

MINUTES OF 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 APRIL 30, 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, Committeeman Jon Morris. Absent: None. Also present were CFO Michelle LaStarza, Attorney Glenn Kienz, and Deputy Clerk Christine Von Oesen.

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.

Mayor Gaechter called upon CFO Michelle LaStarza, who explained the 2015 Budget, up for adoption.

Having heard the explanation of the 2015 Budget, Mayor Gaechter opened the floor for public comment, and hearing none, closed same.

Ms. LaStarza requested a resolution for the Self-Exam Budget Resolution for 2015 and for the Adoption of the 2015 Municipal Budget.

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion for the Self-Exam Budget Resolution for 2015. Motion by Mr. Bassani, Second by Mr. Morris, as follows:

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE RESOLUTION - BUDGET SELF EXAM

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibilities normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and
WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5 the Township of Wantage has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2015 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Wantage that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

- 1 That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
- 2 That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A-4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met (Complies with the "CAP" law)
- 3 That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
- 4 That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated,
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
- 5 The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
- 6 That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

Upon Roll Call:

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

PAGE TWO OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2015

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion for the adoption of the 2015 Municipal Budget.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Reports:

Municipal Clerk Report for March 2105

Land Use Board Report for March 2015

Zoning/Property Maintenance Report for March 2015

Registrar Report for March 2015

Tax Collector Report for March 2015

Board of Health Report for March 2015

Resolutions:

1. Payment of Bills for the meeting of April 30, 2015.
2. Authorizing the refund of tax sale redemptions and premiums as follows, per the recommendation of the Tax Collector:
 - \$ 8,117.77 to US Bank for Block 21.01, Lot 4, for tax sale certificate #13-21.
 - \$ 7,643.09 to US Bank for Block 21, Lot 34.22, for tax sale certificate #13-15.
 - \$ 7,852.87 to US Bank for Block 21, Lot 34.25, for tax sale certificate #13-16.
 - \$ 7,932.10 to US Bank for Block 21, Lot 34.26, for tax sale certificate #13-17.
 - \$ 7,912.30 to US Bank for Block 21.01, Lot 1, for tax sale certificate #13-18.
 - \$ 7,761.43 to US Bank for Block 21.02, Lot 2, for tax sale certificate #13-19.
 - \$ 7,702.02 to US Bank for Block 21.01, Lot 3, for tax sale certificate #13-20.
 - \$56,339.67 to US Bank for Block 21, Lot 7, for tax sale certificate #13-09.
 - \$59,000.00 to US Bank for Block 21, Lot 7, for tax sale premium.
 - \$ 538.86 to Maria Palumbo for Block 16, Lot 5.01Q0070 for tax sale cert. #13-06.
 - \$ 480.94 to Maria Palumbo for Block 15, Lot 5.02Q0070 for tax sale cert. #12-07.
 - \$ 449.28 to Maria Palumbo for Block 16, Lot 5.03Q0070 for tax sale cert. #12-08.
 - \$ 666.74 to Maria Palumbo for Block 16, Lot 5.04Q0070 for tax sale cert. #13-07.
 - \$ 248.97 to Bali Management, LLC for Block 16, Lot 5.04Q0070 for tax sale cert. #12-09.
 - \$ 196.46 to Maria Palumbo for Block 17, Lot 38.01 for tax sale certificate #13-08.
 - \$ 343.60 to Maria Palumbo for Block 17, Lot 38.02 for tax sale certificate #12-11.
 - \$ 1,030.70 to Maria Palumbo for Block 17, Lot 38.03 for tax sale certificate #12-12.
 - \$80,484.03 to Lien Times, LLC for Block 41, Lot 1.02 for tax sale cert. #11-22.
 - \$10,500.00 to Lien Times, LLC for Block 41, Lot 1.02, for tax sale premium.
 - \$ 9,961.64 to US Bank for Block 14, Lot 21.01, for tax sale certificate #04-14.
 - \$13,000.00 to US Bank for Block 14, Lot 21.01 for tax sale premium.
 - \$11,931.64 to US Bank for Block 19, Lot 3, for tax sale certificate #07-14.
 - \$11,700.00 to US Bank for Block 19, Lot 3, for tax sale premium.
3. Authorizing the refund of tax overpayment per the recommendation of the Tax Collector, in the amount of \$1,637.87 to Wells Fargo Real Estate Service, Block 120 Lot 7.03.
4. Authorizing the refund of money for completed escrow deposit, as per recommendation of Township Engineer, as follows:
 - \$ 1,000.00 to Tennessee Gas Pipeline for E-12-04.
 - \$10,347.33 plus April Interest to Tennessee Gas Pipeline for E-12-05.
5. Authorizing the Mayor to sign the Master Intergovernmental Cooperative Purchasing Agreement.
6. Awarding contract for Bulky Waste Collection Program 2015 to Blue Diamond Disposal of Succasunna, NJ in the amount of \$296 per ton.
7. Expressing support for Farmland Preservation program and giving final approval of the following application to be submitted to the State Agriculture Board for county reimbursement consideration when state funding for farmland preservation is available: Scott Paladino, The Olde Clove Farm, Block 140, Lot 11.01 (+/- 45.06 acres) and Block 33, Lot 22 (+/- 3.72 acres).
8. Approving 2015 Kennel License for The Doggie Chalet, 23 Gemmer Road.
9. Endorsing and approving Colesville Fire Department request to conduct Coin Toss Fundraiser on various dates.

