

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
July 18, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held July 18, 2019 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:02 pm with a pledge to the flag.

Present were: Michael Benvenuto	Supervisor
Charles Wood	Councilman
Peter Nelson	Councilman
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Absent- Councilman Mallory Mort  
7 audience members

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

Michael Schrom- are there any upcoming projects for the Columbia County airport?

Supervisor Benvenuto- they have been grooving pavement on the new runway which should be completed. Lighting project switching to LED lights. The next committee meeting is Wednesday July 24, 2019 at 4pm.

Koethi Zan- any issues or concerns on the County Level such as new sewer project?

Supervisor Benvenuto- Grant has been secured for sewer upgrades, property owners contacted, have had Public Hearings already and agreement is in place.

Martha McMaster- Superintendent Perry- has the Town considered those flashing signs registering speed limits on Town roads?

Superintendent Perry- We have looked into them, they are quite expensive. Car count makes a difference and they can only be used on roads the Town owns, not on County and State roads. They have smaller mounted ones available that he can look into.

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

CORESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Benvenuto sent the Board members recent correspondence and read and invitation received from Mellenville Fire Company for a “wet down” of their new truck on August 18th and Claverack Town Park.

**MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

**MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

**MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

PLANNING ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

**MOTION # 6 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARDS MINUTES FOR MAY 1, 2019 AND THE ZBA MINUTES FOR MAY 8, 2019 JUNE** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

The Zoning Review committee is meeting Monday July 29, 2019 to finalize their presentation to the Town Board at an August workshop, date to be determined.

Supervisor Benvenuto met with RISE engineering to complete the new lighting work.

**MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN HISTORIANS REPORT FOR JUNE** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

DOG CONTROL:

**MOTION # 8 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR MAY AND JUNE** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

**HIGHWAY:**

The weather has broke in a good way for us. At just before mid-night on June 20 the state senate passed our Extreme Winter Recovery money that Cuomo choose not to award the state with back in March this is great news for the entire state. We were able to pave the 3 roads 3 weeks behind schedule but were able to do all 9.6 miles in 4 days we were scheduled to take 6 days. We could not have done it if it was not for the shared service we do with other towns 4 other towns helped with trucking we went to help two other towns right after we were complete with ours. We did some erosion control on Harlemville Rd. just above Konig this area has been a wash out area for over 20 years we lined ditch with gabion and poured concrete over it which was tested yesterday and it did great. We have started the Gardner intersection reconstruction in between everything else we have going on .I have finally received the final paper work from DASNY our state grant for the reimbursement of the \$75,000 grant. It's only 53 pages of instructions on how and what we need to do to finalize everything to get our moneys back.

**MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

**RESOLUTION # 21 FOR THE YEAR 2019**

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT FROM TIME TO TIME HAS THE NEED TO CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE, INCLUDING ULS DIESEL, #2 FUEL OIL, AND KEROSENE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN PLACED A BID ADVERTISEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISION OF ULS DIESEL, #2 FUEL OIL, AND KEROSENE FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 2019 THROUGH JULY 31, 2020, PURSUANT TO §103 OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW; AND WHEREAS, LONG ENERGY, 27 RAILROAD AVENUE, GHENT, NEW YORK, WAS THE LOWEST BIDDER FOR ULS DIESEL; AND WHEREAS, MAIN-CARE, P.O. BOX 11029, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12211, WAS THE LOWEST BIDDER FOR #2 FUEL OIL AND KEROSENE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT LONG ENERGY AND MAIN-CARE BOTH QUALIFY AS "RESPONSIBLE" BIDDERS UNDER SECTION 103 OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD AGREES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN TO ACCEPT THE BID SUBMITTED BY LONG ENERGY FOR DIESEL AND THE BID SUBMITTED BY MAINE-CARE FOR #2 FUEL OIL AND KEROSENE; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN HEREBY ACCEPTS THE LONG ENERGY BID FOR THE PROVISION OF DIESEL, BUT AMENDS THE TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 19, 2019 AND CONTINUE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020; ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN HEREBY ACCEPTS THE MAIN-CARE BID FOR THE PROVISION OF #2 FUEL OIL AND KEROSENE, BUT AMENDS THE TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 18, 2019 AND CONTINUE THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020; ANDBE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT THE BID OF LONG ENERGY FOR DIESEL AND THE BID OF MAIN-CARE FOR #2 FUEL OIL AND KEROSENE IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS.

**MOTION #10 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #21 FOR YEAR 2019** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 22 FOR THE YEAR 2019

WHEREAS, THE TERM FOR THE TOWN ASSESSOR, LYNN HOTALING, EXPIRES ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2019; AND WHEREAS, SAID TOWN ASSESSOR HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO BE THE ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT; ANDWHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD FINDS THAT LYNN HOTALING IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB AS THE ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT AND WISHES TO REAPPOINT HER FOR A NEW SIX YEAR TERM;NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT LYNN HOTALING BE AND HEREBY IS RE-APPOINTED AS SOLE ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT FOR A NEW SIX YEAR TERM COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2019 AND ENDING ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.

