

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 20, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held December 20, 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
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Absent- Councilwoman Matheney

PUBLIC COMMENT WAIVED

MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #2 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON NOVEMBER 15 ,2018 made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

COORESPONDENCE:

Letter received from NYSDOT regarding reduction of the speed limit on Route 203. Food Pantry number for November: 76 Families, 72 Adults, 116 children, 29 seniors, 6 new client and 3766 lbs. of food.

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION # 7 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 3, 2018, NOVEMBER 7, 2018 AND NOVEMBER 28, 2018 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE HISTORIAN'S REPORT FOR NOVEMBER made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been busy chasing small snow squalls and ice issues. Snow fence is finally finished set up since the ground finally hardened up. We have received our new vortex snow plow awarded through the state grant and are going to put it to good use. The new truck is at the fitters having the snow plow fitted to it as we speak we should be seeing the unit shortly. We have everything we need to put truck into service once we get unit. I emailed the State grant people and let them know we have paid and have all of our check receipts for the final part of the State grant I was instructed to hold onto everything and they would contact me with further instructions. We are working on getting Roads prepped for this upcoming season. Union Contract has been signed & new work place harassment policy have been handed out.

MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 37 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT A PROPOSED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH BERKSHIRE CABLE CORP. L/K/A CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS (HEREINAFTER "CONSOLIDATED") FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, AND

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONSOLIDATED IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH AGREEMENT, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY CONSOLIDATED WILL IMPROVE CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT AND THAT THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT COMPLIES WITH THE STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, AND WHEREAS, CONSOLIDATED HAS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ADDRESS ANY ISSUES OR CONCERNS RAISED BY THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN SO AS TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE CABLE TELEVISION SERVICES, AND WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT AT THE GHENT TOWN HALL, ROUTE 66, GHENT, NEW YORK ON NOVEMBER 15, 2018 AT 6:50 P.M. AT WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPEARED AND MADE COMMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, AND WHEREAS, A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED FRANCHISE AGREEMENT AT THE GHENT TOWN HALL, ROUTE 66, GHENT, NEW YORK ON DECEMBER 20, 2018 AT 6:40 P.M. AT WHICH MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC APPEARED AND MADE COMMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE EXECUTION OF THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT, AS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE TOWN AND CONSOLIDATED, IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GHENT, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK AND BERKSHIRE CABLE CORP. L/K/A CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY IN ALL RESPECTS APPROVED IN SUCH FORM AS FILED WITH THE TOWN CLERK AS THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE FRANCHISE RENEWAL AGREEMENT, AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR BE AND HEREBY IS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF GHENT AND TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO FINALIZE THIS MATTER.

MOTION # 10 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 37 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

RESOLUTIONS #38, #39, AND #40 FOR THE YEAR 2018:

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 20, 2018 AT 6:45 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2019 AND TERMINATING ON

DECEMBER 31, 2019, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR 2019 IS \$163,200.0

TOWN OF GHENT
December 20, 2018

Page 4

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 20, 2018 AT 6:50 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2019 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2019, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE YEAR 2019 IS \$25,506.00.

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 20, 2018 AT 6:55 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "WEST GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "WEST GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "WEST GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2019 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2019, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE CONTRACT TERM IS \$100,000.00.

MOTION # 11 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 38, 39 AND 40 FOR THE YEAR 2018 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #12 TO APPROVE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CGHS AND THE TOWN OF GHENT FOR THE YEAR 2019 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A \$45769.22

S.L. \$835.62

General B \$7563.75

Highway DB \$31568.11

TOTAL: \$85736.70

TOWN OF GHENT
December 20, 2018

Page 5

MOTION# 13 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Mort

Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT WAIVED

MOTION # 14 TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LEGAL MATTERS AT 7:37PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #15 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:45 PM made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted, Michelle Radley, Town Clerk