

**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 23, WANTAGE, N.J., ON  
MARCH 26, 2015.**

Mayor Gaechter called the meeting to order, and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor William Gaechter, Committeeman Ronald Bassani, and Committeeman Jon Morris.

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 invited all those present to join in the Salute to the Flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

**Resolutions:**

1. Payments of Bills for the meeting of March 26, 2015.
2. Renewal of Soil Removal Certification for Space Farms Realty for Block 160 Lot 2.
3. Renewal of 2015 Amusement Games License for Pleasant Acres Farm Campground.
4. Authorization to refund \$7,271.36 to US Bank, Block 4.01 Lot 4 for the redemption of tax sale certificate 01-14.
5. Authorization to refund \$1,7637.87 (sic) to Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Service, Block 120 Lot 7.03 for Tax Overpayment. (Needs correction)
6. Confirmation of Patrick Stefanelli appointment as Zoning Officer of Wantage Township, through the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

**Proclamations:**

1. Honoring Ryan Weiss upon achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.
2. Honoring Nicholas A. Shrope upon achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Motion by Mr. Bassani, Second by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

On behalf of Administrator/Clerk James Doherty, Deputy Clerk Christine Von Oesen offered that Department of Public Works Employee Wayne Devantoy has tendered his resignation, advising that March 27, 2015 would be his last day working with Wantage Township.

The Office of the Wantage Tax Assessor has been in need of an assistant, and a candidate has been found. On behalf of Administrator/Clerk James Doherty, Ms. Von Oesen asked that the governing body approve the hire of Nicole Dunn, at the pay rate of \$10 per hour, for a range of 15-24 hours per week.

Motion by Mr. Bassani, Second by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** None

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MR. BASSANI**

Mr. Bassani spoke regarding joint municipal fact finding, specific to the issues surrounding the County Solar Panel project, in order to share costs involved. He spoke to the fact that it is too early to take action, and that further information must first be had. Attorney Glenn Kienz offered that Frankford Township has approved a Resolution on the subject.

Mayor Gaechter added that Sussex County Administrator John Eskilson and Sussex County Freeholder Phil Crabb approached him about having a meeting, which he and Administrator/Clerk Jim Doherty initially declined. Mayor Gaechter feels that, at this point, he would like to have this meeting.

Mr. Bassani would like to hear from John Eskilson and Phil Crabb, and asks that Jim Doherty query them on what their plans are specific to the County solar panel concern. Mr. Bassani would like Mr. Doherty to gather information from the municipalities in Sussex County regarding their intentions applicable to investigating the solar panel issue.

Mayor Gaechter has also spoken with Sussex County Freeholder George Graham.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MR. MORRIS**

Mr. Morris spoke about the Bridge Rehabilitation Project on Route 23, announcing the rescheduled public forum of NJ Department of Transportation to be held at the Library.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Introduction of Ordinance 2015-05: ESTABLISH A CAP BANK**

A Motion is in order to Introduce on First Reading, Ordinance 2015-05, entitled “ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015 (N.J.S.A.40a:4-45.14),” with a proposed final hearing date scheduled for April 30, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Morris. Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Morris, Bassani, Gaechter

**2. Introduction of 2015 Wantage Township Municipal Budget**

A Motion is in order to Introduce the 2015 Wantage Township Municipal Budget

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Morris. Upon Roll Call:

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

**3. Introduction of Ordinance 2015-04: Multi-Purpose Bond Ordinance**

A Motion is in order to introduce on First Reading, Ordinance 2015-14, entitled, “BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$53,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$620,350 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF,” with a proposed final hearing date scheduled for April 30, 2015. The Supplemental Debt Statement has been completed and placed on file.

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Morris. Upon Roll Call:

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

4. Regarding the Fire Truck Bid, Mayor Gaechter read a recommendation from Mr. Doherty that all bids be rejected for the purpose of revising the bid specifications. Mr. Morris feels that the process must start from scratch. He calls to reject the bid.

Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

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5. Approval of the Minutes

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township Governing Body held on March 11, 2015 (all present).

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Morris. Upon Roll Call:

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

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township governing body held on March 12, 2015 (Bassani absent).

Motion by Mr. Morris. Second by Mr. Gaechter. Upon Roll Call:

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

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:**

Wantage resident William Gettler cited Ordinance 2014-01 in reference to the Clove Hill Manor tax map and accepting of roads. He feels that Ordinance 2014-01 should be repealed. Specific to Block 53 Lot 4.01, Mr. Gettler stated that the map was drawn with the purpose of holding this block together, and he further brought attention to the dashed versus solid lines. Attorney Glenn Kienz refuted Mr. Gettler's argument, but offered that he would look into Mr. Gettler's concern.

Mr. Gettler expressed concern that he believes there are 5 properties at Clove Hill Manor that are paying no taxes. Mr. Gettler has made OPRA requests covering both of these subjects, and feels that he has not received proper responses. Mr. Gettler questions why Wantage Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner can say that some people must pay taxes while others do not. He states that the 5 properties he is questioning have been totally dropped from the tax tables, resulting in a loss of Township property tax revenue.

Wantage Fire Chief Larry Bono briefly mentioned that Wantage and Unionville Fire Department have mutual aid agreements. He then introduced Unionville (New York) Fire Chief Jason Dunn.

Chief Jason Dunn gave the names of other Unionville Fire Department officers and provided a breakdown of the number and types of calls that are responded to by the Unionville Fire Department. He added that Unionville Fire Department is looking for a new rescue truck.

Mike Clark, representing Sussex Fire Department, thanked the Township of Wantage for posting their recent fundraising events on the front board. He adds that the St. Baldricks event raised \$36,000 for research, and the Blood Drive held at Sussex Methodist Church brought out 97 people seeking to donate blood, and resulted in 87 pints of blood.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Morris.

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

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Christine M. Von Oesen  
Assistant Municipal Clerk