

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 20, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held August 20, 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 Matheney 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 Wood, 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 JULY 16, 2020 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort 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 Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Food Pantry Numbers – 69 Families, 48 Children, 91 Adults, 43 seniors, 4 new Clients. Pounds of food ordered #3455.

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

ZBA and Planning Board report by Councilman Mort was submitted to the Board. Councilwoman Zan added the ZBA will be reporting back to Board on questions they had regarding the Zoning code for clarification.

Climate Smart-

MOTION # 5 TO SEND A REQUEST TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVIORS TO JOIN THE NY CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITES PROGRAM made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Broadband- Mid Hudson cable was given grant money to cover some parts of Ghent. Encourage residents who still need service to call.

HIGHWAY:

Park and rec we took an old set of bleachers from ball field which were rotting and replaced boards and sealed them. New York State has put out an email notification that they are trying to pass a law that will allow towns to set their own speed limits in their own town instead of the state. I will keep an eye on this bill as it makes its way through the steps of senate. We have been busy with paving our own and assisting other towns as well with their paving projects. On Old Post things went better than expected with the finances with price of oil being down and the good job we did shimming the road before paving these two things saved us about \$14,000 in cost. New info has come out in a State meeting that the 20% expected deduction in state funds is now be pushed to the end of the year which means that the state will not be taking funding away till the final quarter and then possibly whatever is left in rolling over finances. Everyone that has been applying for reimbursement have been receiving 100% of what they are asking for which is great news as of this time. With the savings of Old Post which is the only one paving job we are going to move forward with one Chip seal project and we will still be under the 60% we budgeted out of the state add money playing things safe we should be around \$15,000 of wiggle room below the 60% target number for out of pocket. We did receive our county tax check which was much better than what we expected it to be according to the projected numbers that where presented to us from the county. We have been busy moving forward with pipe jobs replacement projects and upgrading storm water runoff issues. Our new Dump Body is almost complete and is awaiting to be scheduled to ship down here to the states. We are gearing up to do a bunch of Blacktop patch work through the town in order to prep for plow season.

MOTION # 6 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney recused herself from meeting at 7:25for Nexamp petition.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Nexamp-

Attorney Cabral- Planning board voted to accept lead agency on the project. Nexamp will produce a special permit application to the Planning board for SEQR determination and report for Town Board. Columbia County Planning Board has yet to submit their report, but is understood to have found no county wide /municipal impact with comments. Public hearing can be scheduled for before October meeting unless scheduled earlier if reports are received. Councilwoman Zan suggested the Board schedule the Public hearing for before September's meeting. If the reports are not received in time the Public hearing it will be cancelled.

MOTION # 7 TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 AT 6:30PM CONTINGENT ON RECEIVING THE REPORT FROM THE PLANNING BOARD PRIOR TO THE HEARING FOR NEXAMP PETITION FOR ZONING AMENDMENT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Zan, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION # 8 TO SET THE 2020 FEE SCHEDULE FOR COMMERCIAL GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR AT \$4.00 a Kw made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Zan, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney rejoined the meeting at 7:47PM.

MOTION #9 TO USE THE NEW FACILITY USE AGREEMENT FOR THE WGCC AND SET THE FEE FOR \$500.00 PER YEAR FOR EACH GROUP made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$42211.38
S.L.	\$730.81
General B	\$1894.58
Highway DB	\$110511.07
TOTAL:	\$155347.84

MOTION #10 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, And Matheney, Mort Nays: 0

Public Comment:

Henry Sidel- lives on Fowler Lake Road, questions the increase of traffic at airport, more than in the past, including helicopters and loud planes especially in the last 2 or 3 months.

Supervisor Benvenuto will check with the airport on activity.

MOTION # 11 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING 8:02 PM made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilwoman Zan approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Radley
Town Clerk