

**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 FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

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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: Michelle LaStarza, Clerk Pro Tem

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:**

Mr. Gaechter made a motion to approve purchase order 13108 to Bassani Power & Equipment in the amount of \$304.11. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

**BUDGET**

A brief discussion took place regarding the revenue section of the 2016 budget and that based upon the preliminary analysis, the budget (capital section excluded) as presented would result in a flat tax rate. The Governing Body expressed their desire to keep the tax rate flat.

**Municipal Court Judge**

Judge Glen Gavin asked if a small television could be purchased to watch videos presented during municipal court sessions. The Judge also requested an increase for the Municipal Court Administrator.

**Recreation**

Recreation President Greg Williams, Recreation Secretary Arlene DeLaOsa and Vice President Christy Tuper were present to make their request for a \$1,500 increase in the budget line item. They also requested the capital line item for improvements to Lott Road be used for repair to Woodbourne Park instead. Ms. LaStarza will get an additional quote from Harold Pellow for repairs to the crack in the skating rink section.

A brief discussion took place regarding the need for a Lacross field in Woodbourne Park that is not located in such close proximity to the soccer field, an unsafe condition.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Morris moved to enter into closed 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 matters involving personnel matters related to the Zoning Official.

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. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

After meeting in closed session, Mr. Gaechter moved to return to open session and continue with the regular order of business. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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Fire Department

Larry Bono, Justin Vander Groef, and Alex Rubin were present for the Wantage Fire Departments. Jake Little and Andy Boutillette were present for the Sussex Fire Department. Mr. Bono reviewed his capital budget requests for the Wantage Fire Department and Jake Little requested \$15,000 for equipment and air packs and bottles.

Mayor Bassani requested that the fire departments provide financial information to get a better picture of how they finance their operations.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

As there was no one from the public present, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public.

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

Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting to be adjourned.

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Michelle La AStarza, Clerk Pro Tem