

**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  
FEBRUARY 12, 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. The following members were absent: Committeeman Jon Morris (subsequently present as of 7:10 p.m.). Also present: Township Attorney Glenn Kienz.

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."

Mayor Gaechter suggested holding action on the Consent Agenda until Mr. Morris could join the meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Doherty inquired if the governing body desired to retain the pay phone currently located in the front lobby of the municipal building, citing increasing costs and minimal usage. Mayor Gaechter and Mr. Bassani suggested checking with the court system to ascertain if a pay phone was a requirement of the court and if not, to place an order with the Telephone company for removal of the pay phone.

Mr. Doherty requested an Executive Session to discuss the salary of the Tax Collector, under the Open Public Meetings Act exclusion allowable for negotiations.

Mr. Morris joined the meeting at this time and took his seat at the Dais.

Mr. Doherty stated that Mr. Bill DeBoer had asked for verification regarding the Township's intentions to purchase a command vehicle for the First Aid Squad this year. Mayor Gaechter invited Mr. DeBoer to address the governing body. General discussion took place among the members of the governing body and Mr. DeBoer. The governing body agreed by consensus that they supported the purchase in principle, but needed to wait until they had a full picture of the budget and tax situation for this year before being able to confirm the project's approval. The governing body agreed to give this matter further consideration at the next Budget work session, to be held later in February or early March.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Mr. Bassani asked for details regarding the proposed Grant Application for the Sussex Wantage Municipal Alliance Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse. Mr. Doherty explained the details of the grant amount from the State, the matching funds from the Township, and the In Kind Contribution of volunteers who work on the Alliance.

Mr. Morris moved to approve For Filing the Following Reports:

- Municipal Clerk Report for January 2015
- Board of Health Report for January 2015
- Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for January 2015
- Tax Collector Report for January 2015
- Registrar Report for January 2015

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve the Contract for 2015 Field Maintenance to Farmside Landscape & Design of Wantage, NJ in the amount of \$15,550. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve the Contract for Insecticide, Fertilizer, and Biostimulant treatment of newly planted trees at Woodbourne Park, to Farmside Landscape & Design of Wantage, NJ in the amount of \$1,385. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

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Mr. Morris moved to approve Submission of grant application for the Municipal Alliance Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse for Fiscal Year 2015, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, The Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Sussex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Sussex Wantage Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2016 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ 12,716.00
Cash Match	\$ 3,179.00
In-Kind	\$ 9,537.00

2. The Township Committee acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve Submission of Recycling Tonnage Grant application and designating James Doherty as the individual authorized to submit the Annual Tonnage Report, as follows:

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2014 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of The Mayor and Committee of Wantage Township to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage that Wantage Township hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates James R. Doherty to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call: Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris      Nays: None  
Absent: None      Abstain: None

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Shared Services Agreement with Frankford Township to provide Certified Recycling Professional services for the year 2015.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

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Mr. Morris moved to approve Revising the annual resolution of approval for Professional Services to reflect updated contractual amounts, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the Professional Services Award Resolution previously adopted on January 8, 2015 is hereby amended as follows: The following contracts be and they are hereby approved without the need for public advertisement of bids and bidding thereof:

Awarded to: Glenn Kienz, of the law firm Weiner Lesniak of Parsippany, NJ  
Services: Township Attorney  
Duration: calendar year of 2015  
Amount: \$175 per hour

Awarded to: Edward McManimon, of the law firm McManimon & Scotland of Newark, NJ  
Services: Township Bond Counsel.  
Duration: calendar year of 2015.  
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule included with contract

Awarded to: Harold E. Pellow of the Firm of Harold E. Pellow and Associates, of Augusta, N.J.  
Services: Township Engineer.  
Duration: calendar year of 2015.  
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule included with contract

Awarded to: Thomas Ferry, of the Accounting & Auditing firm Ferraioli, Wielkotz, Cerullo & Cuva of Newton, N.J.  
Services: Township Auditor.  
Duration: calendar year of 2015.  
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule included with contract

Awarded to: William Haggerty, of the law firm Dolan & Dolan of Newton, N.J.  
Services: Township Prosecutor.  
Duration: calendar year of 2015.  
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule included with contract

Awarded to: James Sloan, Esq., of Allamuchy, N.J.  
Services: Public Defender  
Duration: calendar year of 2015.  
Amount: \$12,000 per year

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, the Township Clerk is hereby directed to post a copy of this resolution on the bulletin board of the Township Hall, and publish a brief public notice stating the nature, duration, service and amount of the contracts herein awarded, and stating that said contract and this resolution are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve a Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption on Block 37 Lot 1.02, as per the recommendation of the Wantage Township Tax Collector, as follows:

WHEREAS, The Department of Veteran Affairs determined that Paul Schuchert at 8 Beemer Rd, Block 37 Lot 1.02 had a service connected disability that was totally disabling effective September 29, 2011,

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has received a Claim for property tax exemption on dwelling house of Disabled Veteran, which was approved by the Tax Assessor on February 4, 2015.

WHEREAS, as per N.J.S.A.54: 4-3.30et seq, Mr. Schuchert is entitled to a tax exemption on his property located at 8 Beemer Rd from January 1, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is authorized to cancel taxes billed for the 1st and 2nd Qtr 2015 in the amount of \$4,127.50.
2. The future billing of 2015 taxes will also be cancelled at time of billing.
3. This property will be marked as exempt in the 2016 tax list.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve Change Order #2 on the project entitled Paving Volcanic Hill Road, increasing the amount of the contract an additional \$922.95 reflecting actual amounts of material used by the Contractor, as per the certification and recommendation of the Township Engineer.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal Certification for Lois Wright at Block 136 Lot 5

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal Certification for Shotco Inc. at Block 44 Lot 25.01. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

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**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Gaechter read the following Mayor's Statement into the record:

In a newspaper article today, printed in the New Jersey Herald, a reporter presented the appointment process for Municipal Court Judge in Wantage as if a question exists regarding that process. For some reason, the reporter felt it was necessary to cast a veil of uncertainty on this situation when, in reality, there is no uncertainty or question at all. Wantage Township serves as the lead agency for a Shared Court System with Sussex Borough and Stillwater Township. In this situation, the procedure for selecting a Judge is simple and straightforward:

**Step #1:** the Lead Agency, serving as the local appointing authority, appoints a Judge. This appointment carries the weight of a nomination made simultaneously to the Assignment Judge of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage, and to the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

**On January 8, 2015, the Wantage governing body made this appointment by naming Glenn Gavan to serve as the Judge of the Joint Court of Wantage Township.**

**Step #2:** the Assignment Judge of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage gives consideration to the selection made by the local appointing authority – in this case, being the Wantage governing body – and if he agrees with the selection, he will confirm the appointment of that individual as an Acting Municipal Court Judge, subject to the final confirmation required from the Office of the Governor.

**On January 13, 2015, Thomas L. Weisenbeck, Assignment Judge of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage, confirmed the appointment of Glenn Gavan as Acting Municipal Court Judge for the Joint Court of Wantage.**

**Step #3:** the individual selected by the local appointing authority and confirmed in an Acting Judge capacity by the Assignment Judge must then take an Oath of Office before a Superior Court Judge.

**Mr. Gavan has taken his Oath of Office before Superior Court Judge N. Peter Conforti.**

**Step #4:** The governor gives consideration to the nominations made by the Local appointing authority and the Assignment Judge, and decides to either confirm the appointment of the individual, or name another individual if in the Governor's discretion such an action is appropriate. The governor's appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

**Wantage Township is now awaiting the determination of the Governor.**

There is no deadline by which a Governor must take action on this matter. Until a decision is made, the Acting Judge remains an Acting Judge. As an example, Wantage Township first created a Joint Court system in 2008, and named Craig Dana as Judge of that court system. It was not until April of 2011, - by which time Stillwater Township had joined the Joint Court system, - when Governor Chris Christie offered confirmation of Mr. Dana's appointment. I take this opportunity to reinforce and confirm the support of the Wantage Township governing body for Glenn Gavan to serve as the Judge of the Joint Court of Wantage Township.

William Gaechter, Mayor  
Township of Wantage

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Final Adoption of Ordinance 2015-01: Bond Ordinance Volcanic Hill Road**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt on final 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." Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

**Final Adoption of Ordinance 2015-02: Amendment to Open Space Trust Fund**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2015-02, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE AN OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE." Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Prior to final roll call, Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments regarding Ordinance 2015-02.

Diane Snure, Mt. Salem Road, requested clarification on the structure and content of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Kienz and Mr. Doherty responded.

Barbara Woods Decarvalho, Rose Morrow Road, offered comments of opposition to the adoption of the proposed Ordinance, citing concerns for nature and the environment, stating her opposition to active recreation and support of passive recreation.

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, sought a clarification on the details of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Bassani responded, and offered general review of the process by which the Open Space Advisory Committee conducts negotiations and consideration of lots for potential preservation.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, asked who wrote the wording of the Ordinance. Mr. Doherty stated that he had done so. Mr. Gettler expressed the belief that the Open Space Advisory Committee meetings should be open to the public. Mr. Bassani and Mr. Doherty explained that the committee was not subject to the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, and that the nature of the confidential negotiations undertaken often precludes public disclosure until terms have been agreed upon for consideration of formal action. Mr. Gettler expressed opposition to the proposed ordinance, citing reasons he believes the original ordinance adopted in 2006 was not valid. Mr. Gettler presented a written report to the governing body offering details of his position on this issue, expressing his desire that the report be included in its entirety in the Minutes of this meeting.

Allison Orsi, Lowe Road, offered comments of opposition to the adoption of the proposed Ordinance, citing concerns for nature and the environment.

Diane Snure cited the wording of the Interpretive Statement included on the Referendum Question for Open Space in 2006. Mr. Bassani asked Ms. Snure to explain her opposition to this proposed ordinance in light of her expressed position on the Open Space Committee in the past, which supported the use of open space land for Quad riding. General discussion took place between Mr. Bassani and Ms. Snure.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, expressed confusion in understanding the need for this proposed Ordinance. Ms. Smulewicz asked why the Open Space Committee was not consulted on this proposed Ordinance before it was presented for consideration to the governing body. Mr. Bassani and Mr. Doherty offered responses to this inquiry, explaining the role of the Open Space Committee, which does not include review of proposed ordinances. Ms. Smulewicz asked if she were on the Township Committee and wished to manipulate something, would it be allowable for her to arrange to have an ordinance created. Mr. Doherty explained that it is part of the duty and responsibility of a local elected official to propose the adoption of a law if he or she believes doing so would serve the best interests of the Township, and that is what Mr. Bassani did. Mr. Bassani took exception to Ms. Smulewicz' characterization of an attempt to manipulate a situation, and stated that in the past five years he has put forth numerous ordinances for consideration based on his belief that doing so would represent the best interests of Wantage. Mr. Bassani stated his willingness to accept opposing opinions and input on such proposed ordinances, but takes exception to any reference at an effort at manipulation. Ms. Smulewicz continued to express her opposition to the proposed Ordinance.

William Gettler continued to express his belief that the 2006 Ordinance is not valid.

Mr. Doherty offered a clarification to the members of the public that the purpose of this public hearing was to hear input on the proposed 2015 change to Section 2 of the 2006 Ordinance, not to revisit the question of whether or not the 2006 Ordinance is valid.

Allison Orsi inquired regarding whether a need has been expressed for additional athletic fields. Mr. Bassani and Mr. Doherty responded, stating that this need was in fact expressed by the Recreation Commission as part of their 2015 budget presentation.

Mr. Morris offered the observation that the proposed Ordinance does not eliminate passive recreation as a use, but instead expanded the options available by also including active recreation as a possible use.

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Mondell Fisher, South Shore Drive, requested clarification on the Open Space review process and the mechanism for public input. Mr. Bassani and Mr. Doherty offered a response.

Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public at this time, and requested a roll call vote.

Mayor Gaechter expressed surprise at the extent of comments regarding this proposed Ordinance; reinforced his and the governing body's love and support of nature and the rural nature of Wantage; and clarified that the proposed ordinance is a means of keeping options open for the future.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Doherty spoke with respect to Mr. Gettler's request that his written report presented this evening be included in the Township minutes verbatim. Mr. Doherty explained that it is not within the purview of a member of the public to decide what material is included in the Township minutes. Mr. Doherty explained that the document provided by Mr. Gettler is a public record available to the public the same as any other public document. However, the document will not be included verbatim in the minutes.

**Final Adoption of Ordinance 2015-03: Salary Amendment**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt on final reading, 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." Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Prior to final roll call, Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public.

Kathleen Gorman, Fernwood Road, inquired what the Assessor's salary was in 2014. Mr. Doherty stated he did not have that information before him at the meeting, but that it was posted on the Township website.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered comments in opposition to the Tax Assessor salary and the Judge's salary. Mr. Bassani and Mr. Gettler held conversation regarding Mr. Gettler's position.

Diane Snure, Mt. Salem Road, inquired if this hearing involved accepting comments regarding the Judge's appointment. Mayor Gaechter clarified that this hearing involved salaries.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, asked for details of the 2014 and proposed 2015 salary for the Assessor. Mayor Gaechter offered a response to the 2015 proposed salary figure, and stated that he did not have the 2014 figure at his disposal at this time.

