

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET 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 FEBRUARY
19, 2009**

Mayor Parker Space called the Special 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

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.

Mr. Doherty informed the committee that he would like to introduce the "CAP" Rate Index Ordinance at the February 26th meeting and would like to introduce the budget on March 26th, once final word has been received regarding State Aid figures.

Mr. Doherty explained that the GPS system could be considered as a tool for greater accountability, but would not result in any measurable decreased costs. There also may be legal considerations involved with the use of such a system in personal vehicles. Mr. Doherty suggested this be revisited if the Township purchases a Township vehicle for the construction department.

Mr. Doherty informed the Committee that the Township is not legally obligated to reimburse employees for mileage, and therefore this was an area of potential cost savings in the budget. In an effort to remain fair, the Committee may wish to allow employees to make use of the township gas pumps and obtain credit for one gallon of gas for each 15 miles driven. This would result in a substantial savings since the Township pays approximately \$1.25 per gallon of gas through a cooperative pricing agreement.

Mr. DeBoer did not feel that this amount represented a fair reimbursement for wear and tear of the vehicles.

Mayor Space and Ms. Nuss expressed support for the proposed course of action.

Mr. Doherty suggested, if the governing body was inclined, to make such a change effective March 1st, which would give him the opportunity to discuss and explain this new policy with the employees prior to its effective date, and allow for dialogue on other possible alternatives prior to implementing the plan.

Mayor Space moved to eliminate the .50 per mile reimbursement and approve an allocation of one gallon of fuel for each 15 miles driven, effective March 1, 2009. Mrs. Nuss seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Doherty proposed a change to health benefits for all non-union employees that would result in substantial savings to the Township and little inconvenience to the employees. Mr. Doherty distributed handouts explaining the existing health plan with the proposed new plan, for comparison purposes. The Committee asked when this change could be effective. Mr. Doherty explained that he felt April 1, 2009 was a realistic date.

Ms. Nuss moved to change health benefits for all non-union employees to Aetna QPOS Patriot 5. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Space asked Mr. Doherty to see if a March 1, 2009 change date was possible.

Mr. Doherty explained that a decrease in employee pay for an unpaid lunch hour would be problematic due to State and Civil Service requirements. The details involved in the civil service notification and appeal procedure leads to the expectation that no real savings to the tax payers would be realized in this budget year, even if the Township were ultimately successful in its plan. Mr. Doherty explained that if the Committee desires to address the lunch hour issue from a business management point of view, they could extend the work hours to 8:15 to 4:45 with a one-half hour unpaid lunch. This would not realize budget cost savings, but it would increase the efficiency of the work force and provide greater service to the public at no extra cost.

Ms. Nuss moved to change the non-union work hours from 8:15 to 4:45 with a one-half hour unpaid lunch, effective March 1, 2009. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. DeBoer stated that he would like other employees help out in the Assessors department during the upcoming maternity leave rather than increase part-time help.

Mayor Space asked if Mr. Doherty looked into holding a private sale of public lands for the Lake Neepaulin properties. Mr. Doherty stated that he had indeed begun this process, and will schedule the sale to adjoining owners under a quit claim deed with the minimum bid of \$500 plus costs, during the month of April.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Mr. Gettler, Gemmer Road asked for the handouts distributed during this meeting. Mr. Doherty provided them. Mr. Gettler voiced his opinions regarding the GPS system, gas reimbursement and a recent article regarding Stillwater Township's health benefits for elected officials.

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

There being no other items for consideration at this time, Mr. DeBoer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. 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.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk