

**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 15, 2010**

Mayor Clara Nuss 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 Nuss, Committee members DeBoer and Gaechter. The following member was absent: None
Also present Township Attorney, Michael Garofalo

Mayor Nuss 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 Nuss asked the Boy Scouts Troup 97 to lead the assembly in the Salute to the Flag. Members of the Troop then offered Reports to update the community on Scouting activities.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Nuss honored the Patriots' Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America, acknowledging the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The Mayor and Committee thanked the Boy Scouts for continuing this values-based program with a warm round of applause.

PRESENTATION: SCHOOL BUDGETS

Ed Izbicki, Superintendent and Christina Riker, Business Administrator presented the proposed 2010-2011 budget of the Consolidated Sussex-Wantage School District. Mayor Nuss thanked the District for the reductions presented and sympathized with the difficulty of budgeting in this economy. Mr. DeBoer asked how their administration compares to the state regulated number for administrators. Mr. Izbicki said the ratio is according to code and the District will be replacing a Vice Principal with a Dean of Students, a lesser administrative position. Mr. Izbicki will forward requested benefits information to Mr. Doherty. Mr. Gaechter asked how the teachers responded to the Governor's suggested salary freeze. Mr. Izbicki responded that they have not received an official negative response and he is still hopeful.

John Hannum, Superintendent and Linda Alvarez, Business Administrator presented the proposed 2010-2011 budget of the High Point Regional High School District. Also present were Board of Education Members Ed Vander Berg, Joe Luna and Chuck Mussilli. Dr. Hannum stated that their administration ratio is lower than the regional average and low for the high school level. HPRHS also reduced by one administrator this year. As for the salary freeze, Dr. Hannum stated that initially there was no discussion. He feels they are now working in a positive direction and has met with staff and suggested several options, among them salary freeze, benefit contribution and changes to benefit plans. Mr. Gaechter asked for clarification on the contract terms and if the restructuring of the SCIL raised costs. Dr. Hannum addressed the contract period and Mr. Vander Berg stated that the costs have increased due to the restructure.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Nuss 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 Nuss requested approval of the Consent Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve the following correspondence for filing:

Letter dated March 25, 2010 from New Jersey Ride Against Aids, announcing that the annual Bicycle Ride from High Point to Cape May shall take place during the weekend of September 24 – September 26, 2010.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

CONSENT AGENDA, Continued

REPORTS

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve the following for filing:

- Clerks Report for the Month of March 2010
- Construction Department Report for the Month of March 2010
- Board of Health Report for the Month of March 2010
- Registrar's Report for the Month of March 2010
- Tax Collector's Report for the Month of March 2010

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Payment of Bills for the meeting of April 15, 2010.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to a authorize refund of Commercial Developer Fees in the amount of \$5,680.00 to Michael J. Cecchini, Sr., associated with Block 116 Lot 10.05.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to a authorize refund in the amount of \$2,500.00 to Bicsak Brothers, associated with Block 11 Lot 5, for the release of bond E-06-01 as per Engineer's recommendation. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to a authorize refund of a resale permit in the amount of \$150.00 to Flora Eydel, associated with Block 602 Lot 15 (Sussex Borough).

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to a authorize refund of a tax sale premium in the amount of \$1,200.00 to U.S. Bank, associated with Block 117 Lot 18.01.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to a authorize permission for the Wantage Township First Aid Squad to hold a Car Wash fundraiser on May 8 and May 9 in front of the First Aid Squad building from 10 am – 3 pm, rain dates May 15 and 16.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

NEGOTIATIONS: Mr. Doherty requested an executive session to review the status of negotiations, and obtain input of the governing body regarding their position on matters being negotiated.

ROME'S COASTAL CLEANUP STATUS: Mr. Doherty reported that the NJDEP advises there is a need to complete their bid process for removal of excavated soils. They anticipate being active in early May, finishing this phase of the project by mid-June. A follow-up project to install a ground water or ground vapor extraction system will be pursued in the time frame July-August.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT, continued

HISTORIC MILE MARKER: Mr. Doherty reported that as a result of Mr. DeBoer's desire to take action to protect a Historic Mile Marker on Libertyville Road, area historians have been working with Jennie Sweetman of the NJ Herald and the Sussex County Historic Marker Committee to ascertain ownership and options for action. Recreation Secretary Jeanne McBride has suggested the relocation of this historic mile marker to a secured location in Woodbourne Park as a possible project for a local Boy Scout pursuing his Eagle Scout designation. Efforts remain on going at this point.

IROQUOIS PIPELINE PROJECT: Mr. Doherty reported that Iroquois Pipeline Company has undertaken preliminary investigations into a possible natural gas pipeline expansion project involving approximately 6 miles of property within Wantage Township from the Libertyville Road Natural Gas Station of Tennessee Gas Company to the NY State border. If the decision is made to proceed, the project is still several years away from happening. Mayor Nuss provided some statistics regarding this pipeline.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO RESTORE WATERSHED MORATORIUM FUNDING: Mr. Doherty asked the Committee consider the adoption of a proposed resolution of support for efforts to restore watershed moratorium funding.

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to adopt a resolution in support for efforts to restore Watershed Moratorium funding. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

DRAINAGE SITUATION ON MUDTOWN ROAD: Mayor Nuss discussed the drainage situation in the vicinity of 173 Mudtown Road. Mr. Doherty explained that for safety reasons the Township will address the culvert and put in proper grates, but this will not address the concerns regarding water accumulating from one resident's property to another. Mr. Garofalo explained the legal ramifications of this issue.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mayor Nuss requested Mr. Garofalo present the Attorney's report. Mr. Garofalo had nothing new to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Nuss reported that the Township was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation which she received at the Sussex Fire house on Saturday evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Proposed Ordinance 2010-03: Outdoor Furnaces

General discussion took place regarding the status of Ordinance 2010-03 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XIII OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE TO REGULATE OUTDOOR FURNACES AND BOILERS, BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE". Final Hearing currently scheduled for April 29, 2010. Mr. Vander Berg expressed his desire to have the ordinance adopted as a general ordinance so it can be regulated through the building permit process. General consensus was expressed to give consideration to defeating the ordinance as introduced, and then reconsidering another version of the ordinance for re-introduction. No action was taken at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Ordinance 2010-06: Salaries

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2010-06 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 2010" Final hearing date scheduled for April 29, 2010.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2010-04: Cap Waiver

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2010-04 entitled "CY 2010 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)" Final hearing date scheduled for April 29, 2010. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Final Adoption of Ordinance 2010-05: Capital Improvements

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2010-05 entitled "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$8,000.00 FOR THE REPAIR OF DPW LOADER".

Mayor Nuss opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments with respect to the proposed Ordinance. As there was no one who wished to comment, Mayor Nuss closed the meeting to the public. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gaechter made motion to approve the regular minutes of the meetings of the Wantage governing body held on March 11, 2010, and the Regular and executive session Minutes of the Meeting of March 25, 2010. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of 2010 Wantage Township Municipal Budget

Mr. Doherty distributed a summary of the 2010 Municipal Budget. Mayor Nuss, Mr. DeBoer, and Mr. Gaechter stated that this has not been an easy budget and it was especially difficult to layoff two employees. After reducing all possible budget line items, the reduction in State Aid makes this lowest budget they can provide without cutting services.

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to Introduce the Wantage Township Municipal Budget, Public Hearing and Final adoption scheduled for May 27, 2010.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Bill Gettler, Gemmer Road, spoke regarding the school budget presentations and the overall tax rate.

Karen Merritt reminded everyone about the Spring Fling a week from Saturday and had tickets available for sale. Ms. Merritt distributed information regarding a property the Township holds a lien against, acquired at the last tax-sale. Ms. Merritt was informed that the Township has not foreclosed on this property and, at this time has no jurisdiction over her concerns.

Rudy Solar, questioned the wood-burning ordinance and said that any stove will smoke for a certain period of time, but if used correctly, this is minimal. Diane Snure added her comments. Mr. Gettler suggested a joint meeting with the Land Use Board/Committee and the public.

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OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Anne Smulewicz, 108 Route 23, spoke of her disappointment in the Board of Education and Township budget presentations. She urged the public to vote no on school board and voiced her position regarding uncollected taxes and the Wantage Township building department.

Bob Maikis, Southfield Drive, and Ron Bassani gave the Governing Body suggestions regarding how to review the school budgets should the school budgets be voted down.

Al Brands, 806 Route 23, stated that he uses his wood stove for heating his pool in the summer.

Mr. Gettler spoke of the expense of medical benefits in Sussex County and their impact on the local tax levies.

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

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: "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. Mr. Gaechter 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.

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Nuss declared this meeting to be adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk