

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held August 25, 2016 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with a pledge to the flag.

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

Also present- about 5 audience members.

MOTION #1 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Chris Jones- Any update on the Talarico Landfill site?

Supervisor Benvenuto- This will be discussed later in the meeting.

Chris Jones- There have been black bear sightings on Talarcio Road.

Martha McMaster- Asked Superintendent Perry what work was being done on Leggett Road.

Superintendent Perry- widening the shoulders for safety and snow.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON JULY 21, 2016, PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING ON AUGUST 11, 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

COORESPONDENCE:

A letter from the Turnpike Inn notifying the Town of a two year renewal of their liquor license. Letter from NYSDOT regarding the denial of a request to lower the speed limit on a portion of Route 203. Food Pantry numbers for July 2016- Families- 74 Children 66, Adults 119, Seniors 20, New Clients 2 and 3714 pounds of food.

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

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE AND JULY made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE ZONING BOARD MINTUES OF JULY 13, 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

GREENWAY GRANT:

RESOLUTION #24 FOR THE YEAR 2016

WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT IS APPLYING TO THE HUDSON RIVER GREENWAY FOR A GRANT UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY GRANT PROGRAM FOR A PROJECT ENTITLED "GHENT ZONING CODE REVISIONS" TO BE LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND WHEREAS, THE GRANT APPLICATION REQUIRES THE APPLICANT MUNICIPALITY TO OBTAIN THE APPROVAL AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE MUNICIPALITY OR MUNICIPALITIES IN WHICH THE PROJECT WILL BE LOCATED; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT HAS DETERMINED THAT APPLYING FOR SAID GRANT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN AND WISHES TO PROVIDE ITS APPROVAL FOR, AND ENDORSEMENT OF, SAID GRANT APPLICATION. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE TOWN, DOES HEREBY APPROVE AND ENDORSE THE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT UNDER THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

GREENWAY GRANT PROGRAM FOR A PROJECT KNOWN AS "GHENT ZONING CODE REVISIONS" AND LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF GHENT. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO SIGN AND CERTIFY THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY GREENWAY GRANT APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF GHENT.

MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 24 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE- There will a presentation at the next Town Board workshop on September 1, 2016 on Clean Energy Communities. This will correspond with the actions of the CSC.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Matheney gave a brief summary on the continuing progress on Broadband for the area. A broadband survey will be available on the Town's website for residents to take.

MOTION #10 TO ACCEPT THE BROADBAND COMMITTEE REPORT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DOG CONTROL:

MOTION #11 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR JULY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Superintendent Perry reports they are busy all over town doing repair patch work with blacktop. We have started several shoulder and ditching projects across town for next year which we have laid out. Are almost complete with our second go around with road mower. Truck rehab is coming along nicely truck framing was primed today which means we are on the forward move with the project.

MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR JULY made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNIFINISHED BUSINESS:

Talarico Land Fill Update:

Supervisor Benvenuto read aloud a prepared statement as follow:

At the June Town Board meeting this Board made a statement regarding the Old Ghent (Talarico) Landfill Site, including our intention to request of NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and County of Columbia officials that they perform water testing to include testing for PFOA. It was our understanding that while water testing had been performed at this private site in the past, none had been sampled since 2006 and that previous testing did not include PFOA. Following the June Town Board meeting I emailed a letter to the Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, the Columbia County Attorney, DEC Counsel Patrick Foster, DEC Project Manager Larry Alden and DEC Regional Hazardous Waste Engineer Jim Quinn, which included the Town of Ghent's official request for said testing to be performed. Subsequently I was contacted several times by Keith Goertz, DEC Regional Director for Region 4 and was advised in July that NYSDEC and the NYS Dept. of Health, in concert with the Columbia County Dept. of Health, would be taking samples at the site, as requested, on July 25th. DEC would be planning to contact the necessary parties and test the same sites that were tested years ago surrounding the Old Ghent (Talarico) Landfill. Within the past week I was advised by the Columbia County Dept. of Health that the results were back from the lab utilized by New York State. I was informed that the results associated with this testing were in the form of 3 separate reports consisting of over 200 pages in total. I asked Columbia County Dept. of Health Director Jack Mabb for a summary of the report, which we received from Health Dept. staff member Tara Becker. The summary results reflect the following:

Sampling was conducted of 4 residential drilled supply wells and the pond surrounding the perimeter of the landfill. These included the wells sampled periodically since 1992 and most recently in 2006. There are no official monitoring wells at this site. The recent testing included PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFBS, PFHpA, PFHxs, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, organochlorine pesticides, PCBs, metals and mercury. The residential well samples were non-detect for all of the above analytes. In regards to metals, the sample ranges showed the same or a slight decrease from those collected in 2006, no increases were detected. The surface water from the pond was non-detect for all analytical parameters, metals were in range and PFOA/PFOS was detected at 6 parts per trillion. The NYSDOH has advised that PFOA and PFOS is being detected routinely at very low levels in surface water and in snow in on-going studies. To give some perspective, the EPA has currently issued a health advisory for a combined level of PFOA and PFOS in a single sample of drinking water in excess of 70 Parts Per Trillion or above. In summary, the most important reasoning behind the request for testing was to sample for the presence of PFOAs and all other relatable chemicals as listed above. Those results were thankfully non-detect.