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

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

Mayor Gaechter offered the following Proclamation:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the maltreatment, abuse and neglect of children is a significant social problem that damages children physically, mentally and emotionally and inflicts immeasurable harm on society as a whole and all children deserve to be nurtured, protected and free from physical or emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey and the Department of Children and Families believe that the best place to raise children is among strong, healthy families; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is committed to building a continuum of community-based child abuse prevention and intervention programs that are culturally competent, strength-based and family-centered and that achieve positive outcomes for parenting and family relationships, as well as empower domestic violence victims and their children; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families embraces the Standards for Prevention Programs developed by the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect; and

WHEREAS, all sectors of the community, including law enforcement, medical professionals, schools, courts and media outlets, as well as numerous public and private agencies, have joined forces to promote public awareness and community involvement in strengthening families during the month of April and continuing throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, ON BEHALF OF THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP GOVERNING BODY, I, WILLIAM GAECHTER, MAYOR OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, do hereby proclaim April 2015 as *Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month* and urge our residents to become involved in efforts aimed at strengthening families and communities and preventing our children from being abused and neglected.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Von Oesen offered the Administrator's Report on behalf of Mr. Doherty:

Mr. Doherty recommends that a decision should be made regarding use regulations for Lake Neepaulin. Mr. Bassani feels that a decision could be made to at least allow boating and fishing, at one's own risk, in time for the fishing season, and that the decision to either allow or not allow swimming could be made at a later date. Attorney Kienz suggested the governing body might wish to consider implementing complete regulations concerning fishing, boating and swimming. After general discussion, this issue was Tabled until next meeting.

Mr. Doherty has brought to the attention of the governing body concerns expressed by Mr. Jeff Hull regarding his report of debris accumulating at the township drain located at his 59 Crigger Road property. Mayor Gaechter expressed a desire to visit on site with DPW Supervisor Bob Wagner prior to giving consideration to this matter.

Mr. Doherty reports that sufficient signatures from property owners exist to proceed with cost investigation into improvements to Lake Windsor roads through a special assessment. Mayor Gaechter requested that documentation of property owner agreement be confirmed prior to contacting Township Engineer Harold Pellow.

Mr. Doherty requested the governing body enter into Executive Session to review status of negotiations with employee unions.

Mr. Doherty reported that Mr. Paul Derin has a concern regarding private citizens using his private property as a memorial for a deceased individual. This matter was Tabled for further review and consideration.

Mr. Doherty offered his recommendations for release of Executive Session minutes from 2012-2014, and requested that action be taken. Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

PAGE FOUR OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2015

ATTORNEY’S REPORT: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MR. BASSANI: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MR. MORRIS:

Mr. Morris reported the FEMA grant for the Colesville Fire Department generator has been approved and an agreement is being processed.

Regarding the purchase of a new Fire Truck, the Truck Committee is in agreement that the process has to start over either through Sussex and Wantage Fire Departments together, or the National Co-op.

Mr. Morris attended the April 9, 2015 bridge replacement meeting regarding anticipated bridge work on Route 23 near the Double S Diner. The DOT has predicted a 2 year span of work on this bridge due to DEP environmental concerns. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin in spring of 2016.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MAYOR GAECHTER:

Mayor Gaechter offered the following Proclamation, at the request of the Sussex Womans Club:

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, mental health is defined as emotional and psychological well-being, which allows individuals to work, enjoy satisfying relationships and participate fully in their communities; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25 percent of people experience a diagnosable mental health condition in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, mental illness accounts for four of the top ten leading causes of disability; and

WHEREAS, studies show that mental health is a significant component of physical health; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that every dollar invested in evidence-based treatment yields \$2 to \$10 in savings from lost productivity as well as health, criminal justice and other costs; and

WHEREAS, when offered adequate services, wellness and recovery are possible for all who live with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, mental health awareness, prevention and education encourage individuals to seek professional and/or social support; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Affiance on Mental Illness of NJ are working together to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and to advance treatment opportunities for individuals with mental illness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William Gaechter, Mayor of Wantage Township, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2015 to be MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH.

