

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
June 15, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held June 15, 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
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Also present- 5 audience members.

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

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

Nays: 0

No Comment

**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 ON MAY 17, 2017** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter from Fairpoint Communications regarding information on their merger with Consolidated Communications. Tom Chulak sent an email regarding the CABA Board had established an economic development task force and is seeking members for the township of Ghent. Food Pantry numbers for May 2017 Families- 73, Children 68, Adults 122, Seniors 21, New Clients 1 and 2777 pounds of food.

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

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

Nays: 0

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood 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 MAY** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

**MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES FROM MARCH 1, 2017 and APRIL 5, 2017** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE:

Mike read an update just received by Nan regarding last month's meeting. Continued work on phase 3.

BROADBAND COMMITTEE:

Councilwoman Matheney reports on the Fairpoint/ Consolidated merger. A public hearing was held and was announced after The Commission's approval is contingent on Consolidated and FairPoint agreeing to the following conditions:

- Keep most jobs in NY for at least 2 years.
- Invest \$4million on network reliability and service quality.
- Expand DSL coverage to 300 more locations.
- Fulfill all obligations under BPO phase 2 AND participate in round 3.
- Provide a most favored state clause and alert PSC if they get into financial trouble.
- Put up a \$2 million letter of credit until all conditions are satisfied.

CLIMATE SMART COMMITTEE:

Councilman Mort is meeting tomorrow with Mayor Curran on precise location for EVC and to discuss an inter-municipal agreement between the Village and the Town. Energy Code Enforcement training took place in Hillsdale and Walt has two new projects that will be used for training as well. Once in completion of fourth action for grant the Town will than qualify for grant money and ideas on projects to use the money for will be looked into. A letter will be drafted to Planning and Zoning to seek their input as well.

YOUTH PARKS AND RECREATION

Supervisor Benvenuto reported summer camp preparations are under way. Counselors have been set and trained. Water Street playground is ready. Camp will run from July 5, 2017 to August 4, 2017. All information is available on website or at the Clerk's office.

HIGHWAY:

We have been very busy with final preparations for next week's chip sealing. We changed a faulty 50'x4' diameter cross pipe two weeks ago on Quinn Lane. We have started working on new roads for next year projects. I attended Highway school this week once again very informational. I have a number of a sales rep to speak to in regards of a speed machine and will give that to Supervisor Benvenuto. We had a garage door motor shaft break and the door dropped 1/2 way. Madsen is going to replace with a different motor the ones we have are not big and or strong enough to hold the weight.

We recently took apart an engine in one of our small trucks for an overheating issue and had the heads sent out and tested both were cracked. We went ahead and bought new heads and parts. When we started to tear down engine to freshen it we found the engine block cracked. A \$2,000 engine freshening job now just went to a \$9,000 replacement. This truck is 20 years old and is only worth about \$4,500 running. This is not a wise decision to replace this engine for the age and condition. I spoke with Mike on this matter this was not one of the two smaller truck to be sold but he has suggested we look into a pickup in replacement of this truck do to age and importance of having small trucks.

**MOTION # 9 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNIFINISHED BUSINESS:

**MOTION #10 TO ACCEPT DELL'S PLUMBING AND HEATING ESTIMATE FOR AIRCONTIIONING UNIT FOR FRONT HALL PENDING SUPERVISOR BENVENUTO REVIEWING THE BUDGET AT THE SIX MONTH TIME PERIOD** made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION #11 TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR LOCAL LAW #2 FOR THE YEAR 2017 SETTING FORTH CHANGES IN THE TOWN OF GHENT ZONING CODE SECTION 190-17 AND 190-26 REGARDINDG TIME LIMITS FOR PLANNING ACTIONS** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION # 12 TO REAPPOINT KAREN MORT TO THE EMC FOR ONE YEAR STARTING IMMEDIATELY**

made by Councilwoman Matheney seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**RESOLUTION # 23 FOR THE YEAR 2017:**

WHEREAS, THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ("EPA") HAS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ITS SECOND FIVE YEAR REVIEW OF THE HUDSON RIVER SUPERFUND PCB CLEANUP PROJECT; WHEREAS, THE EPA'S TWO-PART CLEANUP PLAN CALLED FOR TARGETED DREDGING FOLLOWED BY A MONITORING PHASE INTENDED TO TRACK THE LONG-TERM RECOVERY OF THE RIVER OVER TIME TO CONFIRM THAT THE CLEANUP IS FUNCTIONING AS INTENDED; WHEREAS, THE SECOND FIVE YEAR REVIEW RECENTLY CONCLUDED WAS THE FIRST REVIEW SINCE THE SIX YEAR DREDGING PHASE OF THE PROJECT WAS COMPLETED IN 2015; WHEREAS, THE REVIEW CONCLUDES THAT THE HUDSON RIVER CLEANUP IS NOT YET PROTECTIVE OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, THAT THE RECOVERY WILL TAKE MANY MORE YEARS, EVEN DECADES, AND THAT MUCH MORE DATA IS NEEDED TO IDENTIFY LONG-TERM TRENDS AND DETERMINE IF THE CLEANUP IS FUNCTIONING AS INTENDED; WHEREAS, THE REVIEW ALSO INDICATES THAT PCB LEVELS IN FISH REMAIN HIGH, THAT IT WILL TAKE YEARS FOR PCB LEVELS IN FISH TO REACH LEVELS WHERE FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES MAY BE RELAXED AND DECADES BEFORE FISH CAN BE SAFELY EATEN FREQUENTLY; WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT IS CONCERNED THAT THE HUDSON RIVER CLEANUP IS NOT YET PROTECTIVE OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT; THAT RECOVERY WILL TAKE MANY MORE YEARS, EVEN DECADES, AND THAT THE DATA COLLECTED TO DATE DOES NOT MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CLEANUP IS FUNCTIONING AS INTENDED; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT VIEWS THE HUDSON RIVER AS A VITAL NATURAL RESOURCE ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH, WELLBEING, AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY REQUESTS THAT THE EPA TAKE ALL NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE STEPS, INCLUDING ADDITIONAL REMEDIAL MEASURES, TO EXPEDITE THE CLEANUP AND RECOVERY OF THE HUDSON RIVER SO THAT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT ARE PROTECTED.

**MOTION #13 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 23 FOR THE YEAR 2017** made by Councilman Mort seconded

by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:**

**AUDITED BILLS:**

General A	\$24094.74
S.L.	\$807.62
General B	\$2424.74
Highway DB	\$21280.03
TOTAL:	\$48607.13

**MOTION# 14 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS, ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS BUDGET** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

**MOTION #15 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT AND ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PENDING LITIGATION AT 7:55PM** made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #16 TO LEAVE EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:24 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

**MOTION #17 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:25 PM** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

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

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley  
Town Clerk