

Town of Ghent
Town Board Meeting
April 20, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held on April 20, 2017 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:06pm with the Pledge to the Flag.

Present were: Michael Benvenuto	Supervisor
Charles Wood	Councilman
Peter Nelson	Councilman
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Matthew Cabral, Esq.	Attorney for Town

Also present – 16 public

MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilmen Nelson and approve unanimously.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Ghent Town Residents; Michelle Evans, Brenda Geverts (?), Keith Kanaga, Koethi Zahn, Elizabeth DePalma, David Berman – questioned Supervisor Benvenuto why he voted in favor of the Faso bill at the Columbia County Board of Supervisors meeting. Supervisor Benvenuto explained that he has been in favor of the State taking over the Medicaid expense, just like all the other States in the Union. NYSAC has been also advocating for this. He advised them that the resolution was sent out to ALL Supervisors the day before the meeting to review and not one Supervisor voiced an issue prior to the Full Board meeting.

Dwayne Collette of George Road voiced his concern about the amount of drivers that speed on George Road. A lot of folks use this road to access Route 9H or Route 66 and they “fly”. Gail Krein stated that Orchard Road has the same issue. Chris Jones on Talerico Road also stated her concern of speeders and the fact that there is a lot of Commercial traffic, delivery trucks etc. Martha McMaster stated Leggett Road has speed limit signs, but drivers still speed. Highway Superintendent Ben Perry stated that they can only post the signs that NYS says it’s okay to post. Supervisor Benvenuto advised them that he will speak with the Resident Deputy Travis VanAlstyne regarding extra patrol in these areas.

MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND OPEN MEETING made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approve unanimously.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2017 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #5 TO ALLOW THE EMILY ECKSTROM EQUINE FOUNDATION TO HOLD THEIR 5K RUN on Saturday June 17th in the Town of Ghent made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #6 FOR SUPERVISOR BENVENUTO TO ISSUE A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS to Daniel Trey Hotaling of Ghent for earning rank of Eagle Scout made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2017 with a note to get a list from the Assessor of Not for Profits made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2017 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH MARCH 2017 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

BROADBAND COMMITTEE:

Charter Spectrum will abide by the regulations set forth and will need to be set by November 2018 to extend services to the Town of Ghent for anyone with partial service. The CC Broadband Committee will hear from Fairpoint at 401 State Street. Money has to be spent by 12/31/18, then additional two years to expand to the houses (up to 300ft). The 3rd Round offerings from the State will launch on 5/3/17.

YOUTH, PARKS, RECREATION COMMITTEE:

A letter was received from the Northern Columbia Pop Warner Association asking for permission to use and make some modifications to the park on Water Street that is owned by the Town. They would like to use Field 3 and explain the modifications they wish to make in their letter. Town Attorney Cabral would like to set up an agreement between NC Pop Warner and The Town as well as review the insurance coverage.

MOTION #10 TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ATTORNEY REVIEW OF INSURANCE AND CREATE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE BOARD TO MOVE FORWARD WITH CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

DOG CONTROL

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT THE DOG CONTROL OFFICERS REPORT FOR MARCH 2017 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been busy doing spring cleanup which we have completed sweeping roads and switching our equipment from winter to summer use. We have been busy filling pot holes grading dirt roads and cleaning yard. Easter weekend we had 7 trees fall due to high winds. We have taken all of the scrap steel up to Albany tidying up the shop yard getting \$4,004.27 for our waste scrap steel and bodies which I ask that this money be put back into the towns shop funds and or into reserves for future use. We are going to be building a drag paver which will cost close to \$4,000 which will save us thousands of dollars each year to come in the future doing certain paving jobs. We were notified by the county that Columbia County towns and villages were granted a harsh weather recover through the state for the 30" blizzard we were hit by last month totaling our cost of over \$19,000 for three days' worth of storm cleanup. We are shifting gears doing final prep work for this upcoming summer paving season. I just found out today that we were granted the same amount of money from the state as last year between CHIPS PAVE NY \$212,368.98 with an additional EXTREME WINTER RECOVERY of \$33,437.10 which brings up to the most we have ever seen from the state added financing for local road programs of a total of \$245,806.08. We have taken delivery of the end dump trailer with our overweight permits we will be able to haul 37 ton of material with the one unit compared to two units at maximum 36ton depending on what product we are hauling. We have also taken delivery of the new pay loader. We have cleaned the 2004 cat loader which we will be selling hopefully through a bid process.

MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR MARCH 2017 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #13 TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT IN THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (2004 Caterpillar Wheel Loader Model 938G, Series 2, with 4780 hours) made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheny and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #14 TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2017 OF MAY 11, 2017 AT 7PM and take action at the regular meeting of May 18th , 2017 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheny and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$44,303.65
S.I.	\$807.62
General B	\$1,330.94
Highway DB	\$244,814.11
TOTAL	\$291,256.32

MOTION #15 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheny and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #16 TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:22PM made by Councilwoman Matheny, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

MOTION #17 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:58PM made by Councilwoman Matheny, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

MOTION #18 TO ADJOURN AT 8:59PM made by Councilwoman Matheny, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly S. Baccaro