Mayor Gaechter, noting pending Assembly Bill #A4235, “The Transparent Tax Act of 2015,” favors separation in the tax bill for clarity purposes. Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to express support of this proposed legislation.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Gaechter reported that per the Land Use Board, a new Commercial Development is being planned, specifically a new Dunkin Donuts establishment to be built across from the former Dunkin Donuts establishment on Route 23. Additionally, plans for a new ShopRite in Sussex Borough still have a green light for further consideration.

PAGE FIVE OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2015

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Final Adoption of Ordinance 2015-05: ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.

A motion is in order to adopt on Final Reading, Ordinance 2015-05, entitled, "ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015. Mayor Gaechter requested a motion and a second.

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

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting for public comment. There being no one present wishing to address the governing body on this proposed Ordinance, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public and requested a roll call vote.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Final Adoption of Ordinance 2015-04: Multi-Purpose Bond Ordinance

A motion is in order to adopt on Final Reading, Ordinance 2015-04, entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$653,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$620,350 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF." Mayor Gaechter requested a motion and a second.

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

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting for public comment. There being no one present wishing to address the governing body on this proposed Ordinance, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public and requested a roll call vote.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Wantage Tax Assessor, Kristy Lockburner, having held the April 16 Volcanic Hill Road Special Assessment hearing, reported that Volcanic Hill Road residents are pleased with the completed road work. Project costs are provided through a 10 year special assessment applied to the 9 property owners on Volcanic Hill Road. After discussion, the governing body desired an opportunity to give further review to the Assessor's written report, after which the governing body will give consideration to approval of the Assessor's Report at the next meeting.

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township Governing Body held on March 26, 2015.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathy Gorman questioned the Master intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Bassani answered that through this plan, the Township can often get a better price on items, mostly equipment, and that it costs nothing to be a member. Mr. Bassani explained that the Cooperative worked similar to the Morris County Co-op Plan. Mr. Morris further explained that the Master Purchasing option is similar to National Houston Galveston Co-op purchasing for a fire truck.

PAGE SIX OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2015

Referencing an earlier discussion among the members of the governing body, Ms. Gorman asked what is meant by saying the “town is not obligated to enforce its own ordinances.” Attorney Kienz explained that, much like the State Police cannot arbitrarily pull over red cars versus blue cars, or, has some leeway such as either stopping or not stopping a vehicle traveling 38 mph in a 35 mph zone, neither is the Township obligated to enforce its own ordinances.

Ann Smulewicz announced that Rudy Solar had passed away. Mr. Solar, she added, had served on the Open Space Committee. She feels that Mr. Solar’s memory is due public recognition. Mayor Gaechter agreed and noted, with appreciation, Mr. Solar’s years of valuable service.

Ms. Smulewicz expressed her belief that the Lake Neepaulin issue has been a scam since the beginning, costing 1.2 million dollars. She added her belief that swimming should not be allowed at Lake Neepaulin. She expressed a belief that too much money has been wasted on Lake Neepaulin, and she does not like having to pay for it, and further feels that Lake Neepaulin costs should be minimized.

Jackie Espinoza, of New Jersey Power and Light, advised that new transmission lines are being raised in Morris County, and will benefit 20 towns in Sussex County, including Wantage. These new lines are being raised in an effort to provide grid stability. PJM (Pennsylvania–Jersey–Maryland) oversees the grid and recommended the new power line work.

Bill DeBoer, in response to Ms. Smulewicz’ opinion that the Lake Neepaulin issue was a scam, stated his position that the Lake Neepaulin issue was never a scam and that the Township did what was right. He added that had the Township followed Ms. Smulewicz’ thinking, Lake Neepaulin would now be a mud hole surrounded by empty houses, and the Township would be dealing with numerous tax appeals. Mr. DeBoer expressed a belief that swimming, boating and fishing should be allowed at Lake Neepaulin.

A longtime member of the Wantage First Aid Squad, Mr. DeBoer stated that because St. Clare’s Sussex is virtually closed, the squad must often drive to Newton. He is pleased to announce that the squad will soon acquire an automatic CPR machine which will provide the mechanics that are otherwise very difficult for a caregiver to perform over the miles between a Wantage pick up and Newton Memorial Hospital. The price for this equipment, \$15,000, was provided by an anonymous donor.

Ann Smulewicz stated that Sussex Borough Councilwoman Linda Masson is acquiring a new fire truck via a grant, and adds that Wantage should try to do the same.

In response to Ms. Smulewicz’ comment, Mr. Morris offered that both Sussex and Wantage Fire Departments regularly apply for FEMA grants for equipment and other purchases.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to close the meeting to the public and go into executive session to discuss employee negotiations, 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 the collective bargaining units of Wantage Township.

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.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

PAGE SEVEN OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2015

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to end executive session and return to the regular order of business. Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Bassani

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

There being no further proposed action before the governing body for consideration, Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani, Second by Mr. Morris

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Assistant Municipal Clerk