

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
December 17, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held December 17, 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-absent
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, Mort, Zan, Matheney

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 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 12, 2020 AND TOWN BOARD MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 19, 2020 made by Councilwoman Matheney, 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 Zan seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Food Pantry numbers for November- Families 67, Children 44, Adults 88, Seniors 17, and New Clients 3 Distributed to 68 families for Thanksgiving.

Historian Gregg Berninger also updated the board on his current work, including a You Tube video and the collection of materials from the Wilber family for our archives.

PLANNING, ZONING and COMMITTEES:

Councilman Mort reported for Climate Smart that Jack McKeon applied for the local Champion grant to help the town determine if they can get to the next level of bronze.

HIGHWAY- Supervisor Benvenuto read aloud.

We have been very busy doing ditch work up till yesterday, cleaning banks ditches waterways out while weather has been permitting us to. Snow fence has been put up where permitted and where cattle is not going to trample and destroy it hopefully. We have been flats out in the shop working on repairs and upgrades to equipment to make units safer. We put truck #23 back in service yesterday after months of rehab and put truck right to work today with the Snow storm unit worked as we expected it to with the new All Season Body. It pays off big time being able to do these in house this way they work the way we need them to for our operation. Today's storm was a challenge around 20"-24" throughout the town Plowing in blinding snow and wind blowing drifts made storm difficult, while only having one issue with one unit which was fixed and put back in service by second round we managed well. Days of clean up now. We should be seeing our State aid Finances before the end of the year for the 2020 Paving Season.

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

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS #34, #35 and #36 for 2020:

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 17, 2020 AT 6:45 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2021 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR 2021 IS \$167,200.00.

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 17, 2020 AT 6:50 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO ACONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2"; WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2" INACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "CHATHAM FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2021 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE VILLAGE OF CHATHAM FOR THE YEAR 2020 IS \$26,020.00.

WHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT ON DECEMBER 17, 2020 AT 6:55 P.M. TO CONSIDER THE APPROVAL FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "WEST GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT";

WHEREAS, THE MATTER IS NOW BEFORE THE TOWN BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL; AND WHEREAS, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO SECURE FIRE PROTECTION THROUGH THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS "WEST GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR FIRE PROTECTION WITH THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE AREA KNOWN AS THE "WEST GHENT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT" FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2021 AND TERMINATING ON DECEMBER 31, 2021, THE PROPOSED PAYMENT TO THE WEST GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY FOR THE CONTRACT TERM IS \$100,000.00.

MOTION # 6 TO APPROVE RESOLUTIONS # 34, 35 AND 36 REGARDING FIRE CONTRACTS FOR 2021, AND APPROVE GHENT FIRE CONTRACT AMENDED WITH CLARIFICATION REGARDING EAGLE STREET

made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE GHENT SENIORS CONTRACT FOR 2021 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 8 TO ACCEPT THE MORRIS MEMORIAL CONTRACT FOR 2021 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 9 TO SET THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR JANUARY 4, 2021 AT 11AM VIA ZOOM made by Councilwoman Zan seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$48006.24
S.L.	\$913.35
General B	\$5228.18
Highway DB	\$11222.34
TOTAL:	\$63370.11

MOTION #10 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 # 11 TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:20PM REGARDING PERSONEL made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 12 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURN TO MEETING AT 7:45PM MADE BY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Radley Town Clerk