

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, N.J., ON
JANUARY 29, 2015.**

Mayor Gaechter called the meeting to order, and requested the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Bill Gaechter, Committeeman Ron Bassani, and Committeeman Jon Morris. The following members were absent: None. Also present: Township Attorney Representative Louis Karp.

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 and certified by the Clerk."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Gaechter requested that the governing body review the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Bill List for the Meeting of January 29, 2015, not including Purchase Order 12076 to Bassani Power & Equipment in the amount of \$59.03, and Purchase Order 12127 in the amount of \$62.32. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize cancellation of \$5,100 representing unredeemed tax sale premiums greater than 5 years old. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize refund of \$20,008.18 to US Bank, for redemption of tax sale certificate 12-10 on Block 17 Lot 14. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Renewal of Animal Control and Dog Pound Shared Services Agreement with Lafayette Township for the year 2015. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to revise the Emergency Management Council 2015 Roster by naming Bill DeBoer to be the First Aid Squad EMC member for 2015. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to name Suzanne Oakley as the Acting Court Administrator to handle backup call out situations in which the Township Court Administrator is not available, at a payment of \$50 per call out. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the sale of various items of Surplus Property via USGovBid on 1/15/15, involving surplus Dump Truck, Roller, Pole Saw, Mower, Edger, Weed Trimmer, Machinery Closet, totaling \$18,475.69, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage conducted an online municipal auction ending January 14, 2015; and

WHEREAS, at that time, bids were received as advertised as follows:

| | Item | Amount | Bidder |
|---|--|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1995 International Dump Truck | 16,000.00 | Ray Bross Construction |
| 2 | 1996 Wacker Roller | 3,200.00 | Sandalone Excavating |
| 3 | Stihl Pole Saw | 172.00 | Laferrara Construction |
| 4 | 1998 2-cycle Tot Push Mower | 5.00 | Laferrara Construction |
| 5 | Mclane Edger, 3.5 HP | 64.00 | Laferrara Construction |
| 6 | Shindiawa Weed Trimmer and Power Broom | 105.00 | Laferrara Construction |
| 7 | Machinery Closet | 5.00 | Josh Warncke |

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage that the Township approves the sale of the above-named items as shown.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

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PROCLAMATION

Mayor Gaechter confirmed for the public record, the Proclamation Issued by Mayor Gaechter on January 15, 2015, honoring Bradford Van Orden for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout:

WHEREAS, Bradford Van Orden has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, which represents an accomplishment of high regard within the Wantage Community, and

WHEREAS, as a Boy Scout, Bradford has held numerous Leadership positions, and

WHEREAS, Bradford has distinguished himself through on-going service to his community, and

WHEREAS, Bradford has actively participated in Troop activities and has provided mentoring for many younger Boy Scouts, and

WHEREAS, such a fine record of accomplishment is worthy of praise and recognition,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM GAECHTER, Mayor of the Township of Wantage, hereby offer my congratulations to Bradford Van Orden for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the entire Wantage Community is hereby encouraged to join in the recognition of this fine accomplishment.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Morris moved to approve Purchase Order 12076 payable to Bassani Power & Equipment in the amount of \$59.03 and Purchase Order 12127 in the amount of \$62.32. Mayor Gaechter seconded the motion. Mr. Bassani announced he would recuse himself from discussion or consideration of this motion.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing and Re-Introduction of Ordinance 2015-01: Bond Ordinance Volcanic Hill Road

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments regarding Ordinance 2015-01. There being no one present wishing to address the governing body, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public.

Mr. Bassani moved to defeat Ordinance 2015-01 based on procedural deficiencies in the adoption process. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to Re-introduce on first reading Ordinance 2015-01, entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VOLCANIC HILL ROAD IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$134,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$127,300 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE COST THEREOF AND DIRECTING THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF PART OF THE COST THEREOF." The proposed final hearing date for this Ordinance shall be February 12, 2015. The Supplemental Debt Statement is on file in the Clerk's office.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2015-02: Amendment to Open Space Trust Fund

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce Ordinance 2015-02, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE AN OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE." The proposed final hearing date for this Ordinance shall be February 12, 2015.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

NEW BUSINESS, Continued

Introduction of Ordinance 2015-03: Salary Amendment

Mr. Morris moved to confirm various personnel actions of the governing body:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey the following personnel actions are approved:

- 1) Restructuring the employment position of Arlene De La Osa to be a full time employee with the dual duties of Keyboarding Clerk for the Finance Department and Secretary to the Recreation Commission, for a salary of \$33,000, effective January 1, 2015.
- 2) Restructuring the employment position of Jeanne McBride to be a full time employee with the combined duties of Secretary for the Land Use Board, Secretary for the Board of Health, and Deputy Registrar, for a salary of \$33,000, effective January 1, 2015.
- 3) Restructuring the employment position of Lauren McIntosh to be a part time employee with the combined duties of Violations Clerk and Cashier for the Municipal court, for a salary of \$12.25 an hour, effective January 1, 2015.
- 4) Confirming the salary of Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner at \$53,000 for the year 2015, plus \$2,000 stipend for shared services contract with Sussex Borough.
- 5) Hiring Wendy Chundley as a part time temporary Keyboarding Clerk for the Assessor office at a rate of \$10/hr for a workweek of up to 24 hrs/wk a week, effective 2/2/15.
- 6) Confirming the 2015 employment of Backup Snow Plow Operators, as follows:

| | | |
|---|-------|--------|
| Richard Bootsma, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Darrell Caton, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Edward Caton, Backup Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Michael Flood, Backup Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Jeffrey Krohn, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Russell Rome, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Michael Wesloske, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| William Crum, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Mitchell Hardick, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |
| Christopher Auer, Backup Snow Plow Operator | 18.00 | Hourly |

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce Ordinance 2015-03, entitled "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2015." The proposed final hearing date for this Ordinance shall be February 12, 2015. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Outdoor Event License Application

The governing body gave consideration to the application of Sussex Skydive for an Outdoor Event License on June 26 – 28, 2015, being an all-day event during these dates involving skydiving activities and associated public gathering events on site. After due review, the governing body deemed the application to be incomplete and instructed the Clerk to request additional information from the applicant, for further consideration at the meeting of February 12, 2015.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Morris moved to approve the minutes of the Organization Meeting, Regular Meeting and Executive Session of the Wantage Township governing body held on January 8, 2015; the minutes of the Budget Work Session Meeting of the Wantage Township governing body held on January 15, 2015; and the minutes of the Budget Work Session Meeting and Executive Session of the Wantage Township governing body held on January 22, 2015. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Rudy Solar, Mt. Salem Road, asked for details regarding the Open Space Amendment Ordinance. Mr. Bassani offered responses. Mr. Solar expressed the opinion that introduction of the ordinance was premature. Mr. Bassani disagreed with the opinion expressed but thanked Mr. Solar for his input.

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Diane Snure, Mt. Salem Road, also asked for clarification on the purpose of the Open Space Amendment. Mr. Bassani and Mr. Doherty responded, explaining that the proposed ordinance expands the uses of land acquired with open space funds to include not only passive recreation, but active recreation as well if so desired.

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, offered photographs of a brace that had been used several month earlier to prop open the spill gate at the Lake Neepaulin Dam when the water level was being lowered, expressing the opinion that the brace was unattractive and inappropriate. Ms. Gorman also offered input regarding her position on the need to enforce the "No Trespassing" situation currently in place at Lake Neepaulin. Ms. Gorman asked for clarification on the use of the Constable to enforce Township ordinances. Mr. Doherty responded. Ms. Gorman repeated her desire for greater enforcement measures to be taken against individuals who are ice fishing and otherwise trespassing on Lake Neepaulin in the winter months.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, stated her belief the Recreation Commission did a good job in preparing their recommendations for Lake Use Rules; and expressed her beliefs concerning the dangers of ice fishing. Ms. Smulewicz inquired regarding the activities of the Friends of the Wantage Animal Shelter. Mr. Doherty offered a response. Ms. Smulewicz stated her position on the importance of education, expressing her belief the Sussex Wantage School system is not providing an adequate education to the children; expressing concern with the tax burden of the education system; suggested the governing body should involve itself in this matter. Ms. Smulewicz then offered her beliefs and comments regarding the importance of economic development.

Ms. Gorman inquired regarding the manner in which to submit an OPRA request involving the Fire Department. Mr. Doherty stated the procedure for submitting an OPRA request is the same for any record, and he would review it for appropriateness and completeness when it is submitted.

Mr. Bassani offered statements of explanation regarding the efforts of the Land Use Board to promote economic development through various Master Plan amendments and updates.

General discussion on the topic of economic development continued between Ms. Smulewicz and Mr. Bassani.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. Bassani moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

James R. Doherty, Municipal Clerk