

TOWN OF GHENT TOWN BOARD MEETING  
April 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held April 20, 2023 at the Ghent Town Hall, 2306 State Route 66, Ghent NY 12075. Supervisor Simmons opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag.

Present were:	Craig Simmons	Supervisor
	Wally Engel	Councilman
	Scott Myers	Councilman
	Dan Barufaldi	Councilman
	Lynda Nielsen	Councilwoman (absent)
	Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
	Matt Cabral	Attorney for the Town

4 Audience members

Supervisor Simmons open the meeting for public comment.

Resident- Question regarding oversight and affect for new Local Law?

Councilman Barufaldi- Local Law secures procedure moving forward regarding selection of candidates.

**MOTION # 1 TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN THE MEETING** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 2 TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM APRIL 20, 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

**MOTION #3 TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

Food Pantry-81 Children, 120 Adults, 47 Seniors and 96 Households.

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Climate Smart- All minutes from the committee has been added to the website. Councilwoman Nielson has been added to the committee as well 3 other new members. Sunday, April 23 at the Crandell theatre in honor of Earth day and movie will be cohosted by Ghent, Chatham and Austerlitz called 20/40. It will be shown at 1pm.

Broadband- Mid Hudson briefed the Town Board of its progress regarding its project in the Town at the workshop earlier. They hopefully project to be done by mid-summer. Consolidated is just finishing up. Up, 7 houses were missed. Dave and Craig will double check to see if there are any more missing houses.

County Report- the County is exploring the new volunteer fireman's exemption, awaiting figures from the real property office.

Rail Trail- contracts not executed yet, waiting for the State budget to be passed.

Planning and Zoning Appointment Procedure- Resolution #18 Local Law # 1 2023

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS BEFORE IT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2023, WHICH AMENDS THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, CHAPTER 40 PLANNING BOARD AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE V THERETO ENTITLED "PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS", WHICH NEW ARTICLE ESTABLISHES THE PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE TOWN BOARD WHEN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO EITHER BOARD; ANDWHEREAS, A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD BEFORE THE GHENT TOWN BOARD ON APRIL 20, 2023, AFTER DUE AND PROPER NOTICE BY PUBLICATION AND POSTING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSIDERING ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023, WHICH WILL BECOME LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023 AT THE TIME OF ADOPTION; ANDWHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD UPON CLOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS DETERMINED THAT PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023, IF ADOPTED, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN. NOW, THEREFORE, UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED IT IS RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2023 AS LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2023 IS HEREBY APPROVED AND SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

**MOTION # 4 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 18 FOR 2023 AND ADOPT LOCAL LAW #1 FOR 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi  
Nays: 0

Planning Board Vacancy- Councilman Barufaldi reports the selection committee mirroring the newly adopted law interviewed 4 excellent candidates and selection committee recommended Conrad Coon to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board.

**MOTION # 5 TO APPOINT CONRAD COON TO THE PLANNING BOARD UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2023** made by Councilman Engel, seconded by Councilman Barufaldi, and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi  
Nays: 0

Communication Committee Report:

The PCC has met twice since its inception. During this time, we have begun to address:

1. Mission/Goals
  - a. To increase transparency in government through effective communications and disclosure
  - b. To engender/enhance a sense of community
  - c. To communicate events, opportunities around the town
  - d. To provide a mechanism for residents to communicate with town government
  - e. To communicate emergency or other important town matters
2. Established guiding principles
  - a. Incremental improvements
  - b. Caution around mass social media platforms
  - c. Optimizing probability of positive discourse
3. Inventory of Existing Communications Infrastructure
  - a. Town Website
  - b. Town email distribution list
  - c. Town Historian FB page
  - d. Media Outlets
4. Inventory/Analysis of Other Towns
  - a. Taghkanic
  - b. Chatham Town and Village
  - c. Kinderhook Town and Village
  - d. CABA
  - e. Kinderhook Business Association
5. Collection of Content and Content Sources
  - a. Still awaiting feedback on 2022-2023 accomplishments for TB
  - b. Identification of other sources
6. Broad discussion about options for expanding the offering
7. Special thanks to volunteers: Debbye Byrum, Tara Groom and Mary Redler.

