

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held January 21, 2016 at the Ghent Town Hall, Route 66, Ghent, NY. Supervisor Benvenuto opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge to the flag.

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

Also present- about 20 audience members.

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

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

Nays: 0

Mark Johnson- Thank you for all serving the Town.

Koethi- Will the Town consider forming a Broadband committee?

Supervisor Benvenuto- the County currently has one, but it shall be put on the website for anyone who is interested.

Koethi- Has the Town consider a Facebook page? Informational only.

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON DECEMBER 17, 2015 AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 5, 2016 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Whitestone Café submitted a letter informing the Town of the impending renewal of their liquor license. Food Pantry numbers for December- Families-102, Children 101, Adults 181, Seniors 31, New Clients, 9 and ordered 5870 pounds of food.

Laura Wells from Scenic Hudson asked for a letter of support from Supervisor Benvenuto regarding a Hudson Valley Agricultural Enhancement Program grant for the Hawthorne Valley Association. Supervisor Benvenuto will send letter out. A petition was received today from residents and travelers along County Route 21C requesting a reduction of the speed limit on that road. The Town Board will review this information at their workshop on February 4, 2016.

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

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

Nays: 0

DEPARTMENTS:

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

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

Nays: 0

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

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

Nays: 0

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

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING AND ZONING:

MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES FROM THE PLANNING BOARD FROM DECEMBER 2, 2015 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DCO REPORT:

MOTION #9 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR DECEMBER made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

HIGHWAY:

We have been very busy working on upper Arch bridge trying to resolve a number of water issues that keep recurring when we get heavy flooding. We have been flat out with repair issues in shop I had the transmission rebuilt in truck number three but we do need to start planning on pricing a new unit to completely replace this unit for good. Our small dump trucks and pickups are really starting to show their age and the salt has done a number on the condition of the units. We have installed a thermostatic humidity sensor in the building to monitor the heat temp changes and the humidity in the roof line. I have instructed the crew to leave ceiling fans on and temp at same. We are seeing very minimal changes since we have done these two things where in the past I know that the temp was always played with. We took delivery of our new stainless steel replacement body today when weather is less threatening we will strip old body off and install new one. I have been nominated by my fellow Highway Superintendents to be the President of the Association of Town Superintendent of Highways for Columbia County. Supervisor Benvenuto thanked Ben and the highway crew for removing the holiday banner and for cleaning up trees that had fallen on the Water street playground.

MOTION # 10 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT made by Councilman Nelson and seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION #11 TO APPROVE BUILDING INSPECTOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING SCHOOL IN LAKE PLACID FEBRUARY 28, 2016 THROUGH MARCH 3, 2016. THE COST OF THE TRAINING WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GHENT AND VILLAGE OF CHATHAM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Supervisor Benvenuto remind the public and the board of the Public Hearing scheduled for January 27, 2016 at 7pm at the Ghent VFW regarding Local Law #1 and #2 for the year 2016. A brief presentation will be held then the Board will accept comments.

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A	\$40826.00
S.L.	\$835.46
General B	\$10107.33
Highway DB	\$44394.54
TOTAL:	\$96163.33

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

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #13 TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:25PM TO DISCUSS CURRENT LITIGATION made by Supervisor Benvenuto, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #14 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:21PM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #15 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:22 PM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Nelson, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley, Town Clerk