

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 16, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held February 16, 2017 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
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Also present- 4 audience members Absent- Councilwoman Matheney

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort

Nays: 0

No Comments

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 19, 2017 made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

Food Pantry numbers for January 2016- Families- 82, Children 78, Adults 158, Seniors 26, New Clients 2 and 4085 pounds of food. Distribution of about 100 thanksgiving dinners. A thank you letter from Office of the Aging for the Town's contribution. A letter from resident regarding a project on Route 9H.

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESSORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK / TAX COLLECTOR REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

Broadband Committee: Dave Berman reported a new survey including a speed test, put together by the Hillsdale Broadband committee that covers the entire county. Through the original Connect Columbia survey and this new one, we have learned that the Broadband Programs Office maps do not accurately reflect the availability and speeds of Broadband in Columbia County. The purpose of this survey is to assist in correcting those inaccuracies. We encourage everyone to put a link to this survey on your Town websites and FB pages and promote widely. All of the data collected will be shared with the County subcommittee and the BPO. We are still waiting for the announcement from the BPO re Phase 2 awards. We anticipate this in the next few days, or weeks. Next meeting of the County Broadband subcommittee is Monday, Feb. 27th at 4pm at 401 State St in Hudson.

Climate Smart Committee: Robyn Reynolds came to the Town Board workshop earlier in the evening and gave the Board an update.

DOG CONTROL:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR FEBRUARY made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

Been very busy with back to back snow storms and had to deal with high winds and major drifting all around town. We continue to cut over growth back on roads scheduled for upcoming road work this year. I have placed ordered the new excavator and new loader both units should be showing up by spring just in time for ditching season. I think we should look into a grant for updating our facilities lighting. I have reviewed all bids for equipment that was requested for the highway department and have made my recommendation to which ones to move forward with along with Matt who has written up the resolution to accept tonight.

RESOLUTION #17 FOR THE YEAR 2017:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS HAS INDICATED TO THE TOWN THAT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS IN NEED OF PURCHASING TWO 2017 DODGE 5500 REGULAR CAB CHASSIS, TWO ALL SEASON EVEREST 9' DUMP BODIES, VARIOUS PIECES OF PLOW EQUIPMENT COMPATIBLE WITH THE 2017 DODGE 5500 CHASSIS, AND A 2005 OR NEWER INTERNATIONAL 9900I, SFA 6X4 TRACTOR TRAILER WITH LESS THAN 450,000 MILES IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS CONDUCTED A REVIEW REGARDING THE PRICING FOR PURCHASE OF SAID TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT, AND WHEREAS, TOWN BOARD HAS AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF A BOND IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$530,000.00 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURPOSES, INCLUDING THE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED HEREIN; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS PLACED FOUR SEPARATE BID ADVERTISEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED HEREIN, PURSUANT TO §103 OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, AND WHEREAS, L.T. BEGNAL MOTOR CO. INC., 515 ALBANY AVENUE, KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12401, WAS THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE TWO 2017 DODGE 5500 REGULAR CAB CHASSIS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,833.00, AND WHEREAS, ZWACK, INC., ROUTE 22, STEPHENTOWN, NEW YORK 12168, WAS THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE TWO ALL SEASON EVEREST 9' DUMP BODIES AND THE VARIOUS PIECES OF PLOW EQUIPMENT COMPATIBLE WITH THE 2017 DODGE 5500 TRUCKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$91,995.00, AND WHEREAS, VALLEY ENERGY, P.O. BOX 430, CLAVERACK, NEW YORK 12513, WAS THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER MEETING THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE 2005 OR NEWER INTERNATIONAL 9900I, SFA 6X4 TRACTOR TRAILER WITH LESS THAN 450,000 MILES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$47,000.00, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO ACCEPT THE AFOREMENTIONED LOWEST BIDS AND TO THEREBY ACQUIRE THE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED HEREIN IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT, 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 BIDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED HEREIN IN CONNECTION WITH MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE TOWN HIGHWAYS FOR THE TOWN OF GHENT, AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF SAID TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT, AS SPECIFIED IN THE FOUR BIDS APPROVED AND ACCEPTED HEREBY.

MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 17 FOR THE YEAR 2017 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #10 TO APPROVE THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #18 FOR THE YEAR 2017:

WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS DETERMINED THAT THE TOWN HALL ROOF IS IN POOR CONDITION AND MUST BE REPLACED; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN HAS SET ASIDE IN ITS GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND KNOWN AS "A878001 CAPITAL RESERVE" A SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF MONEY TO PAY FOR THE NEW ROOF; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO USE THE MONEY SET ASIDE IN SAID CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO PAY FOR THE NEW ROOF; AND WHEREAS, SUCH PROCEDURE IS SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, PURSUANT TO GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 6-C AND ARTICLE 7 OF THE TOWN LAW. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD DOES HEREBY APPROVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF UP TO \$35,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUND "A878001 CAPITAL RESERVE" FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING THE TOWN HALL ROOF. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THIS RESOLUTION IS SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW § 6-C AND ARTICLE 7 OF THE TOWN LAW, AND SHALL AUTOMATICALLY TAKE EFFECT THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER ITS ADOPTION, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER PROCEEDINGS BEING NECESSARY BY THE TOWN, UNLESS A PETITION IS PRESENTED TO THE TOWN CLERK, CONFORMING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TOWN LAW, SEEKING A PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD PROSCRIBED BY THE TOWN LAW, THE TOWN SUPERVISOR IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE EXPENDITURE FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND AS DESCRIBED HEREIN.

MOTION # 11 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 18 FOR THE YEAR 2017 made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$54128.88
S.L.	\$1177.99
General B	\$4553.54
Highway DB	\$23303.28
TOTAL:	\$83163.99

MOTION# 12 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Wood, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #13 TO OPEN THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT LIMITED TO THE TOPICS DISCUSSED AT MEETING made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #14 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AT 7:39PM made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Mort, Wood

Nays: 0

MOTION #15 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:41 PM made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort

Nays 0

MOTION #16 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:42 PM made by Councilman, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Mort

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley
Town Clerk