Parks and Recreation- Superintendent Perry reports ordering two 8-foot picnic tables for West Ghent. Also need to replace 6 banners for the light poles which he will order as well. Supervisor Simmons will look into adding more pickleball lines to existing courts, or adding a new court onto ice rink area.

HIGHWAY:

We have been busy switching our equipment from winter use to summer use it is task to clean and swap everything over season to season. We have completed our brush cutting with our road boom mower unit we will be swapping the brush head system out to the grass head prepping for the summer mowing season. We are doing our spring cleanup from our winter plowing damage the big heavy wet snow with no frost in the ground cause us problems every year. We are working on finishing up our sand sweeping we reclaimed around 250 ton of sand off of our road system which is about 25% reclaimed material estimated sand/salt mix usage was around 1000 tons for this season.

All of our snow fence is down and stored till next season. We will be doing some rehab work on over half of our fleet of snow plows some date back 25 years old and are still in decent shape however the salt does take a toll on these units as well as the wear and tear of scraping the roads. A new plow is around \$16k replacement value so our constant up keep in maintenance is crucial. We did some updating of safety training for our crews through the county last week work place violence and sexual harassment. We will be continuing our repair work on the two roads that the power company damaged the last two years with the power line project we replaced a faulty pipe today on Gregory Road. I was updated from Trout Unlimited that our pipes have been ordered and are being built to specs looking possible like June for delivery of pipe. I was able to work with NYSEG engineers on a safety issue on Falls Road with low hanging wires it was a long process but I was able to work with them to install taller poles to get all 3 line systems up high enough to safely travel under the lines without having to drive into oncoming traffic. I would like board Approval to purchase a diagnostic computer that will allow us to hook up to 99% of our fleet on road and off road. I have looked at 3 different companies' diagnostic computers I have been doing research for over a year on these tools. We are at a point in time that everything we buy has a computer on it and we are limited with the ability to the point we will have to start taking equipment out of house to just plug into a computer to tell us where to go. The initial cost is \$6,865.00. For everything we need to plug into all the equipment we own now, then there will be an annual fee of around \$1,850 which will provide use with the latest up today diagnostic information as well as wiring diagram. We did receive some bids for a roller I would like to recommend accepting the bid from Abele. I would like the board's approval to put our 60" roller as well as our smaller 20 ton trailer out on auction international web site for sale the highway department no longer has a day to day use for these two units any longer. We will be hosting the Columbia County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways equipment show on May 3 which we have been hosting for the last 12 years. This event is great for our facility and grounds because we end up doing a deep clean throughout which would not happen otherwise. I invite the Town Board to stop by and check this even out and have lunch on me.

**MOTION # 6 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi  
Nays: 0

**MOTION #7 TO APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO PUT ITEMS UP FOR AUCTION** made by Councilman Myers, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi  
Nays: 0

**MOTION # 8 TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW DIAGONOSTIC TOOL FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi  
Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 19 of 2023

WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS HAS INDICATED TO THE TOWN THAT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS IN NEED OF PURCHASING A HAMM HD 12 VV TANDEM ROLLER IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS; WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS PLACED A BID ADVERTISEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE OF SAID EQUIPMENT, PURSUANT TO §103 OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW; WHEREAS, THE TOWN RECEIVED TWO BIDS IN RESPONSE TO SAID BID ADVERTISEMENT; WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO ITS PROCUREMENT POLICY, THE TOWN IS AUTHORIZED TO AWARD PURCHASE CONTRACTS ON THE BASIS OF EITHER THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER OR "BEST VALUE" AS DEFINED BY §163 OF THE NEW YORK STATE FINANCE LAW; WHEREAS, THE "BEST VALUE" OPTION MAY BE USED IF IT IS MORE COST-EFFICIENT OVER TIME TO AWARD THE PURCHASE CONTRACT TO OTHER THAN THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER DUE TO FACTORS SUCH AS LOWER COST OF MAINTENANCE, DURABILITY, HIGHER QUALITY, AVAILABILITY, AND LONGER PRODUCT LIFE. WHEREAS, ABELE TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO., INC. OF ALBANY, NEW YORK, WAS NOT THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SAID EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,470.00, BUT WAS THE "BEST VALUE" BIDDER DUE TO SIGNIFICANTLY LESS HOURS AND WEAR AND TEAR ON THE EQUIPMENT OFFERED FOR SALE; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED "BEST VALUE" BID MEETING THE REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS, AND TO THEREBY ACQUIRE THE HAMM HD 12 VV TANDEM ROLLER FROM ABELE TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO., INC. IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS; AND WHEREAS, THE 2023 TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT BUDGET INCLUDES FUNDS SUFFICIENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THIS EQUIPMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED BID FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE HAMM HD 12 VV TANDEM ROLLER IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$47,470.00 FROM THE 2023 TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT BUDGET, LINE DB5130.2, TO COMPLETE THE PURCHASE OF SAID EQUIPMENT.

**MOTION # 9 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 19 FOR 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION # 10 TO ADOPT THE TOWN'S DISCRIMINATION AND HARASSMENT POLICY AND THE WORKPLACE VIOLENCE POLICY WITH AN ADOPTION DATE OF APRIL 20, 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 11 TO APPROVE THE USE OF TOWN PROPERTY FOR THE GHENT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY HOSTING OF THE COLUMBIA COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMANS CONVENTION ON JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved.

Ayes: 3 Simmons, Myers, Barufaldi- Councilman Engel abstained.

Nays: 0

Comprehensive Plan Review- The Board would like to move forward with the Comprehensive planning process. A committee will need to be selected and a RFP done for professional services to begin process.

**MOTION #12 TO APPROVE TO DRAFT AN RFP FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR REVIEW 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION # 20 of 2023:

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2019-A OF THE UNIFORM JUSTICE COURT ACT, THE TOWN JUSTICES OF THE TOWN OF GHENT MUST PRESENT THEIR RECORDS AND DOCKETS TO THE TOWN BOARD, WHICH SHALL CAUSE SUCH RECORDS AND DOCKETS TO BE EXAMINED AND ENTER IN THE MINUTES OF ITS PROCEEDINGS THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DULY EXAMINED AND THAT THE FINES THEREIN COLLECTED HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN JUSTICES OF THE TOWN OF GHENT PRESENTED THEIR RECORDS AND DOCKETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022 TO THE TOWN BOARD ON OR BEFORE APRIL 15, 2023; AND WHEREAS, AT THE DIRECTION OF THE TOWN BOARD, THE SAID RECORDS AND DOCKETS WERE EXAMINED BY TOWN COUNCILMEMBER DAN BARUFALDI, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THE CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR, WENDY SHUFELT, AND FOUND TO BE IN ORDER. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE RECORDS AND DOCKETS OF THE TOWN JUSTICES HAVE BEEN DULY EXAMINED AND IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE FINES THEREIN COLLECTED HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE PROPER OFFICIALS OF THE TOWN AS REQUIRED BY LAW. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE SUPERVISOR OF THE TOWN OF GHENT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO SUBMIT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION.

**MOTION # 13 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 20 FOR 2023** made by Councilman Engel seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A \$39198.00

S.L. \$618.85

General B \$1626.43

Highway DB \$38865.71

TOTAL: \$ 80,308.99

**MOTION # 14 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

Budget Amendment # 1 for 2023:

A8840.4            Increase \$13,500.00

TA86.9            Decrease \$13,500.00

**MOTION # 15 TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT # 1 FOR 2023** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

No Public Comment

**MOTION # 16 TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:20 PM** made by Councilman Myers, seconded by Councilman Barufaldi, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Radley, Town Clerk