

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 MAY 28, 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, Angelo Bolcato

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.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Students from the Sussex Middle School conducted a meeting, acting as the various members of government for Wantage Township and Sussex Borough. Mayor Space opened the floor to the Wantage Township Governing Body, the Sussex Borough Council, the Teachers who coordinate the Youth in Government Program, and the Sussex-Wantage School Administration, who offered statements of thanks and appreciation to the student participants.

Mayor Space and Mayor Parrott offered statements of thanks and appreciation to the student participants. Those students acting as Committee, Council and Clerk were Mackenzie Arnold, Elizabeth Grinkevich, Kevin Cecchini, Viktoria-Leigh Wagner, Timothy Osborne, Nicole Friedberg, Alexa Sacchi, and Brandon Valdes. Certificates of commendation for all the students who participated in this program were provided.

After a short recess, Mayor Space continued with the regular order of business.

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.

- Public Notice: Petition for Substantive Certification to COAH for approval of Wantage Township Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.
- Public Notice: Change in meeting Schedule for the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, re-scheduling the meeting previously planned for June 11, 2009 to be held instead on June 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
- Public Notice: Special Meeting to be held on June 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the High Point High School Auditorium, regarding the Lake Neepaulin Dam Issue.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

APPLICATIONS

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve the following applications:

- Raffle License RL09-16 to BPOE #2288 Sussex Elks Lodge, to hold on premise 50/50 raffle on the date of June 28, 2009
- Raffle License RL09-17 to FOLN, to hold calendar raffle drawings on various dates during the months of July, August and September 2009
- Raffle License RL09-18 to Rotary club of Wallkill Valley, to hold off premise 50/50 raffle on the date of December 17, 2009

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 authorize refund of tax sale premium for Block 135.04 Lot 3 in the amount of \$29,100 to R. Rothman. 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 of tax overpayment for Block 53.09 Lot 3 in the amount of \$1,226.08 to Nicholas or Catherine Rosania.
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 of tax overpayment for Block 150 Lot 8 in the amount of \$1,987.59 to Daniel & Donna Wask. 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 of rental fee paid in error for Sussex Borough Block 92 Lot 11 in the amount of \$50.00 to Jodi Murphy. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to authorize refund of special meeting fee held in escrow, for Block 17 Lot 3, 25 and 27 in the amount of \$1,174.30 to Eric Turnquist.
Mrs. Nuss 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.

Township Policy for NJ Paid Family Leave Act:

Mr. Doherty reported that under the NJ Paid Family Leave Act, the municipality may require employees to exhaust up to two weeks of other forms of paid time off, as a condition of granting time off under the family leave act. The Township has an employee who is making a request for time off under the NJPFLA.

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to establish the policy that employees must use two weeks of their sick, vacation, and personal days (if they have it) as part of the 6 weeks off under NJPFLA.
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

No Passing Zone:

In response to resident request, NJDOT suggests that a section of Route 23 be designated "No Passing Zone". Mr. Doherty presented a proposed Ordinance designed to accomplish this. The Committee will review for further consideration at the June 4, 2009 meeting.

Request of Robert Hill:

Mr. Doherty reported request for consideration of formal vacation of an abandoned road near 1187 Route 23. The Committee agreed by consensus that they remain satisfied with the decision from 2004 not to vacate that road in the event a right of way is ever needed.

Award of Bid for Bulky Waste Program:

Mr. Doherty reported that the bid received on May 27, 2009 from Blue Diamond Disposal to handle 2009 Bulky Waste Collection at rate of \$205 per ton, \$20 per ton less expensive than 2008 contract price.

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to award a contract to Blue Diamond Disposal to handle 2009 Bulky Waste Collection at rate of \$205 per ton.
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Continued

SEED Corp. Housing Development Proposal:

Mr. Doherty reported that Donna Gallup is here to give a presentation regarding a Group Home proposal for 174 Holland Road. Mr. Doherty explained that the Township collects developer fees for the express purpose of meeting COAH obligations such as this one. Mr. Doherty further advised that Township Planner David Troast agrees that this is a viable application to meet the Township's existing obligation and the only area which the Committee may wish to negotiate is the \$140,000 contribution Wantage Township would use from its COAH trust fund. Ms. Gallup gave a brief description of the service provided by Capital Care, the social service organization who would be overseeing the group home if approved for four adults currently housed in Carlton Village who are developmentally disabled. The Committee asked the listing price of the foreclosed property and asked for clarification on deed restrictions. Ms. Gallup explained that property listed for \$324,400 and is in excellent shape, modifications for group home access will be the primary purpose of any renovations. Ms. Gallup further explained that there will be a 30 year deed restriction to cover COAH obligation. Mr. Doherty asked if there has been any thought given to the amount of in-lieu taxes Capital Care would provide. Ms. Gallup gave an example of a recent acquisition in Vernon where it was based upon local share only as the residents would not be utilizing the local school systems. The Committee asked that this item be revisited at the June 4, 2009 meeting. Ms. Nuss asked to receive assurance that the Council on Affordable Housing would permit Wantage Township to use its developer fees for this purpose before the Township's Affordable Housing Plan is formally approved. Mr. Bolcato stated that he would look into this and provide a response.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Bolcato had nothing new to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. Doherty offered a presentation regarding the proposed 2009 Municipal Budget to the public and provided handouts outlining his presentation. Mayor Space thanked Mr. Doherty and opened the meeting to the public for any questions or concerns regarding the 2009 Municipal Budget.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, questioned the statement that Wantage Township's budget is within the 4% Tax Levy CAP. Mr. Gettler criticized the ability of the Township Administrator to perform basic mathematical calculations.

Mr. Doherty explained that the Tax CAP imposed by the State of New Jersey is subject to several exceptions and is not calculated on a straight mathematical percentage. Mr. Doherty suggested that Mr. Gettler's repeated attempts to enter into an argument regarding percentage calculations has little significance to the average taxpayer who is primarily interested in knowing how much the tax burden will be in terms of dollars coming out of his or her pocket. Mr. Doherty reiterated his position that his figures are accurate, and that the average taxpayer will see a \$48 increase in local taxes in 2009.

Mr. Gettler offered the opinion that the 2009 budget increase is too high.

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to adopt the 2009 Municipal Budget.

Mrs. Nuss seconded the motion. Upon Roll call:

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

Mr. DeBoer thanked Mr. Doherty for a good job on the 2009 budget. Mayor Space explained that this is a State, County and Municipal wide issue regarding balancing the need to provide services the tax payers require and keeping taxes as low as possible and feels Mr. Doherty does a good job holding the line in this regard. Mr. DeBoer explained that the Advertiser had an article regarding the amount the Superintendent of the Sussex/Wantage School system earns and feels Mr. Doherty works at least equally as hard for substantially less salary.

Proposed Amendment to Toll Land XVI (Rolling Hills) Developers Agreement.

Mr. Doherty explained that this amendment would extend the time frame to complete work required by the original agreement to the date of October 11, 2010.

Mrs. Nuss made a motion to approve the Amendment to Toll Land XVI (Rolling Hills) Developers Agreement. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call:

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr.s. Nuss made a motion to approve the Regular and Executive Session minutes of the meeting of the Wantage governing body held on May 7, 2009.

Mr. DeBoer 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.

William Gettler voiced his concern with the Consolidation Commission’s findings and his opinion regarding Sussex/Wantage School Board’s budget presentation.

The public was reminded that the consolidation is subject to referendum and everyone in Sussex and Wantage will have the right to vote. Mr. Doherty explained that it is important to remember that there is information available regarding the Commission’s findings on the Township website and urged the public to seek that information so they can make their own decision regarding whether or not there is any merit to the possibility of consolidation.

Maggie Kolicko, August Lane, commented on how she enjoyed tonight’s “Youth in Government” program. Mrs. Kolicko thanked Allison Doherty for donating the beautiful centerpieces for the Spring Fling and reported that the Recreation Committee raised over \$1,000 towards the Veteran’s Memorial as a result of that evening. Mrs. Kolicko advised the Committee and the public Chris Christie will be present to meet the public on Monday at 8:45 at Liberty Towers in Newton.

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 recommended that Quick Chek be nominated for the Beautification Award presented by the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce.

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