William DeBoer, Beemer Road, expressed support for the proposed salary of the Assessor.

Ms. Smulewicz asked if salary guides existed to determine the amount of salary increases to provide. Mayor Gaechter explained the Tax Assessor is a department head and therefore not subject to the collective bargaining agreement of union employees. Mayor Gaechter explained some of the factors that were taken into consideration in the determination of the Assessor's salary level for this year.

Mr. DeBoer offered further observations in support of the proposed salary for the Assessor.

Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public at this time and requested a roll call vote.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**Outdoor Event License Application**

Mr. Bassani moved to approve 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. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

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**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township governing body held on January 29, 2015. Mr. Morris 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.

Diane Snure, Mt. Salem Road, asked for clarification regarding details of the appointment process for the Joint Municipal Court Judge. Mayor Gaechter and Mr. Doherty offered responses.

Kathleen Gorman, Fernwood Road, asked who wrote the Mayor's Statement. Mayor Gaechter responded that he and the Administrator came up with the statement. Ms. Gorman asked if Mr. Kienz reviewed the statement. Mayor Gaechter responded in the affirmative. Ms. Gorman asked what constitutes an ethics violation severe enough to disqualify someone from consideration of an appointment as Judge. General discussion took place regarding the interview and appointment process undertaken by the governing body for the Judge, and the level of public concern with regard to that process.

Ms. Gorman repeated her question regarding what constitutes an ethics violation severe enough to disqualify someone from consideration of an appointment as Judge and invited the governing body, the attorney and the administrator to offer a response.

Mr. Doherty responded that there is no absolute answer to this question, as ultimately ethics represents a subjective determination that calls for a case-by-case review by those in a decision-making capacity to evaluate the details specific to each given situation.

Ms. Gorman offered her views with respect to what she characterized as ethics violations by Mr. Glenn Gavan. Mr. Kienz and Mayor Gaechter clarified that there is no ethics violation filed against Mr. Gavan. Ms. Gorman offered further input regarding reasons she opposes Mr. Gavan's appointment as Judge.

Mayor Gaechter offered further reinforcement in the position of the governing body that Glenn Gavan is the correct choice for Judge, and suggested that in time, everyone would see this is true.

Bill DeBoer, Beemer Road, expressed support for the appointment of Glenn Gavan as Judge.

Ms. Gorman again expressed concern with respect to ethics.

Allison Orsi, Lowe Road, inquired regarding details of the insecticide treatment program approved by the governing body for trees at Woodbourne Park on the consent agenda. Mr. Doherty stated he did not have extensive details regarding the process being undertaken but if Ms. Orsi contacted him during office hours, he would have Farmside Landscape contact her and address her questions.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, offered comments of opposition to the appointment of Glenn Gavan as Judge.

Mayor Gaechter again expressed continued support for Mr. Gavan.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, expressed the opinion that the topic of discussion involving recreation rules at Lake Neepaulin is not an allowable exception under the Open Public Meetings Act. General discussion took place regarding the reasons for entering into executive session.

Mr. Kienz informed that he would monitor the details of the executive session to make sure the scope of discussion stays within the parameters of the law.

Rocco Russo, South Shore Drive, expressed concern with erosion taking place at a stream feeding Lake Neepaulin. The governing body asked Mr. Doherty to investigate this expressed concern.

Mrs. Smulewicz expressed thanks to Mayor Gaechter for allowing the public to voice their comments during the meeting.

Mayor Gaechter thanked Mrs. Smulewicz for her comment, stating that he doesn't think it should be necessary to "gavel" someone to stay within the 4 minute limit, but he did ask that everyone maintain a spirit of respect toward each other.

At this time, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Bassani moved to enter into closed 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 negotiations involving specific public employees of the Collector's Office, and discussion regarding legal aspects of potential recreation rules at Lake Neepaulin which involve attorney-client privilege.

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. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

After meeting in Executive Session, Mr. Bassani moved to return to regular open session and continue with the regular order of business. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Doherty stated the governing body discussed in closed session the details of an attorney-client report generated by the municipal attorney concerning legal aspects of municipal use regulations for lakes, and also discussed the salary of the Tax Collector under Negotiations.

Mr. Doherty recommended the governing body provide compensation to Melissa Caton in the amount of \$3,000 for the year 2015, for her duties being performed as the Municipal IT Person for trouble shooting computer problems in the municipal building. Mr. Morris moved to approve this recommendation.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

**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,

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James R. Doherty, Municipal Clerk