

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY 23, WANTAGE, N.J. ON THE DATE  
OF JANUARY 29, 2009**

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Mayor Parker Space called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Space, Committee members DeBoer and Nuss. The following member was absent: None

Also present Township Attorney, Michael Garofalo

Mayor Space stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and posted to the public, and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Space led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Space requested that the members of the Committee Review the Consent Agenda.

There being no Committee member present wishing to comment on the proposed Consent Agenda, Mayor Space requested approval of the Consent Agenda.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve the following correspondence for filing.

- Letter dated January 6, 2009 from the NJ Department of Transportation, informing results of their safety investigation into the intersection of Mudtown Road and Route 23 does not justify installation of flashing warning beacons, but does justify post-mounted "bright sticks" and painting a double yellow line along Mudtown Road approach; said work orders being processed by the State of New Jersey, will be completed "in the earliest timeframe possible".
- Card of Appreciation from H. William Sytsema, thanking Wantage Township Mayor and Committee for honoring his selection as Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year
- Letter dated January 21, 2009 from Karen Merritt, regarding Ordinance 2008-16
- Letter dated January 22, 2009 from Eric Grove, Sussex County Engineer, confirming official conclusion of the Road Swap agreement between Wantage Township and Sussex County involving Luscroft Road and Blair Road.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

**REPORTS**

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve the following correspondence for filing.

- Engineer's Annual Report for 2008
- Annual Report of Bingo and Raffle Licenses for 2008
- Tax Collector Report for December 2008
- Municipal Clerk Report for December 2008
- Registrar's Report for December 2008
- Board of Health Report for December 2008
- Construction Department Report for December 2008

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

**RESOLUTIONS**

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve Renewal of Soil Removal Permit for 565 Land Development, in accordance with the recommendation of the Land Use Board for Application L-16-2008 as memorialized in a Land Use Board Resolution dated January 20, 2009.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

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**CONSENT AGENDA: RESOLUTIONS, Continued**

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2009 Shared Services Agreement with Sussex Borough for Construction Department services.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the 2009 Shared Service Agreement with the Town of Newton, for animal control and dogpound services.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to authorize Change in hours of Employment for Susan Kubie from 34 hours per week to 32 hours per week, as per Memo dated January 23, 2009 from Ed Vander berg Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to authorize the Administrator to execute all necessary paperwork for Wantage Township to participate in the Sussex County Employee Assistance Program under the terms and conditions established by the Sussex County Department of Central and Shared Services. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to authorize renewal of Junkyard License for Beemerville Auto Wrecking for 2009. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION:**

Mayor Space proclaimed April "Autism Awareness Month", as per the following:

**PROCLAMATION NAMING APRIL "AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH"**

WHEREAS, autism is a pervasive developmental disorder affecting the social, learning and behavioral skills of those affected by it, and

WHEREAS, autism was once thought to be a relatively rare disorder, and

WHEREAS, as more and more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are being diagnosed on the autistic spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 150 children nationally and 1 in 94 in New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, while there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive treatment early in their lives, it often is possible for those individuals to lead significantly improved lives, and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Federation of Women's clubs and GFWC and the Sussex Women's Club join with women's clubs throughout the State of New Jersey and with Autism New Jersey (formerly COSAC), to spearhead an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Parker Space, Mayor of the Township of Wantage, do hereby proclaim April as AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH in the Township of Wantage, and I urge all residents to become better educated on the subject of autistic spectrum disorders.

Mayor Space suggested a change in the order of business on the agenda, to deal with New Business at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve the Organization and Regular session minutes of the meeting of the Wantage governing body held on January 6, 2009, and the minutes of the meetings held on January 15, 2009 and January 22, 2009.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call:

Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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Mrs. Nuss made a motion to adopt the new Government Records Request Form for use in Wantage Township. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

**Gypsy Moth Spraying:** Mr. Doherty confirmed for the record that at the January 22 budget workshop the governing body decided to decline participation in the Gypsy Moth Spraying program for 2009.

**Woodbourne Park Pump Track:** Mr. Doherty informed the Committee that the Township's insurance carriers have posed several questions regarding the concept. Mr. Doherty has forwarded those questions to the individuals who made this request, and is awaiting their responses and will forward same to the Recreation Commission for their review.

**Amendment to Sign Ordinance:** The Committee asked to review the ordinance and that it be put on agenda for February 12, 2009.

**Recycling Ordinance Amendment:** Mr. Doherty asked the Committee to review a draft recycling ordinance amendment. Mr. Garofalo informed the Committee that he took the liberty of omitting a provision which would have required every site plan application for commercial properties to include a recycling plan before a permit would be issued. The Committee asked for a further opportunity to review the ordinance before taking action, and that it be put on the agenda for February 12, 2009.

**Proposed Amendment to Recreational Vehicles Ordinance:**

By consensus, the members of the governing body agreed to return this proposed ordinance to the Land Use Board for further clarification. Mr. Doherty asked the Committee to put their questions in writing so he can forward to the Land Use Board for their review.

**Budget Work Session:** Mr. Doherty asked the Committee to give further consideration to budget preparation for 2009. Mr. Doherty reported the DPW Supervisor advised that the purchase of a new roller can be postponed in effort to reduce the budget. The Committee would like to revisit the question of funding drainage improvements at 190 Mudtown Road at a later date.

Mayor Space asked for brief executive session regarding personnel matters.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Garofalo had nothing new to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Space requested Mr. Doherty present the Administrator's report.

**Airport Study Grant:** Mr. Doherty asked the committee to see a letter from the NJDOT regarding funding. The \$150,000 grant will be included in the 2009 budget and study should take six to nine months to complete.

**OPRA Request Form:** Mr. Doherty asked the Committee to review a proposed updated OPRA Request Form for Wantage Township, which follows the format recommended under the Draft Request Form designed by the New Jersey Government Records Council.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Lake Neepaulin Dam Rehabilitation**

Mr. Doherty explained the Committee's options regarding the dam rehabilitation and gave a brief synopsis regarding the response of the DEP at a recent meeting. Mr. Doherty also informed the public that the tape recording of that meeting is available to the public on CD. Mayor Space opened the meeting to the public regarding the Lake Neepaulin Dam Rehabilitation.

Amy Toy, Karen Merritt, Nicholas Luciano, and Rocco Russo spoke against the special assessment. Ms. Merritt represented her memory of the DEP's responses regarding possible costs to remove the dam. Tom Jable, Betsy Jable and Joy Steinbacher spoke for the special assessment. Ms. Merritt presented the Committee with an additional name on the petition against the special assessment and presented a copy of the postcard she mailed to Lake Neepaulin residents.

Mr. Garofalo informed the Committee that a petition is not a legal instrument, but documentation of residents sentiments regarding a particular issue, and that a petition with more signatures opposing an issue carries no more legal weight than a petition with less signatures supporting an issue.

Bill Gettler voiced his opinion that information should be made available for both sides of this issue.

At this time, Mayor Space closed the meeting to the public and returned to the regular order of business.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mayor Space opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments.

Mayor Space, Mr. DeBoer and Mrs. Nuss addressed the public and informed them that while they would like to keep communications open regarding the special assessment for Lake Neepaulin, it is unproductive at this time to continue to rehash the same pros and cons until such time as the Township has a clearer picture of whether or not the loan will be approved for the rehabilitation project.

Mr. Gettler, Gemmer Road, reiterated his concerns regarding the impact of a tax increase based upon the equalization ratio used by the State of New Jersey; OPRA fees being charged by other municipalities; his responses to the Consolidation Study Commission; and his thoughts regarding recent budget workshops held in Wantage Township. Mr. Gettler presented various documents to the Committee. Mr. DeBoer forwarded his copy to Mr. Doherty for filing.

Warren Wisse, Valley View Trail, voiced his concern with the estimation that Sussex Borough's taxes would decrease while Wantage Township would see a tax increase if the two municipalities were to consolidate. Mayor Space stated that this is the reason feasibility studies are performed and if, when the study is done, there is not proper incentive or justification for Wantage to consolidate, it will not be approved by the voters.

Mayor Space reminded the public that Township Committee Meetings start at 7:00 pm. A few residents stated the website still has 8:00 pm posted. Mr. Doherty will check into this and correct it.

Tom Zummo asked if the soil removal permit for 565 Land Associates was renewed. Mr. Doherty informed him that it was approved this evening.

As there was no one else from the public who wished to address the Committee, Mayor Space closed the meeting to the public.

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Mr. DeBoer made a motion to enter into executive session as follows:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matter: "personnel issues" and matters under attorney-client privilege related to negotiations. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be kept on file in the municipal clerk's office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

Ms. Nuss seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

After meeting in closed executive session, the members of the governing body returned to open session and continued with the regular order of business.

There being no other items for consideration at this time, Mr. DeBoer moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Nuss seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mayor Space declared this meeting to be adjourned.

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James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk