

**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 APRIL 9, 2009**

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.

HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent John Hannum, Business Administrator Linda Alvarez, and members of the HPRHS Board of Education Garret Link, Ed Vander Berg and Chuck Muselli offered a courtesy presentation of the proposed High School Budget for the review of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage. Ms. Alvarez presented information reflecting that the proposed budget will result in an \$89.14 increase for an average assessment of \$322,500 for Wantage taxpayers, and urged the members of the public to remember to vote April 21, 2009. Bill DeBoer asked if there was currently a contract in place for teachers. Ms. Alvarez advised that the school contract is currently being negotiated. The Committee thanked them for an informative presentation.

SUSSEX WANTAGE SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Edward Izbicki, Business Administrator Christina Riker, and members of the S-W Board of Education offered a courtesy presentation of the proposed School Budget for the review of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage. Mr. DeBoer asked if staff has been reduced to match the decrease in enrollment. Mr. Izbicki advised that staff has been reduced. The proposed budget will result in a \$30 decrease for an average assessment of \$322,500 for Wantage taxpayers. The Committee thanked them for an informative presentation.

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.

- E-mail communication from Youth In Government Coordinator Eileen Potts, informing that the 2009 Youth in Government Program will take place with Shadowing Day on May 21, and the Student Meeting taking place on May 28.

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 reports for filing.

- Tax Collector Report for March 2009
- Municipal Clerk Report for March 2009
- Registrar's Report for March 2009
- Board of Health Report for March 2009
- Construction Department Report for March 2009

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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RESOLUTIONS

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve Payment of Bills for the meeting of April 9, 2009.

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 refund for a Sussex Borough Housing Registration fee charged in error in the amount of \$50 to Andrew Pilz for Block 701 Lot 19.

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 Boy Scout Troop 84 to conduct their annual car wash fund raiser at Wantage Township Municipal Building on June 6 (rain date June 13), subject to there being no water use restrictions imposed by Sussex Borough Water Utility at that time.

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 release of Executive Session minutes of October 11, 2007 as public record. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve contract for annual field maintenance program at Wantage Township public parks, to Farmside Landscape & Design, in the amount of \$12,500.

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 animal control share services agreement with Sussex Borough. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

Amendment to Recreational Vehicle Ordinance

Mr. Doherty reported that Mr. Smith has some concerns regarding proposed changes to the draft Recreational Vehicle Ordinance amendment. Mr. Doherty has suggested some alternative wording and Mr. Smith will present that to the Land Use Board for review.

Petition for White Collar Union

Mr. Doherty reported that he has received notice from the Public Employment Relations commission that a union is seeking the right to represent the White Collar employees of Wantage Township. Mr. Doherty has provided the list of employees requested and will inform the Committee when further action is taken.

Change in Meeting dates for April and May

Mr. Doherty reported that, based on requests from various members of the governing body, there will be no meeting on April 30, 2009 or May 14, 2009. The next meeting will be held on May 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

2009 Wantage Township Municipal Budget: New Public Hearing Date May 7, 2009

Ordinance 2009-05: New Final Adoption Date May 7, 2009

Ordinance 2009-06: New Final Adoption Date May 7, 2009

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Need for Request to Consolidation Study commission for action in regard to Sewer Service Area of Wantage Township

Mr. Doherty reported that the NJDEP has denied Sussex County's inclusion of sections of Wantage Township and Sussex Borough within the County wastewater management plan. Mr. Doherty suggested asking the Consolidation Commission to petition the Department of Community Affairs to have these areas included through a waiver of NJDEP rules, as allowed under the Consolidation statutes, in order to help facilitate the study of consolidation. The Committee agreed by consensus to have Mr. Doherty explore this option.

Request for Executive Session

Mr. Doherty reported that Mr. DeBoer has requested an executive session for matters of personnel under attorney client privilege.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mayor Space requested Mr. Garofalo present the Attorney's report. Mr. Garofalo reported that there is a representative from Quick Check attending tonight's meeting and applauded Wantage Township's efforts to bring commercial ratables into the Township.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mayor Space requested Mr. Pellow present the Engineer's report. Mr. Pellow reported on projects he working on to be completed in 2009 including Berry, Holland, Nielson and Crigger Roads, and a football field at Woodbourne Park which will be provided solely by private donation. Mr. Pellow agreed with Mr. Doherty's assessment of the importance of inclusion of the sewer service area as part of the consolidation study.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Nuss asked Mr. Doherty to look into a complaint she has received regarding the speed limit signs posted on Route 23 from Tractor Supply to the Wantage School.

OLD BUSINESS

Consultants For Airport Study

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to award a contract to QED to perform the Airport Feasibility Study in the amount of \$80,000.00. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Lake Neepaulin Dam Repair

Mr. Doherty informed that FOLN has been advised by the NJDEP that if funding is available, they will be approved for a 1,000,000.00 loan to complete repairs to the Lake Neepaulin Dam. Mr. Doherty explained that the governing body will now need to make a decision if they are going to consider adopting a special assessment ordinance, a general bond ordinance, or decide not to co-sign the loan and hope the DEP does not take action if the dam is not repaired. Mr. DeBoer would like to speak with assessor first and discuss at next governing body meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Confirmation: 2009 Open Space Tax

Mr. Doherty asked the Committee if they would like to keep the proposed _ cent open space in the 2009 budget. Mr. DeBoer and Mayor Space agreed to the tax. Ms. Nuss was not in favor.

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Final Adoption of Ordinance 2009-07: Salary Ordinance

Mrs. Nuss made a motion adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2009-07 entitled “ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2009”. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Prior to final roll call vote, Mayor Space opened the meeting to the public.

Anne Smulewicz, Route 23, voiced her opinion that it is not fair that non-union employees are receiving no increase while the union employees are. Another resident suggested that the non-union employees should seek union representation.

As there was no one else who wished to comment regarding this ordinance, Mayor Space closed the meeting to the public.

Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2009-08: Vacate Clark Road

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2009-08 entitled “AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF A CERTAIN STREET WHICH IS DESIGNATED ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE AS CLARK ROAD”. Final Hearing date set for May 7, 2009.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2009-09: Accept Clark Road

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2009-08 entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE ACCEPTING THE STREET KNOWN AS CLARK ROAD”. Final Hearing date set for May 7, 2009.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the meeting of the Wantage governing body held on March 26, 2009.

Mrs. Nuss seconded the motion. Upon Roll call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Diane Snure voiced her concerns regarding the Sussex Wantage School budget.

Art Jacobs voiced his concerns regarding the High Point and Sussex Wantage School budgets.

General discussion regarding perceived benefits and drawbacks of the proposed Sussex Wantage School budget took place among various members of the public.

Mayor Space called for order, and made a public plea for the school board to cooperate with each other. Mayor Space stated that members of the School Board can agree to disagree, as happens on the Wantage Township Committee, without bringing the government process to a

halt. Mayor Space reminded every one that the art of politics is compromise, and he urged the members of the Board of Education to learn how to “give a little to get a little”.

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Mr. DeBoer stated that a meeting of the Wantage Township governing body is not the correct forum to question the school budget or the validity of the presentations made this evening. Tonight's presentation was for the Governing Body and the public's questions should be addressed to the school board during their public meetings.

Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, requested that burden of the repairs to Lake Neepaulin be shared by the entire township and expressed an interest in knowing the names of the 17 original owners who purchased Lake Neepaulin, and names of members of Friends of Lake Neepaulin.

A resident spoke expressing concern regarding the Sussex-Wantage Regional School's test scores, and the impact that further budget cuts would have on that.

Nick Luciano and Rocco Russo gave their opinion against paying for repairs to the Lake Neepaulin dam.

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

Mrs. Nuss 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: "Attorney Client Privilege – Hours of Employment". 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.

Mr. DeBoer 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. 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