

TOWN OF GHENT  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
October 20, 2016

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board was held October 20, 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 (excused himself at 7:20PM)
Patti Matheney	Councilwoman
Mallory Mort	Councilman
Matthew Cabral	Attorney for Town

Also present- about 4 audience members.

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

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

Nays: 0

Mark Johnson- Has the Town considered LED lights for the streetlights?

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

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

Nays: 0

**MOTION #3 TO ACCEPT MINUTES OF TOWN BOARD MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2016** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

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

Nays: 0

COORESPONDENCE:

Food Pantry numbers for September 2016- Families- 105 Children 107, Adults 188, Seniors 27, New Clients 2 and 4003pounds of food. Thanksgiving delivery day will be Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION #4 TO ACCEPT CORRESPONDENCE** made by Councilwoman Matheney, 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 SEPTEMBER** made by Councilman Mort, 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 SEPTEMBER** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort  
Nays: 0

**MOTION #7 TO ACCEPT THE TOWN CLERK REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 5 Benvenuto, Wood, Nelson, Matheney, Mort  
Nays: 0

(Councilman Nelson excused himself at 7:20pm for health reasons)

PLANNING, ZONING AND COMMITTEES:

**MOTION #8 TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINTUES OF JUNE 1, 2016, JUNE 20, 2016 AND AUGUST 3, 2016** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.  
Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort  
Nays: 0

Councilman Mort reported the Zoning review committee will me again on Monday, October 24, 2016. Suggested changes should be available at the December board meeting.

Councilwoman Matheney reported the Broadband Committee is moving forward. Awaiting the merger details from the PSC and still looking for GRS format maps form Charter. Next meeting October 24, 2016 at 4:00pm at 401 State St.

Councilman Mort reported on the Climate Smart Committee requesting the use of Computel Consultants to do a street light audit and an audit of Cable TV franchise agreement with Charter to see if they can identify and prior or present overcharges or underpayments in regards to the cable agreement. There is no charge for the audit unless refunds are found and then all payments are returned to the Town and Computel will receive 40% of the monies refunded. This will qualify under four items from a list of ten actions the Town can take to be eligible for funding of projects through Climate Smart. The Benchmarking Resolution, the use of the Unified Solar permit and energy code enforcement training for the CEO qualify as well.

**MOTION #9 TO AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR BENVENUTO TO SIGN THE AUDIT AGREEMENTS WITH COMPUTEL** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort  
Nays: 0

**RESOLUTION #29 FOR THE YEAR 2106**

WHEREAS, BUILDINGS ARE THE SINGLE LARGEST USER OF ENERGY IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND THE POOREST PERFORMING BUILDINGS TYPICALLY USE SEVERAL TIMES MORE ENERGY THAN THE HIGHEST PERFORMING BUILDINGS FOR THE EXACT SAME BUILDING USE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD BELIEVES THAT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT TO UTILIZE BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING TO PROMOTE THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE BY MAKING AVAILABLE GOOD, ACTIONABLE INFORMATION ON MUNICIPAL BUILDING ENERGY USE TO HELP IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES TO CUT COSTS AND REDUCE POLLUTION IN THE TOWN OF GHENT; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD BELIEVES THAT COLLECTING, REPORTING, AND SHARING BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING DATA ON A REGULAR BASIS ALLOWS MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND THE ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS RELATIVE TO SIMILAR BUILDINGS NATIONWIDE; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD BELIEVES THAT EQUIPPED WITH THIS INFORMATION THE TOWN OF GHENT WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SMARTER, MORE COST-EFFECTIVE OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT DECISIONS, REWARD EFFICIENCY, AND DRIVE WIDESPREAD, CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD DESIRES TO ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL POLICY FOR COLLECTING AND REPORTING BUILDING ENERGY BENCHMARKING DATA.

