

TOWN OF GHENT
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 19, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held March 19, 2015 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:	Michael Benvenuto	Supervisor
	Charles Wood	Councilman
	Peter Nelson	Councilman (arrived late)
	Richard Sardo	Councilman
	Mallory Mort	Councilman
	Ben Perry	Highway Superintendent
	Matthew Cabral	Town Attorney

Present: Patti Schrom, Sheldon Evans, Karen Mort and reporter.

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

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Sardo, Mort

Nays: 0

No Public Comment

MOTION #2 TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

made by Councilman Sardo, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Sardo, Mort

Nays: 0

MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON FEBRUARY 19, 2015 made by

Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Sardo and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Sardo, Mort

Nays: 0

CORRESPONDENCE:

FOOD PANTRY NUMBERS

FEBRUARY - 63 families, 73 children, 130 adults, 19 seniors, and 5 new clients. 3336

Pounds of food.

MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT THE ASSESORS REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Nelson and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #5 TO ACCEPT THE BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Sardo and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #6 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Sardo and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Zoning Chairman reports no new applications taken in March.

YOUTH PARKS RECREATION

MOTION #7 TO APPROVE NORTHERN COLUMBIA LITTLE LEAGUE USE OF THE FIELDS IN WEST GHENT FOR PRACTICE APRIL THRU JULY made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Sardo and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

DOG CONTROL:

A report was received from NYS Ags and Markets regarding DCO satisfactory inspection on February 2, 2015. DCO Powell also submitted his monthly report to the board.

HIGHWAY:

The beginning of March I attended advocacy day to rally together with over 600 other highway people to lobby for our state added money. We are trying to get a contract set with the state of a \$638 million per year for the next 5 years. The only thing we see getting in our way is Cuomo who has tied another bill with the chips program if he does not get what he wants it will cripple the state of New York's infrastructure. Each and every municipality could be in major trouble if he holds up the process of us getting our state aided money. We have been battling with melting snow which has been freezing on the road ways every night making roads slippery we have been addressing these areas with grader, loader and salt trying to control melt off. We had two ponds over flow and cause major havoc to the roads which did cause road damage. With the over 1000' of underground piping put in last year we are controlling the melting snow much better than in the past which is saving us a ton of time and money. We have not had one of the pipes we installed this year ever since we have been using the jumping jack we bought last year. Now that it has stopped snowing and warmed up we have started tree work on the roads we will be doing our major road repairs to this year. On top of the melting snow water Tuesday evening heavy winds picked up blowing trees down all over town which we had to get loader out to move trees from road ways. Ordered our 3000-ton winter sand for the 2016 winter season. Met with a sale rep today and was able to see the dump body I am looking at for the replacement of the truck body we talked about I was able to get all of my questions answered by seeing the unit first hand.

RESOLUTION #16 FOR THE YEAR 2015 WHEREAS, THE COLUMBIA COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAS PROPOSED AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT, WITH A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS, TO BE ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF COLUMBIA AND EACH AND EVERY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WITHIN THE COUNTY;WHEREAS, THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE BY AND BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE HIGHWAY AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL MAINTENANCE, CONSTRUCTION, AND REPAIR OF MUNICIPAL ROADS, HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES AND PROPERTY;WHEREAS, THE TOWN OF GHENT HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE TOWN JOIN IN THE INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT; WHEREAS, THE ATTORNEY FOR THE TOWN HAS REVIEWED THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT AND HAS NO OBJECTION TO ITS CONTENTS, AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD HAS REVIEWED THE PROPOSED INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT AND BELIEVES JOINING SAID AGREEMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN.

MOTION #8 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #16 FOR THE YEAR 2015 Councilman Sardo, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Johnson Road- the Town Board received a letter from the Ghent Fire Company giving their approval to move forward on the Johnson Road project. Attorney Cabral will move forward preparing the agreement between the Town and Mr. Clearman for the Board to review.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION#9 TO REAPPOINT THOMAS MESSINA TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW WITH A TERM ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

RESOLUTION #17 FOR THE YEAR 2015 WHEREAS, the Town of Ghent is concerned about the current pending applications for the expansion of high-voltage transmission lines through Columbia County which could access additional lands by eminent domain or harm property values or the bucolic nature of the Town; and WHEREAS, it is vitally important to the Town Board of the Town of Ghent that there be a thorough review of these applications to ensure that the project receives the utmost scrutiny and careful consideration, including full and transparent cost analysis of all alternatives in the interest of minimizing impacts; and WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Ghent supports the work of other Towns in the region to represent and document the impacts on behalf of all Columbia County residents; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Ghent, that the Town urges the Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor, and the Public Service Commission, Honorable Audrey Zibelman, Chairman, to take all steps necessary to ensure that there is a careful and complete review of all applications, including a robust examination of actual need, a limitation on new construction unless

actually needed, the use of the current infrastructure where possible, and an independent and thorough analysis of reasonable alternatives; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Ghent is particularly concerned that such review carefully scrutinize all of the environmental issues in order to minimize the impact on the environment by this project to the maximum extent possible; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Ghent opposes acquisition of any additional lands by eminent domain.

MOTION #10 TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #17 FOR THE YEAR 2015 Councilman Sardo, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #11 TO APPOINT MARK PORTIN TOWN JUSTICE TO FILL JUDGE HARRISON'S SEAT UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2015 made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Sardo and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

PAYMENT OF AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPTANCE OF MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT:

AUDITED BILLS:

General A \$33095.76

S.L. \$835.46

General B \$6726.23

Highway DB \$71476.73

TOTAL: \$112134.18

MOTION# 12 TO PAY ALL MARCH 2015 AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS made by Councilman Nelson, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

MOTION #13 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:40 PM made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Sardo and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley, Town Clerk