NEW BUSINESS:

CARPENTER ROAD SPEED LIMIT REQUEST:

WHEREAS, RESIDENTS OF CARPENTER ROAD IN THE TOWN OF GHENT HAVE SUBMITTED A PETITION REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 35 MPH POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR SAID ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, SAID ROADWAY CURRENTLY HAS NO POSTED SPEED LIMIT AND IS, THEREFORE, SUBJECT TO A DEFAULT SPEED LIMIT OF 55 MPH; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 35 MPH POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR SAID ROADWAY WOULD IMPROVE SAFETY ON SAID ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 35 MPH POSTED SPEED LIMIT IS WARRANTED. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 35 MPH POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR CARPENTER ROAD IN THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH REVIEWING THIS MATTER, TOWARD THE GOAL OF ESTABLISHING A 35 MPH POSTED SPEED LIMIT FOR CARPENTER ROAD AS REQUESTED HEREIN.

MOTION # 13 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 25 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CHURCH STREET SPEED LIMIT REQUEST:

WHEREAS, RESIDENTS OF THAT PORTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 KNOWN AS CHURCH STREET AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN THE TOWN OF GHENT HAVE SUBMITTED A PETITION REQUESTING A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR SAID ROADWAY FROM THE CURRENT MAXIMUM SPEED OF 35 MPH AND THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL ZONE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, LOCATED AND OPERATING AT 1323 COUNTY ROUTE 21 IN THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND WHEREAS, CHURCH STREET PASSES THROUGH A RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD AND PROVIDES THE ONLY ACCESS TO THE COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, A DAY SCHOOL SERVING STUDENTS FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12; AND WHEREAS, MANY COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY STUDENTS WALK TO SCHOOL AND MUST CROSS CHURCH STREET WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF SIDEWALKS, CROSSWALKS, OR TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS OF ANY KIND; AND WHEREAS, THERE ARE ALSO TWO CHATHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS STOPS ON CHURCH STREET THAT WOULD BE MADE SAFER BY THE PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION AND SCHOOL ZONE; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT A REDUCTION OF THE SPEED LIMIT AND THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL ZONE WOULD IMPROVE SAFETY ON SAID ROADWAY; AND WHEREAS, THE GHENT TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION AND THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL ZONE IS WARRANTED. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS A SPEED LIMIT REDUCTION FOR THAT PORTION OF COLUMBIA COUNTY ROUTE 21 KNOWN AS CHURCH STREET AND THE CREATION OF A SCHOOL ZONE ON SAID ROADWAY TO BENEFIT THE COLUMBIA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD, WITH A REQUEST THAT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY DPW AND THE COLUMBIA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH REVIEWING THIS MATTER, TOWARD THE GOAL THAT THE SPEED LIMIT BE REDUCED AND A SCHOOL ZONE CREATED AS REQUESTED HEREIN.

MOTION # 14 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 26 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Matheney,

Recusal: 1 Wood

WORKSHOP MEETING CHANGE:

WHEREAS, RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2016 ESTABLISHED THAT THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING WILL, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR OF 2016, BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, AND FURTHER ESTABLISHED THAT THE TOWN BOARD WILL ALSO HOLD INFORMATIONAL PLANNING WORKING SESSIONS AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE 1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS SINCE DETERMINED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO MOVE THE WORKING SESSIONS TO THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT THAT RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2016 SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY AMENDED TO PROVIDE THAT THE INFORMATIONAL PLANNING WORKING SESSIONS SHALL, FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2016, BE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

MOTION # 15 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 27 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$25529.50
S.L.	\$787.62
General B	\$2307.22
Highway DB	\$115810.12
TOTAL:	\$144434.46

MOTION# 16 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

BUDGET AMENDMENT # 1 FOR THE YEAR 2016:

	INCREASE	DECREASE
DB 915		\$42351.62
DB 5112.2	\$42351.62	

MOTION # 17 TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENT #1 FOR THE YEAR 2016 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #18 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT LIMITED TO THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT MEETING made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Len Sugin- Is Time Warner the only broadband supplier considered? Resident live on Soller Heights Road with no provider.

Councilwoman Matheney- It is up to the providers to apply to give service.

Keith Kanaga- Hope the maps received by Charter are correct.

MOTION #19 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #20 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:10 PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley