

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
March 18, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held March 18, 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

**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 Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 3 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN BOARD MINUTES AND PULBIC HEARING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2021** 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 Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:**

Climate Smart- Still looking for somebody to head up the new phase for grant funding for climate smart communities. Usage is up in March for the charging station. Solar panels are doing well at highway garage. Broadband- Still working to get internet access to all residents.

**HIGHWAY:**

I did receive an email from the State Highway Association regarding chips from 2020 the State is returning 15% of the 20% they withheld from everyone last year which will be allowed to rollover to use towards projects in 2021 which is great news. Hoping to hear mid-April what kind of money we will be seeing for the 2021 paving season the 284 agreement is based on numbers projected as always. The state legislature has added 120 million in request to increase the chips funds. The 284 Agreement is ready for the board and supervisor to sign which is at the town hall .We have been busy taking down snow fence. We have been busy doing tree work throughout town more dead trees than I have ever seen in 13 years the greater majority are elm and ash trees. We are starting to strip down some plow equipment to prep for spring cleanup and switch gears to summer work. On March 11 we received a letter from the State of New York DOT regarding 3 Speed Limits we requested the State to approve. County route 21 was approved to go from 55mph down to 45MPH which is a County Road they will be taking care of that posting. Stockport Road was approved to go from 55mph to 35mph which I am working on Gathering everything I need to post that per (MUTCD) regulations. Pach Road was denied to be posted it will stay as it is "A review of the entire length of Pach Road revealed conditions that do not support a lower maximum speed limit. "The State will notify the law enforcement of these changes.

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

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

Nays: 0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION# 19 FOR THE YEAR 2021:**

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS DEVELOPED A PUBLIC EMPLOYER HEALTH EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NEW YORK STATE LABOR LAW SECTION 27-C, WHICH REQUIRES PUBLIC EMPLOYERS TO ADOPT A PLAN FOR OPERATIONS IN THE EVENT OF A DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY INVOLVING A COMMUNICABLE DISEASE; AND WHEREAS, THE PROPOSED PUBLIC EMPLOYER HEALTH EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT WAS DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH ALL NECESSARY STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING THE TEAMSTERS UNION 294, AS REQUIRED BY THE NEW YORK STATE LABOR LAW; AND WHEREAS, TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS DETERMINED THAT ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED PUBLIC EMPLOYER HEALTH EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE PROPOSED PUBLIC EMPLOYER HEALTH EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS APPROVED AND ADOPTED. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE PUBLIC EMPLOYER HEALTH EMERGENCY PLAN SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN PHYSICAL COPY AT THE GHENT TOWN HALL, POSTED TO THE TOWN WEBSITE, MADE AVAILABLE TO EVERY TOWN EMPLOYEE, AND INCLUDED IN THE TOWN'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK BY APRIL 1, 2021.

**MOTION # 6 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #19 FOR THE YEAR 2021** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilwoman Zan and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #7 TO REAPPOINT BRUCE ALPART TO THE BAR TERM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 AND APPOINT DAVE BERMAN TO THE BAR TERM BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2025** made by Councilwoman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION# 18 FOR THE YEAR 2021:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT GENERALLY APPOINTS A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OFFICE OF AGING AT ITS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY OF EACH YEAR; AND

WHEREAS, NO SUCH APPOINTMENT WAS MADE AT THE 2021 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING BECAUSE THERE WAS NO CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT AT THAT TIME; AND

WHEREAS, LAURIE STARKS-JOHNSON OF GHENT HAS NOW COME FORWARD AND REQUESTED THAT THE TOWN BOARD APPOINT HER TO SERVE AS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OFFICE OF THE AGING FOR THE BALANCE OF 2021; AND WHEREAS, LAURIE STARKS-JOHNSON HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM OFFICE OF THE AGING ADMINISTRATOR KEVIN MCDONALD TO SERVE IN SUCH CAPACITY. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE LAURIE STARKS-JOHNSON SHALL BE AND HEREBY IS APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OFFICE OF THE AGING FOR THE BALANCE OF 2021.

**MOTION # 8 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #18 FOR THE YEAR 2021** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood 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	\$36505.88
S.L.	\$916.68
General B	\$5634.13
Highway DB	\$46051.15
TOTAL:	\$89107.75

**MOTION # 9 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, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

No Public Comment

**MOTION # 10 TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:28 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Radley Town Clerk