MARKET VALUE, AND AUTHORIZES THE ALLOCATION OF SUFFICIENT RESOURCES, INCLUDING TOWN STAFF AND SERVICES, AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE SUCH PROJECT; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD EXPRESSLY REQUESTS THAT THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE THAT IS TYPICALLY AFFORDED DURING SUCH PROJECTS TO THE GHENT TOWN ASSESSOR; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS THE TOWN ASSESSOR TO SEND A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICES AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY REAL PROPERTY TAX SERVICE AGENCY, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES AND DIRECTS THE TOWN SUPERVISOR, TOWN ASSESSOR, AND/OR TOWN CLERK TO TAKE SUCH OTHER AND FURTHER ACTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE TERMS OF THIS RESOLUTION.

MOTION #14 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 35 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 15 TO SET PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR FIRE CONTRACTS ON DECEMBER 20, 2018. GHENT AT 6:45PM, CHATHAM AT 6:50PM AND WEST GHENT AT 6:55PM made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

The Annual tree lighting and menorah lighting will take place at the Town Hall, December 2, 2018 at 5pm.

RESOLUTION # 36 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS APPLIED FOR AND HAS BEEN AWARDED A STATE AND MUNICIPAL FACILITIES PROGRAM (SAM) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENOVATING THE WEST GHENT COMMUNITY CENTER AND RESURFACING THE TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS LOCATED AT THE WEST GHENT COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE GHENT TOWN PARK (THE "PROJECT"); WHEREAS, THIS SAM GRANT WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK (DASNY); WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS OBTAINED ESTIMATES TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, THE TOTAL OF WHICH IS CURRENTLY \$129,948.00; WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT IS COMMITTED TO FUNDING THE PROJECT IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT OF THE SAM GRANT AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, WHICH FUNDING, BASED UPON THE CURRENT ESTIMATES, AMOUNTS TO \$4,948.00; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS DETERMINED THAT ACCEPTING THE SAM GRANT AND COMMITTING TO FUNDING THE PROJECT IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT OF THE SAM GRANT AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT DOES HEREBY ACCEPT THE SAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENOVATING THE WEST GHENT COMMUNITY CENTER AND RESURFACING THE TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS LOCATED AT THE WEST GHENT COMMUNITY CENTER AND THE GHENT TOWN PARK.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT DOES HEREBY COMMIT TO FUNDING THE PROJECT IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT OF THE SAM GRANT AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT, WHICH FUNDING, BASED UPON THE CURRENT ESTIMATES, AMOUNTS TO \$4,948.00. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO SUBMIT TO THE SAM GRANT ADMINISTRATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN, A LETTER ACCEPTING THE SAM GRANT FUNDING AND EXPRESSING THE TOWN'S COMMITMENT TO FUND THE PROJECT IN EXCESS OF THE AMOUNT OF THE SAM GRANT AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT.

MOTION #16 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 35 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #17 TO ISSUE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR SEQRA FORM PERTAINING TO THE SAM GRANT APPLICATION made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

BUDGET AMENDMENT # 3 FOR 2018

	DEBIT	CREDIT
DB 5130.2	\$37795.00	
DB 2665		\$15615.00
DB3960		\$22180.00

MOTION # 18 TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT # 3 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney 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	\$33542.41
S.L.	\$837.24
General B	\$2538.65
Highway DB	\$40897.79
TOTAL:	\$77816.09

MOTION # 19 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 # 20 TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:53 PM TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

MOTION # 21 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURN MEETING MADE AT 8:06 PM made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Michelle Radley, Town Clerk