

**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 26, 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 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 led all present in the Salute to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Mr. Bassani commented regarding the amount of tax money being collected by the County on a quarterly basis in support of the Sussex County Library system.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Payment of Bills For the meeting of February 26, 2016.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal Certification for Foothill Acres Farm for Block 18.01 Lot 2. 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 Shared Services agreement with Branchville Borough for Wantage to provide Certified Recycling Professional services.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of:

- \$ 2,063.75 to Paul & Diane Schuchert, Block 37 Lot 1.02 for tax overpayment
- \$ 2,500.00 to US Bank, Block 154 Lot 4 for return of tax sale premium Cert # 11-53
- \$ 6,000.00 to US Bank, Block 154 Lot 4 for return of tax sale premium Cert # 13-47
- \$14,598.99 to US Bank, Block 116 Lot 6.14 for tax lien redemption Cert # 12-27
- \$11,116.86 to US Bank, Block 154 Lot 4 for tax lien redemption Cert # 13-47
- \$14,906.28 to US Bank, Block 154 Lot 4 for tax lien redemption Cert # 11-53
- \$ 844.43 to Emil Conforth, Block 133 Lot 18 for tax lien redemption Cert # 21-14

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Proposed Tower on Fernwood Road: Mr. Doherty engaged the Township in a discussion regarding recent communications he received from the FCC, IVI Telecom Services, regarding a proposed project to construct a monopole telecommunications tower on Fernwood Road. Mr. Doherty presented a letter of concerns expressed by Township Engineer Harold Pellow regarding this proposed project, and the governing body agreed to direct the Township Attorney to further review this situation and to communicate the Township's concerns as expressed by the Engineer, as appropriate.

Budget Work Session: Mr. Doherty reported the next budget work session will take place at 7:00 p.m. on March 11, 2015.

Fire Department Vehicles: Mr. Doherty reported on the status of several accidents which have taken place during the winter months, involving Fire Department vehicles and personnel. Mr. Doherty stated that he, the Fire Chief, and the Insurance Carrier were coordinating efforts to ensure that these incidents were weather-related, and will reinforce efforts to communicate the need for care when driving in winter weather conditions.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: Mr. Kienz reviewed actions taken by the Land Use Board at their meeting this week, and recommended the governing body endorse and confirm the action taken to hire Ken Nelson in a professional services arrangement for planning services associated with the Redevelopment Plan being pursued along the border of Wantage and Sussex Borough.

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After general discussion and consideration, Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, NJSA 40A:11-5 et. seq. allows for a municipality to award a contract without public advertising for bids and bidding thereof under certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the Wantage Township Land Use Board and the Governing Body of the Township of Wantage have a need for assistance during the course of this calendar year involving professional services, and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Board and the Governing Body of the Township of Wantage are of the opinion that the circumstances for professional service contractual arrangements, as required by NJSA 40A:11-5(1) are satisfied in this situation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the following contract be and it is hereby approved without the need for public advertisement of bids and bidding thereof:

Awarded to: Kenneth Nelson Services: Special Planner

Duration: Remainder of Calendar Year 2015 Amount: An amount not to exceed \$5,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board Secretary and Municipal Clerk are hereby directed to post this resolution on the bulletin board of the Township Municipal Building, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with the requirements of NJSA 40A:11-5(1), the Board Secretary and Municipal clerk are hereby directed to publish a brief public notice stating the nature, duration, service and amount of the contract herein awarded, and that said contract and this resolution are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Board Secretary.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Bassani observed that many public streets in the Township are experiencing buckling and sinking, from the repeated freeze-thaw-freeze cycle occurring in this winter. Mr. Bassani assured the members of the public that the Township will inspect the condition of the roads in the spring to see what repairs are needed at that time.

Mr. Morris alerted the members of the public to a public information meeting being held by the New Jersey Department of Transportation on March 5, 2015 from 6 to 8 pm, at the Wantage-Sussex Library, to review plans for repair of a bridge on Route 23. Mr. Morris urged residents to make known the Township's desire for expedient action by the state with regard to finishing this project.

Mayor Gaechter reported that the concern expressed by Rocco Russo at the last meeting, regarding the level of erosion at the stream feeding into Lake Neepaulin, would be reviewed and evaluated by the Township Engineer in the spring when weather conditions permit.

Mayor Gaechter offered a Proclamation honoring the contributions of Cub Scout Pack 84, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Boy Scouts of America is committed to helping our youth succeed by providing the mentoring necessary to develop the Scouts core values of leadership, character, citizenship, and environmental stewardship, and

'WHEREAS, this national youth organization is made up of volunteers who selflessly mentor and dedicate their time to the young people of their community: and

WHEREAS, Cub Scout Pack 84 has a long tradition of helping mentor and guide the youth of our Community; and

'WIEREAS, Cub Scout Pack 84 is involved in numerous community service projects; and

WHEREAS, the efforts and accomplishments of Pack 84 are a source of pride for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Sussex/Wantage community recognize and acknowledge these efforts and accomplishments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Gaechter; Mayor of the Township of Wantage, on behalf of the Wantage Township Governing Body and our residents, do hereby honor Cub Scout Pack 84 for making a difference in our community.

Mayor Gaechter reported that Wantage Township was pleased to host the February monthly meeting of the Sussex Wantage Chamber Council, being an affiliate of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Gaechter engaged the business community representatives present at this meeting in a dialogue regarding economic development and the business climate.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Habitat for Humanity Project

Mr. Doherty reported on a meeting he had with representatives of Habitat For Humanity, regarding a proposed project they wish to pursue on Gemmer Road.

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After review and discussion, Mr. Morris moved to accept Mr. Doherty's recommendation, and authorize the expenditure of \$20,000 from the Township Affordable Housing Trust Fund to partner with Habitat For Humanity in this project, with the understanding that said partnership shall result in COAH credit for affordable housing being recorded on behalf of Wantage Township.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Doherty presented a request from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the governing body to endorse a proposed No Passing Zone on a section of Route 23.

After review and consideration, Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) recently completed a traffic investigation on Route 23 in Wantage Township; and
WHEREAS, NJDOT recommends a revision to the centerline pavement markings on Route 23 to create a "No Passing Zone" in the vicinity of MP 38.1 to 38.4 for safety reasons; and
WHEREAS, this project will create safer driving conditions in this area of Route 23;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, in the State of New Jersey, that it supports the use of a "No Passing Zone" on Route 23 in Wantage Township, as recommended by NJDOT.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded to NJDOT as requested.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Gaechter reported that a request from Engineer Ken Wentink for a presentation regarding septic placement has been withdrawn from the agenda at Mr. Wentink's direction.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township governing body held on February 12, 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.

Mrs. Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, observed that she had not received any notice of a proposed tower, which she would have been entitled to receive as a property owner within the vicinity of the proposed project. General discussion took place among the members of the governing body, Mr. Kienz, Mr. Doherty and Ms. Gorman regarding this matter.

Mr. Bill DeBoer, Beemer Road, requested the Township assist the First Aid Squad with advertising an upcoming fundraiser event on the front bulletin board. The governing body agreed to do so.

Mr. Mike Clark, Route 284, asked if the Township would share the front bulletin board between the First Aid Squad and the Sussex Fire Department's upcoming fundraiser events. The governing body agreed to do so.

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