

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 15, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held October 15, 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, Mort, Zan, Matheney

Nays: 0

No comment

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 3 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN BOARD MINUTES AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2020** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney 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 for September- Families 64, Children 68, Adults 108, Seniors 16, New Clients 4 plus 55 walk-ins. Thanksgiving dinner distribution will be November 21, 2020. Gift cards and turkey.

Planning, Zoning and Committees:

Climate Smart- the new head for the charging station has been received and will be installed shortly. Councilwoman Matheney reported progress is being made between the County and EMC regarding climate smart participation. Mr. Newman joined in, looking to proceed forward with a resolution to be presented to the County.

Columbia County Planning Board Opening: It is Ghent's turn in the rotation to appoint to CCPB.

**MOTION # 5 TO APPOINT COUNCLMAN MORT TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY PLANNING BOARD, REGION THREE POSITION** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been Busy as usual. We had a very quick 10min storm blow through Town a week ago and took down some very large trees. Storm hit around 4:30pm and we had addressed every down tree making sure all roads where open to the traveling public 18 roads had trees down on them we had every road open by 7pm that night with not 1 phone call from the Sheriffs or Troopers. The next day we cleaned 95% of everything up. We are just about completed with Blacktop patch work to get us through this upcoming plow season. We are just starting our ditch blowing of the falling foliage which causes us drainage issues throughout the winter ditch maintenance. We are working diligently on our truck rehab Body is on truck and working on plumbing and wiring these projects are time consuming to make them just right so we don't have any issues once they are put back into operation.

We have started to set equipment up for winter and will finish up here shortly after next week when we are done with Blacktop. We have summit a portion of paper work into chips for financial reimbursement. We will be submitting another portion in a few weeks once we get all our paper work we need to do so.

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

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

Nays: 0

UNIFNISHED BUSINESS: NEXAMP Councilwoman Matheney abstained from vote.

**MOTION # 7 TO INCLUDE RECENT CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMENTS INTO THE RECORD OF THE PUBLIC HEARING AND CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Zan

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 8 TO SEND ALL COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR THEIR RECORDS AND REVIEW** made by Councilwoman Zan, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Zan

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION # 9 TO APPROVE THE CHARGEBACK AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY FOR THE RESCUE SQUADS** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort, Zan  
Nays: 0

**MOTION # 10 TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE BUDGET ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020 AT 6PM WITH THE TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP TO FOLLOW** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort, Zan  
Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 31 FOR THE YEAR 2020

WHEREAS, PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2020 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET THE TOWN OF GHENT MUST SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE 2020 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM TAX CAP INCREASE ALLOWANCE, INCLUDING THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CALCULATING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR; WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERVISOR HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FACILITATE AND ENSURE THAT THIS FILING IS COMPLETED AS REQUIRED; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO FILE THE REQUISITE INFORMATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR IS AUTHORIZED TO COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND FILINGS TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER'S TAX CAP FILING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS RELATED TO THE 2020 TOWN BUDGET AND ITS ADOPTION.

**MOTION #11 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 31** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Zan, Mort, Matheney, Wood  
Nays: 0

Councilwoman Matheney read aloud the press release from today regarding the cases at Ghent Assisted living and other facilities. Reminds residents to remain diligent in following proper protocol to avoid spreading the virus.

Councilman Mort reported roof of the gazebo in West Ghent is in need of repair.

RESOLUTION # 32 FOR THE YEAR 2020

WHEREAS, THE ROAD STREAM CROSSING MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT (THE "PROJECT") IS DESIGNED TO HELP IMPROVE COMMUNITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCY BY IDENTIFYING HIGH PRIORITY ROAD STREAM CROSSING REPLACEMENT PROJECTS THAT RECONNECT HIGH QUALITY AQUATIC HABITAT AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCY AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE CONDITIONS WITHIN THE TOWN; AND WHEREAS THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT INCLUDED AN INVENTORY OF ALL STATE, COUNTY, TOWN AND PRIVATE ROAD STREAM CROSSINGS, AQUATIC PASSAGES, AND HYDRAULIC MODELING OF THE DATA, PRIORITIZATION OF RESULTS USING MULTIPLE OBJECTIVES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONCEPTUAL AND SHOVEL READY DESIGNS AND COST ESTIMATES FOR HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECTS; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN WILL UTILIZE THE PROJECT INFORMATION TO HAVE SHOVEL READY PLANS FOR PRIORITY CULVERT REPLACEMENTS AND TO HAVE THE INVENTORY DATA AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE CULVERT REPLACEMENT PLANNING; AND WHEREAS THE PROJECT WILL ALSO BENEFIT THE TOWN BY HAVING THE INVENTORY AVAILABLE FOR POTENTIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO CULVERT REPLACEMENTS AND FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN FUTURE PROJECTS AS PROPOSED AND NECESSARY BY THE TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD SUPPORTS AND DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE ROAD STREAM CROSSING MANAGEMENT PLAN PROVIDED BY TROUT UNLIMITED.

**MOTION #12 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 32** made by Councilman Mort 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	\$29421.31
S.L.	\$853.77
General B	\$877.50
Highway DB	\$86385.37
TOTAL:	\$117536.95

**MOTION #13 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

No public comment

**MOTION # 14 TO ADJOURN THE 8:38 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Zan approved unanimously.

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

Nays

Respectfully Submitted, Michelle Radley Town Clerk