

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
February 27, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held February 27, 2020 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
Koethi Zan	Councilwoman
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

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

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

Nays: 0

Gregg Berninger- On behalf of the Ghent Band, thanks the Town of Ghent for their continued support. The Band remains in good health and quite strong.

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN BOARD MINUTES AND PUBLIC HEARING FROM JANUARY 16, 2020,** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 4 TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Climate Smart- Resolution # 17 Of 2020

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS APPLIED FOR AND HAS BEEN AWARDED A NYSERDA CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM (“CEC”) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000.00 TO FUND LIGHTING EFFICIENCY UPGRADES FOR ITS MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AND THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT THE TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE; WHEREAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TOWN OF GHENT PROCUREMENT POLICY, THE TOWN PREPARED AN RFP AND SOLICITED PROPOSALS FROM AT LEAST THREE CONTRACTORS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT THE TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE; WHEREAS, IN RESPONSE TO ITS RFP THE TOWN RECEIVED ONE PROPOSAL FROM A QUALIFIED CONTACTOR; WHEREAS, PLUGPV LLC, 875 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207, SUBMITTED THE ONLY PROPOSAL MEETING THE REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS WORK IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$15,484.00; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED PROPOSAL MEETING THE REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS AND TO ENGAGE PLUGPV LLC TO PERFORM THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT THE TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE RFP ISSUED BY THE TOWN; WHEREAS, THE REMAINING CEC GRANT FUNDS AFTER COMPLETION OF THE LIGHTING EFFICIENCY UPGRADES FOR THE TOWN’S MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS ARE \$12,735.12; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD IS COMMITTED TO COMPLETING AND THE SOLAR INSTALLATION PROJECT AND WISHES ALLOCATE MUNICIPAL FUNDS AS 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 APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE PLUGPV LLC PROPOSAL FOR THE FURNISHING OF ALL LABOR AND MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT THE TOWN HIGHWAY GARAGE TO BE PRIMARILY FUNDED BY THE CEC GRANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE RFP ISSUED BY THE TOWN. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT AUTHORIZES THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL FUNDS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$2,748.88 TO FUND THAT PORTION OF THE SOLAR INSTALLATION PROJECT NOT COVERED BY THE REMAINING BALANCE OF THE CEC GRANT FUNDING. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE SUPERVISOR OF THE TOWN OF GHENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE PLUGPV LLC TO PERFORM THIS WORK AND TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE STEPS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN TO EFFECTUATE THE COMPLETION OF SAID WORK IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CEC GRANT.

**MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #17 FOR THE YEAR 2020** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**HISTORIAN AND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Town Historian Gregg Berninger reports the Pomeroy Foundation has approved 5 historical markers for the Town of Ghent. One each for Buckleyville, the County Home, Old Rail Station, Hay Presses and the Church Meeting House. These markers will be paid form funding form the Pomeroy Foundation. The Preservation Committee met February 15, 2020 to discuss a grant to fix the brick work on the Town Hall building, formerly the School.

YOUTH, PARKS AND RECREATION:

**MOTION # 6 TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE WGCC DUE BACK ON MARCH 9, 2020 AT 10:00 AM AND SCHEDULE A SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY , MARCH 9, 2020 AT 10:30 AM TO VOTE TO ACCEPT ANY BIDS RECEIVED** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We are having a very mild winter. We have been able to continue ditch work which is very unusual this time of year. We have been doing a ton of tree work with no snow it's much easier for us to do tree work without snow banks. We have been doing a bunch of brush cutting with boom mower. We have been doing some product hauling as well. Shared Service Agreement with State for 4 years.

I had a resident stop by requesting info on how they might obtain a Bicentennial banner I told them I would look into it. 284 purposed road work agenda that I need the supervisor and council to sign off on so I can file with County Highway Superintendent. Johnson Road was officially closed yesterday after 6 years. All the lights have been picked up and we received check from auction \$140.50

I have reviewed one bid for Dump Body and have reviewed bid which meets my specs also body cost is less than the \$45,000 we set aside for this purchase. I will be attending Advocacy Day March 4 at the State Senate once again to show support for the much need State aid we all rely on so much to help pave roads.

RESOLUTION # 18 FOR THE YEAR 2020:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT IS CURRENTLY A PARTY TO A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("NYSDOT"); WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT APPROVED THE CURRENT SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NYSDOT IN MAY OF 2018 AND IT IS SET TO EXPIRE IN MAY OF THIS YEAR; WHEREAS, NYSDOT HAS ASKED THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO ANOTHER SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT, UPON THE SAME TERMS AS THE EXPIRING AGREEMENT, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AND ASSIST THE MAINTENANCE OF STATE AND MUNICIPAL ROADS AND HIGHWAYS AND TO PROVIDE A COST SAVINGS BY MAXIMIZING AND EFFECTIVELY UTILIZING THE RESOURCES OF BOTH PARTIES; WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS HAS INDICATED TO THE TOWN BOARD THAT THE TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT WISHES TO ONCE AGAIN ENTER INTO THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT PROPOSED BY NYSDOT FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR YEAR PERIOD; WHEREAS, THE COST OF SERVICES, MATERIALS, AND/OR EQUIPMENT SHARED PURSUANT TO THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WILL NOT EXCEED \$10,000; WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD BE FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF BOTH PARTIES AND WILL INCREASE THE RELIABILITY OF SERVICES AND REDUCE COSTS; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD DEEMS IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO THE PROPOSED SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH NYSDOT FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR YEAR PERIOD. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE PROPOSED SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF GHENT.

**MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #18 FOR THE YEAR 2020** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 19 FOR THE YEAR 2020:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS HAS INDICATED TO THE TOWN THAT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS IN NEED OF PURCHASING AN ALL SEASON DUMP BODY IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS; WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS PLACED A BID ADVERTISEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE OF SAID EQUIPMENT, PURSUANT TO §103 OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW; WHEREAS, ZWACK INC., ROUTE 22, STEPHENTOWN, NEW YORK 12168, WAS THE SOLE RESPONDING BIDDER AND THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SAID EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$41,395.00; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED LOWEST BID MEETING THE REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS, AND TO THEREBY ACQUIRE THE ALL SEASON DUMP BODY IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS; WHEREAS, THE 2020 TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET INCLUDES \$30,000.00 DESIGNATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIS EQUIPMENT; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD BY RESOLUTION ADOPTED JANUARY 16, 2020 AUTHORIZED THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$15,000.00 FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF THE EQUIPMENT, WHICH RESOLUTION WAS SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF §91 OF THE TOWN LAW; AND WHEREAS, AS OF THE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION, THE PROVISIONS OF §91 OF THE TOWN LAW HAVE ALL BEEN FULLY SATISFIED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS EXPENDITURE. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED BID FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE ALL SEASON DUMP BODY IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$30,000.00 FROM THE 2020 TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND \$11,395.00 FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT DB878 TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF SAID EQUIPMENT.

**MOTION # 8 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #19 FOR THE YEAR 2020** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Speed Limit Reduction Request

