

TOWN OF GHENT TOWN BOARD MEETING
July 20, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held July 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- via zoom
	Lynda Nielsen	Councilwoman
	Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
	Matt Cabral	Attorney for the Town (absent)

No public, no public comment.

MOTION # 1 TO OPEN THE MEETING made by Supervisor Simmons, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen
Nays: 0

MOTION # 2 TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM JUNE 15,2023 made by Councilman Myers, seconded by Councilwoman Nielsen, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen
Nays: 0

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

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen
Nays: 0

Correspondence- Supervisor Simmons received a copy of a letter to the editor from Jill Berman written by Stephanie Sussman regarding the Ghent Climate Smart task force launching BYO containers when you go to restaurants in 2022.

PLANNING, ZONING, COMMITTEES:

Climate Smart: Reported by Kathryn Bielke:

Community Campaigns By the end of this month, we will have submitted scoping documents for two NYSERDA community campaigns in which the town submits the addresses of 5 town residents who have make eligible energy improvements to NYSERDA and in turn, the town receives a \$5,000 grant from NYSERDA. One is a clean heating and cooling campaign in which heat pumps, as well as new windows. We have two new heat pump installs in Ghent. If we can learn of 3 more that were installed after our scoping document was submitted, we can receive the grant monies. These are being tracked by participating

installers giving customer information to Heat Smart Capital Region on our behalf. We also have fliers with a QR code to self-report and are grateful to Code Enforcement Officer O'Keefe for keeping an eye out for us as well. The second campaign is the same but for electric vehicles. Any EVs acquired by town-residents after this week can qualify. The task force will be sending out a press release to continue to get the word out but word of mouth tends to work best, thank you for helping us in this regard if you are able! More NYSERDA Funding Opportunities The Climate Smart Task Force has now submitted the Town's Bronze certification status in Climate Smart Communities to Clean Energy Communities, bringing total points to 2800. 3000 pts is the \$10,000 threshold. To get our last 200 points we can complete the community clean heating and cooling campaign, the EV campaign, or install a new car charging station within the jurisdiction. Even a simple \$400 "dummy" charger can qualify. Should the points come from a community campaign, the town will then receive \$15,000. Funding for Decarbonization of Municipal Buildings Our technical advisor at CDRPC has noted there are a lot of state and federal grants that will come available within the year. We want to be prepared to have potential energy upgrade projects (such as heat pumps for municipal buildings) nearing shovel ready for when grant applications open. These are mostly anticipated to be matching and reimbursement grants. The task force would like to participate in Ghent's upcoming 2024 budgeting process in some capacity if only making a request for what projects might be viable undertakings for next year. We can start gathering estimates and our Task Force chair, Bob Dandrew's organization Partners for Climate Action can help with funding for planning for building upgrades including engineering assessments, architectural renderings, etc. Supervisor Simmons and TB Member Linda Nielsen and myself have been communicating over email about potentially establishing the West Ghent Community Center as a cooling center that could include air conditioning, battery backup storage, and/or a shade structure. This could be included in the Climate Action Plan and Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan as well as earn points in Climate Smart Communities. Municipal Plans Climate Adaptation and Resilience Planning is underway under the leadership of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Thank you to Highway Supervisor Perry, Code Enforcement officer and Supervisor Simmons for joining us in the initial assessment meeting today. We are also currently engaged in Climate Action Planning. Members of the CSC Task Force are working in small groups on these primary sectors: municipal facilities, transportation, and waste. Thank you to Ben Perry.

Broadband- Supervisor Simmons- Consolidated all paid, a few houses still remain and they are going back to do those. Mid- Hudson still at stand still waiting on permits, they will be contacted, they have 2 ½ to months to finish, looking for solutions before penalty phase.

County Report- The County youth employment program was successful. Allyson Engel participated working at the office of Real Property and did quite well. ELP did a presentation at the county regarding using old dump sites for solar.

Rail Trail- today the proposals were due back and should have a consultant by the first week of August.

Communications Committee- Some minor successes. Mary Redler did a piece in the Register Star regarding the Town Hall renovations and well as the Ghent Band. Getting good coverage, will meet again in August.

Parks and Recreation- Looking to doing some upgrades to the Water Street Park, bathrooms, new pavilion. Working on concept and drawings, more to come.

HIGHWAY:

We have been very busy dealing with back-to-back storms down trees, flooding Ditch repairs from heavy rains. We have completed two paving projects in West Ghent I have submitted paperwork for reimbursement with Burns/McDonald-NYTransco per our agreement of Road Impact from the power transmission line project. Final inspection was done on Tuesday now waiting for the review committee which was meeting today on the next steps. We have been pushed off for other paving projects due to the weather. We have been working on the Storage Container building preparation on the ground as well as the roofing system to the containers. It is moving forward just slowly. We did receive the check for the roller we sold in the auction. I would request that the \$3,350 go to the DB5130.2 which will go towards the equipment we purchased this year. Roller has not been picked up yet. For the trailer we did run into a hick up the title says it has a lien on it I am working on getting paperwork squared away before we put it back out to bid. I was notified that the dump body we ordered has been shipped which is 4 months earlier than we were expecting it to be. I went and inspected unit this morning and hoping to be able to swap bodies out and completed be for this upcoming plow season. Once old body comes off, I will put it up on auction which I ask the board to approve to do so. We will be starting the pipe project on Stockport Road in August we will be dealing with water for shore had we started this month everything would have been under flood waters. Making preparations for next years budget.

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen

Nays: 0

OLD BUSINESS-

Comprehensive Plan- good list of candidates, first meeting is planned for September 6, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS-

MOTION # 5 TO CHANGE THE TOWN BOARD MEETING FOR AUGUST FROM AUGUST 17TH, 2023 TO AUGUST 24TH, 2023 made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen

Nays: 0

MOTION # 6 TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR AUGUST 24, 2023 AT 6:45 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING NEW EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE AND AMBULANCE WORKERS, AND NEW INCOME LIMITS REGARDING SENIOR AND DISABLED EXEMPTIONS CONTINGENT ON IMPACT REPORTS AND RECIEPT OF RESOLUTION FROM THE TOWN ATTORNEY. made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A \$69,245.55

S.L. \$477.69

General B \$1296.81

Highway DB \$361,401.78

TOTAL: \$ 432,421.83

MOTION # 7 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Engel, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi , Nielsen

Nays: 0

No Public Comment

MOTION # 8 TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 7:48 PM made by Councilman Myers, seconded by Councilman Barufaldi, and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5 Simmons, Engel, Myers, Barufaldi, Nielsen

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Radley, Town Clerk