

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 888 STATE ROUTE 23, WANTAGE,  
NJ, HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON  
FEBRUARY 8, 2017**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order, and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Jonathan Morris, and Committeeman Ronald Bassani. Also, present: Administrator/Acting Clerk Debra Millikin and Michelle LaStarza Chief Financial Officer. Committeeman Gaechter was excused.

Mayor Morris stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Morris invited all those in attendance to join in the Salute of the Flag.

**BUDGET 2017**

Mayor Morris stated the Committee is here to discuss the 2017 Budget. Mayor Morris asked Mr. Wagner to speak about his request.

Mr. Wagner stated his request is for Sally Hardin, Neilson, & Mt Salem for oils and stone and request for a part-timer year-round. The total road mileage is about 10.6 miles. Mayor Morris questioned if the part-time labor would be a driver or labor? Mr. Wagner stated laborer. Mayor Morris questioned year-round or seasonal. Mr. Wagner stated year-round. Mr. Bassani questioned the hourly rate. Mrs. Millikin stated \$15.00. Mr. Bassani questioned Quarry Road. Mr. Wagner stated it was over \$180,000 to reclaim the roadway. This would have wiped out the oil and stone budget. Mayor Morris questioned about doing a section of the roadway. Mr. Wagner stated he could do a section for next year. Mr. Wagner's list for next year are Meadow, Glenn, Hickory, 3 sides of Quarry, Judge Beech, Courtright, Old 284, and Moore for oil and stone. Mr. Wagner said he would include the reclaiming of a section of Quarry. Mayor Morris questioned have you heard of any other municipalities doing this. Mr. Pellow indicated it normally is paved after reclaiming. Mayor Morris questions about milling and paving. Mr. Pellow stated the cost would be more than the \$180,000. Mr. Wagner indicated he would try the reclamation of Quarry Road from Compton Road and do a portion. Mr. Wagner also discussed the single axle truck with a wing. The truck would be a mack truck and replace old number 7. Mrs. Millikin indicated the amount of the proposed truck is \$192,245.00. Mrs. Millikin stated also placed in the capital was refurbishment of the truck #10. Mrs. Millikin also stated there was a cost for \$15,000 for metal doors on the building. Mayor Morris questioned the building with the sliding doors. Mr. Wagner yes. Mrs. Millikin stated she suggested removing the HVAC for the building and getting better cost for next year. Mayor Morris questioned about reaching out for quotes. Mr. Wagner stated that the thermostats were not working and Willco serviced them and got them working. Mayor Morris stated that we would hold off on the Loader till next year. Mayor Morris questioned the sidewalk and Ms. LaStarza stated money was in place already to take care of the walkway.

Mr. Bassani questioned placing somebody on park staff to help with the lawn and maintenance of the fields. Mayor Morris is concerned about the cost for volunteers doing the lining of the fields. Mayor Morris stated also maybe helping through Clean Communities money. Mr. Wagner stated that would work well for the Department of Public Works. Mr. Bassani indicated something he is considering.

Mr. Pellow presented the capital projects. Mr. Pellow completed a 5-year capital plan. Mr. Pellow indicated he rides over the roads and works with Mr. Wagner on the list. The proposed improvements are completion of Havens Road, Southfield Drive, Northfield Drive, Lower Unionville, and Ryan Road. Mrs. Millikin also indicated that the Township applied for Newman Road through the NJDOT Trust Fund. Mr. Pellow stated since 2010 the Township has received \$817,500.00. Mr. Bassani questioned do we want to do Lower Unionville Road and drop \$300,000 on this project. He is not convinced it is seeing the traffic. Mr. Pellow stated he also has in 2018 Morgan Drive, Marc Drive, and Eastfield Drive. Mayor Morris stated it is more prudent to do those other roads and hold off on Lower Unionville Road. The three roads would be almost the same price for Lower Unionville Road. Mr. Pellow stated these three roads are not in good shape. Mr. Wagner stated they just started complaining about the roads in the subdivision. Mayor Morris questioned how many more section of Lower Unionville Road were still needed. Mr. Pellow stated at least three more sections and there are some narrow bridges on that road. Mr. Wagner stated this would be fine with him. Mayor Morris stated will add Morgan Drive, Marc Drive, and Eastfield Drive would take the total to \$837,500.00. Mrs. Millikin brought up the dam reports regarding Lake Neepaulin. Mr. Pellow showed the Committeemen dam reports he has done in Newton. The 1<sup>st</sup> year is the most expensive. This is required for dam safety. This is the reason for the \$3,500 per year and then the books will be kept in Wantage.

Mayor Morris next invited Mr. DeBoer to discuss the First Aid Squad request. Mr. DeBoer stated last year's donations/fundraisers were \$56,689.44 for 2016. Mr. Bassani questioned if the First Aid Squad bills the insurance company. Mr. DeBoer stated no because it would be third party billing. Mr. DeBoer stated the expenditures are \$60,333.63. The donations include the Townships contribution and County contribution. Expenditures are for supplies, oxygen, building expenses, gas, water and sewer, electric, and maitnenace on the rigs. Also for the maintenance of the rigs with tires. Cost for fuel is \$3,357. Now that the squad is going to Newton more cost for fuel. Mrs. Millikin advised that the stipend is \$32,000. Mayor Morris indicated with the new situation regarding Atlantic coming in for second call it provides a solid back-up. Discussion ensued on the new arrangement for First Aid Squad coverage. The Committee thanked Mr. DeBoer for his time.

Mayor Morris moved to the Wantage Fire Department and Sussex Fire Department. Chief Vander Groef, Deputy Chief Rubin, and Deputy Chief Snook from Wantage Township were present. Mr. Vander Groef thanked the Committee for their time. First item was the operating expense budget regarding the Chief budget. Recommending moving the money for the fit testing to the PEOSHA budget. The department is requesting a \$2,000 increase. O&E for Chief will go back to \$26,000. Mr. Vander Groef indicated that the request for the \$2,000 increase in PEOSHA is based on the mandates for testing. Flow testing of SCBA packs \$1,500, hydro's for bottles every 5 years \$600, fit testing \$1,500 per company, gas meters (4 on each side of town) have to quarterly calibrated \$600, air

system in Colesville and air test every quarter along with maintenance \$1,500. Total cost associated with these items for PEOSHA \$4,200 per company and leaves no ability to purchase more. Hose replacement has been a capital line item of \$5,000 been a benefit to the department. The money does continue to build each year. Allows the department to stay up to date with the hose replacement process. Fuel allotment is a debit card account. Colesville is purchasing fuel and now Beemerville will be purchasing effect February 1<sup>st</sup> from the Township. Sussex Fire Department wants to continue to purchase fuel from the Township for their truck.

Mr. Vander Groef stated the stipend at \$45,000 per company has been this way for many years. The state has raised the CAP. The Department has provided copies of expenses for both companies. Mrs. Millikin stated she was placing \$2,500 per company into the stipend, but based on preparing the budget she cut that out per each department and left the amount to remain \$90,000. Mr. Vander Groef stated it would help with the expenses for both departments. If require more information, please let Mrs. Millikin know and we will get the information.

Harry Compten & Kate Suther were present for Sussex Fire Department Inc. Requesting the same as last year for the stipend. Requesting an additional \$10,000 for fire equipment and would utilize for radios to communicate on the high band radios. Mr. Bassani questioned if we provided the \$10,000 last year. It was confirmed that the capital money was provided last year due to the new truck purchase. Mr. Compten stated they are removing old 602 out of service and utilizing a lot of that equipment for the new truck.

