

**MINUTES OF THE 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 JANUARY 14, 2016**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage to order, and requested the proceeded to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Bassani, Committeeman Morris, Gaechter.

The following member was absent: None.

Also present: CFO Michelle La Starza

Mayor Bassani led those present in the Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Bassani 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 to the public, and certified by the Clerk."

New Business:

Prior to the start of the budget meeting, the Governing Body was informed of an emergency repair necessary for the Township Loader. General discussion took place regarding costs associated with the repair as well as the need to rent a loader during the repair process if approved.

Introduction of Ordinance 2016-01

Mr. Morris moved to introduce on first reading ORDINANCE 2016-01, entitled "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$12,000 FOR REPAIRS TO TOWNSHIP LOADER" The final hearing date for this Ordinance shall be January 28, 2016. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call: Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

BUDGET

Department of Public Works

The governing body held discussion with Bob Wagner, DPW Supervisor and John Card, DPW Mechanic. It was agreed by consensus that the costs necessary to rent a loader during repairs will be accomplished by increasing the Vehicle Maintenance line item in the 2016 municipal budget by an amount not to exceed \$5,700.00.

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Card asked for an increase to the paving and oil and stone line item in the 2016 budget, an additional full time laborer, adding Lower Unionville Road Section II to the bond ordinance and their desire to improve Havens & Dunvale Roads as opposed to DeWitt Road if given the option. Mr. Morris suggested putting off replacing the Front End Loader for another year in light of the expense we will be undertaking for the repair. Mr. Card informed the Governing Body that the salt shed roof needs an immediate repair as well as replacement of the roof in the very near future. Mayor Bassani asked John to provide a quote on the replacement rather than extending the project over two years.

Ambulance

The governing body discussed the needs of the First Aid Squad with Mr. Bill DeBoer. Mr. DeBoer requested the budget stay at the \$32,000 level of 2015. The Governing Body thanked Mr. DeBoer for his past willingness to forego ambulance replacements, and his ability to continually keep his request flat. Mr. DeBoer stated that the residents are very good to the First Aid Squad and while they can, they prefer to use their own funds for equipment purchases.

General/Miscellaneous

Mayor Bassani requested that our Open Space Ordinance be updated to include maintenance as well as acquisition.

Mayor Bassani requested that a proclamation be prepared for Nicolas McKenney, First Aid Squad Member for going above and beyond during a recent ambulance call.

General/Miscellaneous - Continued

Mr. Gaechter questioned the increase in payment of Bond Anticipation Notes in the proposed 2016 budget. Ms. La Starza gave a brief description of permanent versus temporary debt. The amount budgeted is what is needed to catch up on years when we did not appropriate the 1/10th for “pay as you go” temporary financing. Mr. Gaechter also questioned the amount of the “Reserve for Uncollected Taxes”. Mr. Gaechter was informed that number is an estimate only and the true number should be available by the February 4, 2016 Budget Meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments.

As there was no one from the public who wished to address the Committee, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public.

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Morris moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting to be adjourned.

Michelle La Starza, Clerk Pro Tem