

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
June 18, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held June 18, 2020 via the “Zoom” online meeting platform
Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

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 Councilwoman Matheney,
seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Sheldon Evans- has the County begun to address the changes of policing requested from Governor
Cuomo for agencies they hold jurisdiction over?

Supervisor Benvenuto- the Public Safety committee is gathering information from the Sheriff’s
department and will review all thoroughly and the process will continue in resolution form through the
Board of Supervisors.

Sheldon Evans- Would like to be able to have input as a resident on process.

Supervisor Benvenuto- Email your questions or concerns and I will forward to committee.

Councilwoman Zan- Maybe we could form a community forum so everyone can weigh in. Maybe we can
add to next month’s workshop.

Gunner – What is the Town doing to promote and facilitate the census? Any word we can get out if
helpful.

Supervisor Benvenuto- We can gather information at Town and County level to put on website.

MOTION #2 TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN THE 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 WITH CORRECTION TO MOTION #7 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

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Climate Smart- Councilman Mort reports still waiting on a schedule for solar panel installation at the Town garage.

Dave Newman- EMC reports an initiative for county wide support among towns to get CCBOS support which will in turn give the group the benefit to qualify for larger grants for projects.

Preservation Committee- on pause at the current time for project to fix the bricks at Town Hall.

Broadband- Attorney Cabral discussed the renewed interest by the Board to enter a NDA to get more information regarding tracking the broadband build out in the Town. This information cannot be shared with the public and the Town board members would all have to sign the agreement to maintain the information in a confidential way. If the board is comfortable to move forward the agreement will have to be thoroughly reviewed with expected minor changes and Charter would have to agree. Attorney Cabral will review document with Councilwoman Zan and proceed from there.

YOUTH PARKS AND RECREATION:

The Board discussed whether to move forward with a virtual summer camp for Town residents in an attempt to provide something. Information on possibly holding the camp virtual was posted on the website, The Columbia paper and sent to the school district as well to get a sense of interested campers. The board will review budget figures and participant numbers on Monday, reach out to the Camp director on her thoughts and if necessary hold a special meeting to approve to move forward with the program beginning June 29, 2020.

HIGHWAY:

We have been keeping very busy with shoulder and ditching projects. We have resolved two water issues we have been dealing with for years. Working on a scheduling with trout unlimited to do our sight visit of culvert pipes in Ghent they have highlighted. I have also meet with the State regarding issues down on arch bridge rail road. We have completed our first round of mowing. We just started doing some Blacktop patching. It's been a bit different calling companies letting them know they have not sent me bills they are behind due to the pandemic.

We have received info from the state that our State aid money has been released with a bit of an adjustments to it. Working with the Accountants on a plan on how we might be able to utilize the state aid to the best of our ability with everything that has played out with our finances do to the lack of sales tax. Fuel Bids are due for 2020-2021 resolution has been prepared for approval.

RESOLUTION # 29 FOR THE YEAR 2020:

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 FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, GASOLINE AND LIQUID PROPANE; AND WHEREAS, GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, SECTION 103, SUBDIVISION 3, AUTHORIZES A MUNICIPALITY TO CONTRACT FOR SUCH SERVICES THROUGH THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED; AND WHEREAS, THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA HAS RECEIVED BIDS FOR ULS DIESEL FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, KEROSENE, GASOLINE AND LIQUID PROPANE, WHICH ARE COMPETITIVE AND WILL PROVIDE GOOD VALUE TO THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ACCEPT THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA BIDS FOR SAID MATERIALS. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT HEREBY ACCEPTS THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BID #20-006 FOR ULS DIESEL FUEL, #2 FUEL OIL, AND KEROSENE MADE BY MAIN BROTHERS OIL CO., INC., WHICH WAS AWARDED BY THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA TO SAID COMPANY BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION #190-2020. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT HEREBY ACCEPTS THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BID #20-007 FOR GASOLINE MADE BY VALLEY ENERGY WHICH WAS AWARDED BY THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA TO SAID COMPANY BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION #192-2020. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT HEREBY ACCEPTS THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BID #20-008 FOR LIQUID PROPANE MADE BY NOLAN BOTTLE GAS CO. INC., WHICH WAS AWARDED BY THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA TO SAID COMPANY BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION #191-2020. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT THE BIDS OF SUCH VENDORS FOR SAID MATERIALS IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT HIGHWAYS.

MOTION # 5 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #29 FOR YEAR 2020 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney recused herself from the meeting at 8:15pm for the continued Nexamp proposal.

NEXAMP:

Attorney Cabral explained to the Board the process of moving forward on the Nexamp application for zoning amendment as well as site plan review before the Planning Board. The SEQRA review will have to

be a coordinated review so not to expose the Town to a legal challenge for improper segmentation of the SEQRA process. This action will be a Type 1 action and the initial agency will be the Town Board. A Full Environmental Assessment form "FEAF" will be submitted to the Board for July's meeting. The Board will have to determine who will be lead agency, themselves or defer to the Planning Board. After decision on lead status and notification to the Planning Board and other agencies necessary starts a 30 day solicitation process. The Planning Board can submit comments or concerns to the Board during those 30 days. Lead agency is established after 30 days then proceeds to determination. It will also be referred to the Columbia County Planning board for review. The decision does not have to be made tonight, Board should review, possibly discuss with Planning Board and be prepared to vote next month. The Town board should also decide tonight on one of the two alternative maps that have been presented by the applicants. This will be useful to the applicant to finalize and submit the FEAF for next month.

MOTION # 6 TO APPROVE ALTERNATE MAP A FOR NEXCAMP PROJECT made by Councilwoman Zan, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Zan, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney rejoined the meeting at 9:02 pm.

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$61998.93
S.L.	\$758.30
General B	\$2243.51
Highway DB	\$22410.33
TOTAL:	\$87411.07

MOTION #7 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Attorney Cabral will be sending a reminder letter to the Fire Companies to request their financial information which is due to the Town by July 1, 2020.

No Public Comment

MOTION # 8 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING 9:10 PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays

Respectfully Submitted, Michelle Radley Town Clerk