

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
September 19, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held September 19, 2019 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

Also Present: 6 audience members

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

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

Nays: 0

Duane Collett- George Road resident concerned with speeders on the road. Requests more coverage by the police departments or ask the availability of a portable speed sign.

Supervisor Benvenuto- the Town is looking into a portable speed sign for use on Town roads.

Linda Collett- Nelson Ave resident – Concerns regarding the recent water emergency. They received no phone call alerting them of the issues. Something on the mailbox or door would have been helpful, very disappointed in lack of communication. Work needs to done, infrastructure not strong enough.

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON AUGUST 22, 2019** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Update letter regarding the Columbia County Transmission project. DOT response letter to Mr. Kelman regarding the intersection of Stockport Road and 9H. CC Pathways for Recovery is having a memorial walk is Friday at 6pm at the Tracy Village Hall.

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

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 7 TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BUILDING AND ZONING OFFICER SIMONSMEIERS EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31, 2019** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR AUGUST** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Historian Gregg Berninger gave an update on his work in obtaining 5 Pomeroy Historical Markers for the Town. All the source information will be sent in shortly for approval.

**MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT THE HISTORIANS REPORT AUGUST** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Climate Smart- the Light project is near completion, still a little work to be done at Highway garage.

**MOTION # 10 TO REQUEST RFP'S FOR SOLAR INSTALLATION ON HIGHWAY GARAGE** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Broadband- Mr. Berman reports communication continues with Charter/ Spectrum regarding broadband. Audit of Spectrum requested to define installations.

YOUTH, PARK AND RECREATION:

The basketball court has been repaved at the Water Street location with shared service participation by the Town of Chatham. The tennis courts at both parks have also been completed.

**MOTION # 11 TO REQUEST RFP'S FOR WGCC WORK PER THE SAM GRANT** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT THE DOG CONTROL OFFICER INSPECTION REPORT FROM NYS AG'S AND MARKET** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been busy with pipe replacement through the town with two pipes to finish out summer work. We have been helping other towns with their final Paving and sealing. We are complete with our rebuild of one of our 2007 Mack's ready for snow time .We are in the middle of black top patching. We are almost complete with our second round of mowing. The new updated lighting has begun but not complete yet. Spoke with State DOT regarding 9H -Cty 22-Stockport Road I am still waiting on a meeting I requested with the State and County. We did receive a Letter addressing the email that was sent by resident. State updated signage and looking into a study of traffic accidents there and do not feel it warranted anything further than updates on signs I borrowed a vehicle counter to get vehicle counts on Stockport road ranged from 310 a day to 441 the highest I did sit one morning at the sight at two different times and counted 18 vehicles going in and out of the NYSEG power lot. Which would contribute to 36 vehicles not normally on this road. There is no reason I see to warrant the request of stripping Stockport road. We have completed our end of Garner & CYT22 intersection and now the remaining work per DEC is on Mr. Clearman, Matt and I had a conversation on the final paper work on abandonment of Johnson road. I received a speed reduction petition from Pach road and another letter for reasons not signing petition. I have been invited to Canada to tour Everest Wausa factory and to sit down with their team of engineers to talk on modifications that I have made to their product to better suit our needs. I would like permission from the board to make this trip which will be over night and out of the states.

**MOTION # 13 TO ACCEPT HIGHWAY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AND APPROVE TRAVEL TO CANADA FOR ONE NIGHT TO VISIT EVEREST FACILTY** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 14 TO ACCEPT RFP BID FOR SMALL DUMP LEAF VAC TRAILER FROM HEAVY HAULERS. PURCHASE FUNDING BUDGET LINE ITEM AMENDMENT FROM DB5142.4 TO DB 5130.2 OF THE AMOUNT OF \$6011.00** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**MOTION #15 TO SEND PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #1 TO COUNTY PLANNING FOR REVIEW BEFORE SETTING PUBLIC HEARING** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 26 FOR THE YEAR 2019:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS GRANTED THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER, INC. A SERIES OF ANNUAL LICENSES TO USE THE WEST GHENT RECREATION CENTER FOR CLASSES AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, AND WHEREAS, THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER, INC. HAS REQUESTED TO ENTER INTO A SIMILAR LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE WEST GHENT RECREATION CENTER BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2019 AND MAY 2020 AND HAS REMITTED THE REQUISITE \$500.00 FEE, AND WHEREAS, THE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN HAS PREPARED SAID LICENSE AGREEMENT AND IS SATISFIED WITH ITS CONTENTS; AND WHEREAS, THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER, INC. HAS PROVIDED THE TOWN WITH PROOF OF INSURANCE NAMING THE TOWN AS AN ADDITIONAL INSURED, AS REQUIRED BY THE LICENSE AGREEMENT; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE EXECUTION OF THE LICENSE AGREEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GHENT, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK AND THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING CENTER, INC. BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY IN ALL RESPECTS APPROVED, AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT MICHAEL BENVENUTO, TOWN SUPERVISOR, BE AND HEREBY IS AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE LICENSE 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 # 15 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 26 FOR THE YEAR 2019** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

**MOTION # 16 TO ACCEPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2020 AND SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUDGET ON OCTOBER 10, 2019 AT 7PM AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO CONSIDER RFP'S FOR THE WGCC** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0  
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PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A \$101570.39  
S.L.  
General B \$1503.28  
Highway DB \$117710.95  
TOTAL: \$220,784.62

BUDGET AMENDMENT # 1 FOR THE YEAR 2019- (Two new line items added)

	Increase
A308 State Grant	\$125,000.00
A7140.41 WGCC Expense	\$125,000.00

**MOTION # 17 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET AMENDMENT** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

**MOTION # 18 TO ADJOURN MEETING MADE AT 8.25 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