**MOTION #11 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #22 FOR YEAR 2019 AS AMENDED** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 23 FOR THE YEAR 2019

WHEREAS, THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 (HEREINAFTER THE "FIRE COMPANY") HAS REQUESTED THE TOWN OF GHENT APPROVE BORROWING BY THE FIRE COMPANY FROM THE BANK OF GREENE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$300,000.00 TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE TRUCK; WHEREAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 147 (F) AND INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 150 (E), SUCH BORROWING MAY BE MADE THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY THE FIRE COMPANY OF TAX EXEMPT OBLIGATIONS, THEREBY RESULTING IN A LOWER INTEREST RATE TO THE FIRE COMPANY, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT SUCH BORROWING IS APPROVED BY THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY HAVING JURISDICTION, IN THIS CASE, THE TOWN OF GHENT; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO FACILITATE THIS BORROWING SO THAT THE FIRE COMPANY CAN PROCEED TO PURCHASE ITS NEW TRUCK AT THE LOWEST AVAILABLE INTEREST RATE; AND WHEREAS, SUCH PURCHASE WILL BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT AND IS SUPPORTED BY THE TOWN BOARD. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GHENT TOWN BOARD THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE BORROWING BY THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY NO. 1 FROM THE BANK OF GREENE COUNTY FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW FIRE TRUCK IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF\$300,000.00. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THIS APPROVAL IS CONTINGENT UPON THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

- (A) THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL NOT BE A PARTICIPANT IN THE FINANCING IN ANY MANNER, BUT RATHER THIS APPROVAL IS MADE SOLELY IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE BORROWING BY THE FIRE COMPANY. ACCORDINGLY, THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL HAVE NO OBLIGATIONS OR LIABILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH BORROWING.

- (B) THE FIRE COMPANY SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH SAID BORROWING AND IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACTING FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE NEW FIRE TRUCK. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, PURSUANT TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, THE TOWN SUPERVISOR SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE A LETTER OF APPROVAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.

**MOTION #12 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #23 FOR YEAR 2019** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

**RESOLUTION # 24 FOR THE YEAR 2019**

WHEREAS, IN 1974, PURSUANT TO NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW ARTICLE 47, THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ESTABLISHED THE COLUMBIA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL ("THE COUNCIL"), THE MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH CONSISTS OF THE COUNTY'S 18 TOWNS AND THE CITY OF HUDSON; WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO SAID LAW, THE COUNCIL SHALL DEVELOP, MAINTAIN, AND AMEND FROM TIME TO TIME AN INVENTORY OF NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE COUNTY, INCLUDING WETLANDS AND OPEN SPACES, AND FACTORS RELATING TO SUCH THINGS AS GEOLOGY, SOILS, SLOPE, WATER RESOURCES, VEGETATION, WILDLIFE HABITAT, UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS, AND SCENIC, HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES; WHEREAS, THE NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY IS DESIGNED TO BE USED BY COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL AGENCIES, AND OTHERS CONCERNED WITH LAND PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, POLICY-MAKING AND RESOURCE USE AND CONSERVATION; AND WHEREAS, THE COMPLETED 2018 NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY, AN EXTENSIVE DOCUMENT WITH SUPPORTING MAPS AND TABLES, HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT ACCEPTS AND APPROVES, FOR REFERENCE, INFORMATIONAL, AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, THE 2018 NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK, AS AN INVENTORY OF DATA COLLECTION IDENTIFYING NATURAL RESOURCES AND IMPORTANT COMMUNITY RESOURCES WITHIN THE COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF GHENT. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL OF THE 2018 NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK, AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MUNICIPAL ACTIONS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN, AS PROVIDED THEREIN, SHALL IN NO WAY BE DEEMED BINDING UPON THE TOWN OF GHENT WITH REGARD TO PRESENT OR FUTURE ACTIONS.

**MOTION #13 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #24 FOR YEAR 2019** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$27392.95
S.L.	\$855.62
General B	\$1588.02
Highway DB	\$45048.14
TOTAL:	\$74883.73

**MOTION# 14 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Matheney

Nays: 0

Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting back up for Public Comment.

Craig Simmons- commended Superintendent Perry on a great job on the roadways. Also, urged the Board to look into different interest rates at Bank of Green County.

Koethi Zan- reminded the Board of the PILOT discussed at workshop.

**MOTION # 15 TO HAVE ATTORNEY CABRAL ISSUE A RESPONSE OF A REQUEST TO NEGOTIATE A PILOT IF NEEDED** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 16 TO ADJOURN AT 8:05** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Nelson

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Radley  
Town Clerk