

**MINUTES OF THE 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 JANUARY 22, 2015**

Mayor Gaechter called the 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 Gaechter, Committeeman Bassani, Morris. The following member was absent: None. Also present: CFO Michelle La Starza

Mayor Gaechter led those present in the Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Gaechter 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."

BUDGET

Phone System

The governing body held discussion with CFO Michelle La Starza regarding the need to upgrade the Township's telephone system.

After due consideration, Mr. Morris moved to authorize the installation of a new upgraded telephone system as presented and described by Ms. La Starza at a cost of \$9,970, which will be paid from existing Capital reserves for Buildings and Grounds needs. The project scope would also include running a telephone and computer cable/line to the DPW Garage on the upper hill area of the DPW yard. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

Ayes: Bassani, Morris, Gaechter **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Public Works Department

The members of the governing body reviewed Public Works Department budget requests for 2015 with Supervisor Bob Wagner and Mechanic John Card.

Requests were identified as including:

| <u>DEPARTMENT</u> | <u>REQUEST</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>MEANS OF FUNDING</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| DPW | 3 Ton Roller | 45,000 | Bond Ordinance |
| Buildings/Grounds | Replace Gas Pump | ? | Existing Reserves |
| DPW | Replace 3 Dump Bodies | 30,000 | Bond Ordinance |
| DPW | Oil/Stone, Patching, Paving | 300,000 | Capital Line Item |
| ROADS | 5-Year Plan for 2015 | 465,000 | Bond Ordinance |
| Building/Grounds | Replace Floor in Garage | 10,000 | Bond Ordinance |

Discussion also took place regarding the feasibility of putting an addition on the DPW Garage to facilitate the Mechanic's ability to serve the maintenance and repair needs of municipal fire trucks, and the benefits versus costs of repairing the Well at Woodbourne Park. No determinations were made with respect to these matters. The governing body agreed to continue consideration of these issues for the future.

Capital Projects

Mr. Doherty reviewed the various capital projects requested for the year identifying a desire to budget additional money in the line item for Improvements to Roads so that sufficient maintenance can be done for the Oil and Stone program of the Township's roads.

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Salaries

The governing body discussed the salary needs of the municipal budget for the year 2015.

Mr. Doherty requested the governing body enter into closed executive session to deal with matters of negotiations.

Mr. Morris moved to approve the following resolution:

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 negotiations involving specific public employees of the Municipal Court and the Assessor Office.

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. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

Ayes: Bassani, Morris, Gaechter **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

After meeting in closed Executive Session, Mayor Gaechter reconvened the meeting and the governing body continued with the regular order of business.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

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

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Bassani moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

Ayes: Bassani, Morris, Gaechter **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting to be adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk