

TOWN OF GHENT TOWN BOARD MEETING  
March 21, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held March 21, 2024 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
	Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
	Matt Cabral	Attorney for the Town (absent)

No Comment

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 2 TO ACCEPT MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2024** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

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

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

Nays: 0

Planning, Zoning and Committees:

Supervisor Simmons- Planning- The meeting started at 7pm with all planning board members in attendance plus Matt Cabral. There were 8 community/applicants in attendance as well. Marble design's expansion was approved and a preliminary update on Camphill Ghent's masterplan was reviewed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05. I spoke with members of the planning board after meeting about the NYMIR workplace training online version that will be held 9:00 am 3/19/2024 and also invited them to sit in with us at the town hall. We also had a conversation about the engineering firm Tighe & Bond which we had recently used and plan to use again vs our old firm CPL engineering.

Councilman Myers- Zoning- This month's zoning meeting started at 7:03 pm, with all zoning board members present along with myself and the homeowner of 63 Soller Heights Road. An application for a updated change for a setback variance was accepted by the board to change the location of the dwelling to replace an existing structure. A public hearing is set for April 10th at 7:00pm, the meeting ended at 7:17pm.

Councilwoman Nielsen- Climate Smart- Grants Report: Kathryn reported that Ghent has now qualified for \$20,000 from NYSERDA because of the successful EV Community/Tier 1 (\$5,000), the Community Campaign for Heating and Cooling/Tier 1 (\$5,000), and for reaching 3,000 points in Clean Energies Communities program (\$1,000). These would allow us to purchase two "Level 2" EV chargers. We could also consider directing the money toward the purchase of a higher-powered "DC Charger" for electric cars. The group supported this unanimously. Clean Energy Communities Program Update: Reported that Ghent has reached 4,100 points toward its 5,000-point goal. Reaching 5,000 points will qualify Ghent for a \$100,000 award from NYSERDA. Reviewed the "low hanging fruit" actions that Ghent could pursue in order to reach our goal. To achieve the needed 900 points, the task force has prioritized promoting and completing the following: converting to LED lights in the town hall, installing a new DC EV car charger, and putting timers on lighting in the town garage. PCA's Building Decarbonization Grant: Reported that Ghent reached the semifinalist level for the PCA grant program but ultimately was not selected for a grant. Community Day: Reported on her exploration into the possibility of a Community Day for Ghent. She discussed her idea for the task force to purchase insulated drinking bottles for distribution at the event. BYO Campaign: Reported on her efforts to engage schools in recycling and reuse efforts. . Climate Adaption and Resilience Plan: Bob, Paula and Kathryn have formed a subcommittee to study and react to Cornell's draft. Will report at the next CSC Task Force Meeting. Community Outreach: Group explored various ideas and agreed to focus on preparations for our task force presence at the proposed Community Day in late September. This will allow us to develop a messaging campaign, promotional materials, and related components. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 25, 6:30 pm at Town Hall.

Supervisor Simmons- Broadband- work still being done, setting up a meeting for next week with Vince from Mid-Hudson.

Councilman Myers- Rail Trail- Are working with NYSOPRHP (New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation) to obtain easement and acquisitions on a few properties that are still in private hands. Things are moving all well on the routing plan and the project is on schedule.

Councilman Barufaldi- Community Engagement- Town stories being created about Comprehensive Plan Review Committee and Climate Smart with Bob and Kathryn.

Community Day- We are in beginning stages of planning for a Community Day for Ghent – something we have been collectively talking about making happen. As this is a substantial project, we put together a team of volunteers within the Community Engagement and Communications Committee, co-Chaired by Dan, and Lynda. We want to be sure the Town Board is kept up to date, but also has the opportunity to guide some of the important issues. Proposed Date- September 28, 2024, time 11am-5pm at the Town Garage with vendors from Ghent based entities, The Ghent Band, Town Historian, and more information to come, no alcohol to be served. All in agreement. Town portion of budget is currently \$2500.00, committee will create a "budget "and submit to Board.

Councilman Barufaldi- Comprehensive Plan Committee- Continue to meet. Next month will be attending the Town Board workshop to begin at 6pm to update them.

Parks and Recreation- Gearing up for summer camp, will soon have applications and ads ready.

Highway-

We have been moving right along with our over growth mowing. I have in the works a demo mulching head to be provided to use by Diamond mowers hopefully it will be showing up here in the next few weeks for us to try out on our unit. We will be shifting gears next week into spring cleanup mode all though we have not had a lot of snow we still have road sand to clean up we will be training new employees this spring on the road cleaning program. I attended advocacy day at the state capitol with over 700 other people I had 5 in person meetings with 5 different senators our messages were received well although there was some big changes in how the day went. Although we do not have any idea on the budget yet I have 3 roads we will be using state aid money towards this season Garner Road, finishing Orchard & Half of Talarico County 22 end to Link which will be a multiyear project. We have been busy dealing with trees blowing down along with our winter tree trimming we have started prepping for the pipe project on George rd with removing trees in which will be in our way still waiting on final blue prints for project. I have a meeting set up with the people from the state parks who are working on the north arch water way on Arch bridge, we will be looking at the south 2' culvert arch which has failed and causing the water to back up more often in the past few years causing the water to run through arch every single time we get rain events it has been a issue first over 20 years and now is at the point of a major issue for the traveling public as well as the highway. I had spoken to them years ago regarding this location but they felt at the time the larger arch water way issue was much more present. New people are handling this issue and last time they where on sight saw first had the water issues. We changed out a pipe last week which the crew found when doing pipe inspections. I have reached out to the State DOT I which I am waiting firm some info back on putting up temp speed signs to do a traffic study on 66. They are looking into whether or not they will allow me to put our speed sign up or have to use a speed trailer. Since our sign does not fall into the permitting.

**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

Unfinished Business- RESOLUTION # 16 FOR THE YEAR 2024

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, 2023 TO THE TOWN BOARD ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1, 2024; 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 # 5 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16 FOR THE YEAR 2024** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS-

**MOTION # 6 TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR SIMMONS TO SIGN PERMISSION FOR VERIZON TO CONDUCT CORE SOIL SAMPLES ON SITE BEHIND HIGHWAY GARAGE** 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 \$88,486.84

S.L. \$ 764.49

General B \$ 9247.79

Highway \$ 48,026.34

Total \$ 146525.46

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

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

Nays: 0

No Comment

**MOTION # 8 TO ADJOURN MEETING AT 8:06 PM** made by Councilman Barufaldi, seconded by Councilman Myers, and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michelle Radley, Town Clerk

