

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 16, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held July 16, 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 Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NO COMMENT

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 3 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN BOARD MINUTES FROM JUNE 18, 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 Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Food Pantry Numbers – 63 Families, 24 Children, 86 Adults, 28 seniors, 2 new Clients. Pounds of food ordered #3335.

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Climate Smart- Councilman Mort reports the solar project at the Town garage is completed and should be fired up soon. Dave Newman reports EMC still continuing to gain support from the BOS to go countywide. Core studies being done in Towns.

Broadband- Dave Berman reports FCC still having mapping issues within Columbia County. Suggest a study be done just in Ghent on broadband services and which areas still need attention. Also working on changing pole permitting process.

HIGHWAY:

We continue to better our ditches and drainage system through the town. We have had some very strong winds which have put trees down around town once again having the right equipment at hand saves us time and money every time we have to be dispatched to take care of such issues. We have just started our second round of mowing over growth back. We have done some Black top patch work and are continuing to do so. We are working with the County & town of Chatham with our Shared Service Agreement to repair a section of road that has been an issue area for some time. The County came in with their milling head and Chatham is assisting us with their paver to rectify this issue area. Our new Dump Body for a replacement is scheduled to begin being built the end of next week.

I meet with our Engineering firm on Garner Road intersection for the final inspection which they were very happy along with the County and as am I. This will conclude and bring an ending of the Johnson Road abandonment and safety improvement to Garner and Cty 22 intersection for the better of the public. With many hours of number crunching and conversation with the accountants and supervisor we will be moving forward with only one road paving project this season. We will be doing a paving process on Old Post Road which is just shy of 4.5 lane miles. Due to the finances which we all are aware of, have been put on hold we have had to make some real adjustments to the paving season for 2020 which was scheduled for right around 18 miles to have been done. The Solar Panel project is completed at the Town Garage and has been certified.

MOTION # 5 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney recused herself from meeting at 7:26 for Nexamp petition.

Nexamp Petition for Zoning Change:

A Notice of Intent under RPTL 487 – Old Mill Road Solar A LLC, and Solar B LLC was received from Nexamp regarding the Towns intent to enter at PILOT agreement for these facilities.

MOTION # 6 TO PROCEED FORWARD WITH INTENTION OF PILOT AGREEMENT made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Zan

Nays: 0

Attorney Cabral- Last month the Board decided on proposal Alternate A. The Board received a submittal from Nexamp including the full EAF form. Now the Board has to classify action.

MOTION # 7 TO CLASSIFY THE PROJECT AS A TYPE 1 ACTION made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, And Mort, Zan Nays: 0

Attorney Cabral- The next step is to commence solicitation in connection to lead agency status for a coordinated review of full environmental impact statement. The Town Board may choose lead agency status or request the Planning Board serve as lead agency. A referral will be sent to each agency for review, including the Columbia County Planning Board. Consent may be granted before the 30 day time period expires. Final reports from SEQR review will be submitted to the Town Board for consideration, a Public Hearing held on Local Law for Zoning Amendment change if approved and then applicant will return to planning board for site plan review process. Lead agency determination needs to be decided first to proceed. The Board briefly discussed timelines and the option for a special meetings if needed.

MOTION # 8 TO PREPARE AND SEND SEQU COORDINATION PACKAGE , SOLICIT LEAD AGENCY CORESPONDENCE WITH REQUEST TO THE PLANNING BOARD TO SERVE AS LEAD AGENCY IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXAMP PROJECT made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Zan

Nays: 0

MOTION #9 TO REFER NEXAMP PROJECT TO COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD FOR SECTION 239M REVIEW made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Zan

Nays: 0

MOTION #10 TO REFER TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR REPORT PER SECION 190.69 OF THE TOWN CODE made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Zan

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney rejoined the meeting at 8:02pm.

Supervisor Benvenuto updated the Board on the WGCC project. It is now complete, after grant monies of \$134,000.00m the Town's cost was \$ 9820.44 for renovation work.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION # 11 TO APPROVE THE STANDARD WORKDAY RESOLUTION #30 FOR 2020 FOR NYS RETIREMENT REPORTING made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

A brief discussion was held regarding Alternative learning groups using the WGCC received a revised contract for use including Covid related issues RE: cleaning sanitizing and social distancing.

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$17183.17
S.L.	\$700.11
General B	\$1587.30
Highway DB	\$27377.06
TOTAL:	\$46848.24

MOTION #12 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Craig Simmons- Land shifts have not really ever have happened in Ghent, and the Board should be careful about streamlining the process and rushing project. Residents aren't even yet aware of the Nexamp project. Glad the Board sent the review of SEQU to the planning board.

MOTION # 13 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING 8:17 PM made by Councilwoman Zan, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Radley Town Clerk