

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held January 21, 2021 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- absent

MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney 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 Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION # 3 TO ACCEPT THE PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2020 AND TOWN BOARD MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2020 AND ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 4, 2021

made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood 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

Nays: 0

Food Pantry numbers for December Families 56 Children 64, Adults 88, Seniors 28, and New Clients 1. In 2020 they averaged 76 families per month.

Supervisor Benvenuto read aloud the resignation of Erin Reis as Planning and Zoning secretary and thanked her for her service to the town.

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Councilman Mort reported the Town did not get the Local Champions Grant.

HIGHWAY:

Winter has been a bit quiet but not complaining that could change at any time. We have been able to catch up on some house cleaning and reorganizing of the facility. Things can get quite hectic and jumping job to job one after another it is very important to make sure everyone know where everything is and it goes back to the same place for next time. We have some good weather to do more ditch work even some Shared Service work as well, having town of Chatham assist with their hammer on some very hard rocks in ditch lines. We are now doing some tree trimming and over growth control with tree crew and mower head as well. We had noticed one of our 2017 dodge trucks oil pans was starting to rust and weep oil took truck to dealer they inspected the issue and tried telling me it was not going to be covered under warranty. I reached out to a contact I have at the highest level of Chrysler and they paid for the nearly \$4,000 job to be done under warranty. I would like permission from the board to go ahead and request Bids for an AllSeason Dump Body to replace the last Dump Body on a 6 Wheeler the Body will be very similar to the one we did last year. We have a great chunk of finances set a side already in the 2021 budget for this project as we did last year.

MOTION # 5 TO APPROVE SUPERIDENDENT PERRY TO REQUEST BIDS FOR DUMP BODY made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

Local Law # 1 for 2021:

A Local Law amending the Code of the Town of Ghent, Chapter 40 Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, Section 40-8 Retention of experts by Board, to clarify that the right to retain experts does not extend to legal counsel and to expressly reserve to the Town Board the exclusive authority to appoint legal counsel to represent the Town and any of its boards.

MOTION #6 TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #1 FOR 2021 FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2021 AT 6:45PM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 15 FOR THE YEAR 2021:

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2020 (PART B, SUBPART D) SIGNED BY GOVERNOR CUOMO ON DECEMBER 28, 2020, EVERY GOVERNING BODY OF AN ASSESSING UNIT AND LOCAL ASSESSOR SHALL EXTEND TO THE 2021 ASSESSMENT ROLL THE RENEWAL OF THE EXEMPTIONS RECEIVED ON THE 2020 ASSESSMENT ROLL PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 467 (SENIOR CITIZEN) AND 459-C (LIMITED INCOME DISABILITY) OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW; AND WHEREAS, NO RENEWAL APPLICATION SHALL BE REQUIRED OF ANY ELIGIBLE PROPERTY OWNER WHO RECEIVED EITHER EXEMPTION ON THE 2020 ASSESSMENT ROLL IN ORDER FOR SUCH ELIGIBLE PROPERTY OWNER TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THE EXEMPTION AT THE SAME AMOUNT RECEIVED ON THE 2020 ASSESSMENT ROLL UNLESS THE ELIGIBLE PROPERTY OWNER DETERMINES THEIR INCOME HAS CHANGED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD GRANT THEM A GREATER EXEMPTION THAN WAS PRESENT ON THE 2020 ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND WHEREAS, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FOREGOING, IF THE ASSESSOR HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT A POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE PROPERTY OWNER HAS SINCE (AFTER THE 3/1/2020 TAXABLE STATUS DATE AND PRIOR TO THE 3/1/2021 TAXABLE STATUS DATE) CHANGED THEIR PRIMARY RESIDENCE, ADDED ANOTHER OWNER TO THE DEED, SOLD THE PROPERTY, OR IS NOW DECEASED, THE ASSESSOR MAY REQUIRE A RENEWAL APPLICATION IN HIS/HER SOLE DISCRETION. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE EXEMPTIONS REFERENCED ABOVE (SENIOR CITIZEN & LIMITED INCOME DISABILITY) FOR THE 2021 ASSESSMENT ROLL WITHOUT SUBMISSION OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION UNLESS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY THE ASSESSOR.

MOTION # 7 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #15 FOR THE YEAR 2021 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS: (LATE DECEMBER AND JANUARY)

General A	\$39070.42
S.L.	\$963.88
General B	\$3946.90
Highway DB	\$97988.66
TOTAL:	\$141,969.86

MOTION # 8 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

No Public Comment

MOTION # 9 TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:35 PM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted, Michelle Radley Town Clerk