**MOTION # 11 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 29 FOR THE YEAR 2016** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilwoman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood  
Nays: 0

**DOG CONTROL:**

**MOTION #12 TO ACCEPT DCO REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER** made by Councilman Mort seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood  
Nays: 0

**HIGHWAY:**

Just finished this week with our black top for the year. We were able to black top two roads with state money on top of everything else we did with our chips money this year. We were able then to take that same amount of money and shim 3 others roads that we did not think we were going to be able to. Which was over 2.5 miles of road. Working with the town of Hillsdale helping us with their 9' drag unit which saved us 53 tons of black top costing around \$3,000 just for the one road. We are planning on building our 10' drag for black top work to make our lives easier and save more money in the future for certain operations we do. We have been busy shouldering roads and have been doing a lot of odd and ends which include tracking care of signage, dead unsafe trees.

**MOTION #13 TO ACCEPT THE HIGHWAY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

BOND RESOLUTION # 30 FOR THE YEAR 2016:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PURPOSES AND THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$530,000 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, PROVIDING THAT THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A PERMISSIVE REERENDUM, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE TOWN SUPERVISOR. (FULL RESOLUTION ATTACHED)

**MOTION # 14 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 30 FOR THE YEAR 2016** made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

NEW BUSINESS:

**MOTION #15 TO RENEW THE TALC LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2016-2017 FOR THE USE OF THE WEST GHENT RECREATION CENTER** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilwoman Matheney and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

**MOTION #16 TO APPROVE THE TENTATIVE 2017 BUDGET TO PRELIMINARY 2017 BUDGET** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

**MOTION #17 TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2017 BUDGET ON NOVEMBER 3, 2016 AT 7PM AT THE GHENT TOWN HALL, AND MOVE THE TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP TO NOVEMBER 3, 2016 FROM NOVEMBER 10, 2016 TO COMMENCE AFTER PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET** made by Councilwoman Matheney, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

**RESOLUTION #31 FOR THE YEAR 2016**

WHEREAS, PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE 2017 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET THE TOWN OF GHENT MUST SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER DOCUMENTATION SHOWING THAT THE 2017 TOWN OF GHENT BUDGET DOES NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM TAX CAP INCREASE ALLOWANCE, INCLUDING THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR CALCULATING THE TAX LEVY LIMIT FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR; WHEREAS, THE TOWN SUPERVISOR HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO FACILITATE AND ENSURE THAT THIS FILING IS COMPLETED AS REQUIRED; AND WHEREAS, THE TOWN BOARD WISHES TO EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO FILE THE REQUISITE INFORMATION WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF GHENT, THAT THE TOWN SUPERVISOR IS AUTHORIZED TO COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND FILINGS TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW YORK STATE COMPTROLLER'S TAX CAP FILING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS RELATED TO THE 2017 TOWN BUDGET AND ITS ADOPTION.

**MOTION # 18 TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 31 FOR THE YEAR 2016** made by Councilman Wood seconded by Councilwoman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

Brief discussion regarding 2017 fire contracts- may be handled at November or December Town Board meeting. No determination made, will further discuss with Town Attorney.

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

**AUDITED BILLS:**

General A	\$37001.51
S.L.	\$785.62
General B	\$3622.63
Highway DB	\$78577.36
TOTAL:	\$119898.12

**MOTION# 19 TO PAY ALL AUDITED BILLS AND ACCEPT THE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS** made by Councilman Mort, seconded by Councilman Wood and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort

Nays: 0

**MOTION #20 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: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Mort, Matheney

Nays: 0

Mark Johnson- Is the Town/County thinking ahead about volunteer fire companies dwindling memberships?

Supervisor Benvenuto- Yes, discussions have been made regarding recruitment, retention and the survival of volunteer companies in the County.

Mark Leggett- Is the County considering adding more hanger space at the Columbia County airport? Are they applying for funding from the state for this project? Will the county be receiving any benefits for this expansions?

Supervisor Benvenuto – That has been discussed, nothing in writing.

**MOTION #21 TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT** made by Supervisor Benvenuto seconded by Councilman Mort and approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Mort, Matheney, Wood

Nays: 0

**MOTION #22 TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:35** made by Councilman Wood, seconded by Councilman Mort, approved unanimously.

Ayes: 4 Benvenuto, Wood, Matheney, Mort

Nays 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Radley