RESOLUTION # 20 FOR THE YEAR 2020

WHEREAS, RESIDENTS OF THAT PORTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 WITHIN THE TOWN OF GHENT HAVE SUBMITTED A PETITION AND NUMEROUS LETTERS REQUESTING A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR A PORTION OF SAID ROADWAY BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF COUNTY ROUTE 21 AND GARAGE PLACE ROAD AND CONTINUING ALONG COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 TO THE INTERSECTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 AND COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21B FROM THE CURRENT MAXIMUM SPEED OF 55 MPH APPLICABLE TO THE AREA; AND WHEREAS, COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 IN THIS LOCATION PASSES THROUGH A DENSELY POPULATED RESIDENTIAL AREA WITH NUMEROUS RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS, AN ACTIVE HORSE FARM, AND THE SIEGEL-KLINE KILL CONSERVATION; AND WHEREAS, PETITIONING RESIDENTS REPORT NUMEROUS ACCIDENTS IN THIS AREA AND DIFFICULTY PULLING OUT OF DRIVEWAYS DUE TO HIGH SPEEDS ON THE ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT A REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT WOULD IMPROVE SAFETY ON SAID ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION IS WARRANTED. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR THAT PORTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 AND GARAGE PLACE ROAD AND CONTINUING ALONG COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 TO THE INTERSECTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 AND COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21B; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH REVIEWING THIS MATTER, TOWARD THE GOAL THAT THE SPEED LIMIT BE REDUCED AS REQUESTED HEREIN.

**MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #20 FOR THE YEAR 2020** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION# 21 FOR THE YEAR 2020:

WHEREAS, THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT SHARE A GREAT ADMIRATION AND SENSE OF GRATITUDE FOR ALL OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE SELFLESSLY SERVED OUR COUNTRY AND THIS COMMUNITY BY JOINING THE MILITARY; WHEREAS, THE PURPLE HEART IS OUR NATION'S OLDEST MILITARY DECORATION AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES WHO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED OR LOST THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT; WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT APPRECIATES THE GREAT SACRIFICE OUR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS HAVE MADE TO DEFEND OUR NATION AND THE COMMUNITY OF GHENT; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT WISHES TO PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THIS SACRIFICE AND HONOR THE COURAGE OF OUR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS BY DESIGNATING THE TOWN OF GHENT A PURPLE HEART TOWN. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS DESIGNATED A PURPLE HEART TOWN IN COMMEMORATION OF THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS/

**MOTION # 10 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #21 FOR THE YEAR 2020** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 11 FOR THE YEAR 2020:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT CODE PROVIDES THAT THE TOWN BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH VARIOUS FEES FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT IN CONNECTION WITH, INTER ALIA, ZONING AND PLANNING MATTERS, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS, FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST, ESTABLISHED A FEE SCHEDULE AND HAS PERIODICALLY AMENDED AND UPDATED SAME, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO AMEND THE CURRENT FEE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE A MODIFIED SITE PLAN FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00 APPLICABLE TO ALL SUCH APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE TOWN OF GHENT PLANNING BOARD AFFECTED ON OR AFTER THE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT FEE SCHEDULE SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AMENDED TO INCLUDE A NEW FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250.00 APPLICABLE TO ALL MODIFIED SITE PLAN APPLICATIONS BEFORE THE TOWN OF GHENT PLANNING BOARD AFFECTED ON OR AFTER THE DATE OF THIS RESOLUTION.

**MOTION # 11 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION #22 FOR THE YEAR 2020** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #12 TO APPOINT JACK FENN AND FERN FLECKMAN TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS TO FILL THE TWO UNEXPIRED TERMS** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Reappointment to the BAR for a five year term was tabled. He will serve for 2020.

**MOTION # 13 TO ACCEPT DCO OFFICER WES POWELL RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2020** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

County Board of Supervisors Report:

Last meeting in February the Board tabled a resolution requiring vaccinations for summer camp attendees. The Public hearing was still held, and all concerns listened to. Smart Watt is assisting the County on energy savings in all County owned buildings.

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$73047.86
S.L.	\$912.76
General B	\$1824.57
Highway DB	\$68434.69
TOTAL:	\$144216.88

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

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

Nays: 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident- Asked the Board if the Census takers are already going door to door. Also, questioned mailbox placement State Route 66. Concerning the vaccine information, what meeting should she attend at County Level.

Board Response-

Census taking – is due to begin, not sure on whether they have or not. Mailbox placement addressed by Superintendent Perry and the County Committee of Health and Human Services held at 401 State Street in Hudson, please check the County website for more information

**MOTION #15 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0