Mr. Bassani questioned what do the radios involve. This is the capital request of \$40,000 for Shale Hill. Currently working on low band and this is phasing out and moving to high band. The Township is 2 out of the six left on low band. The low band does have issues for the department specifically at High Point High School. Mr. Vander Groef stated they found Shale Hill and the cost would require rehabbing the structure, plus a yearly lease. There are some unknowns with this project. Building will need to be rehabilitated which requires electric of \$17,600. There would be a required lease for the site to be utilized yearly. Tower and radio equipment is \$12,600. Mr. Snook provided a map showing the coverage based on 20 watts. The other map shows the ability of coverage from Shale Hill. Discussion ensued on the maps provided by Mr. Snook. Mr. Vander Groef stated they have looked at some other sites, but not very successful on locating on other sites. Discussion ensued on this topic. There is also the ability to apply for a joint grant for Wantage and Sussex. Mrs. Millikin questioned the cost to upgrade in Vernon. Mr. Vander Groef stated \$3,800. Mrs. Millikin stated the numbers are very rough and would it make sense to negotiate with service electric on a lease number and allow the department to get more information and put this project off till 2018. Mr. Vander Groef agrees, however, concerned pushing off to 2018 due to the FCC License. Mayor Morris said they are good for a year, however, can be extended. Mr. Snook indicated the cost is \$500.00. If the department waits till 2018 then the FCC would not be filed until after money is established. Mayor Morris questioned the ability to get on the Lake Panarama tower. Mr. Snook stated there is a potential issue because of the agreements. Discussion ensued. Mayor Morris suggested looking into the project a bit more, he fully supports the program, but need the department to do more research.

Mrs. Millikin stated another capital request is a boat for ice rescue. She stated this has been pushed out to 2018. Mayor Morris questioned it was his understanding there is a raft in Colesville that can be utilized. Mr. Rubin stated yes and it can be utilized for rescue. Mr. Vander Groef indicated there have been zero boat rescues. The Committee thanked the Wantage Fire Department and Sussex Fire Department Inc. for coming tonight.

Mayor Morris welcomed the Recreation Commission to the meeting. Representing the Commission were Mr. Greg Williams, Ms. Christy Tuper, and Mrs. Arlene De la Osa. Mr. Williams went over the operating and expenses and said everything is staying within budget. Mr. Williams stated the biggest capital is the fence between soccer and football for safety, gates for the walkways in order to eliminate boulders on the park. Ms. Tuper recommended keeping money aside to help maintain the paths. Mrs. Millikin indicated she did get the cost for the resting of fields #5 & #6 at a cost of \$25,000, however, the issue is watering the fields. Mrs. Millikin is looking into an irrigation system and that problem is to rest the fields this year might not be feasible. She did reach out to Farmside about doing work on the fields to help take care of areas in the field. Mr. Williams stated that soccer's issue are the depressions in the field. Mr. Williams concern was electric for the irrigation system. Mayor Morris questioned what about filling in the depressions and then utilize the High Point fields for utilization of games. Discussion ensued regarding the utilization of the fields if they are rested regarding practice and games. Mayor Morris questioned would football allow us to use the back field in the spring. Mr. Williams said between the soccer fields, football field, practice football field and Lawrence school there is enough to rest the fields. Worth doing the project, however, would rather see the fences being done and the gates.

Memorial for Jim will be a bit cheaper and currently waiting for a cost on this for the Committee. Ms. Tuper questioned about the lights for the tree. Mr. Williams said the lights are in need of replacement for the Christmas Tree. Mr. Williams said he would like to approach the Sussex Fire Department to remove the lights on a yearly basis. Discussion ensued on the lights for the tree. The Committee thanked the representatives from the Recreation Committee for their time.

Mrs. Millikin stated that amended the capital budget and feels the fields should be done correctly. Shale Hill and the truck refurb moved to 2018. Mrs. Millikin explained she added in \$25,000 for the field and roughly \$75,000 for the irrigation into the budget. The change would make the capital budget at \$1,124,745. I did not include the \$10,000 request from Sussex. Discussion ensued on the budget numbers for capital. Mayor Morris felt the radios can be held off at this point. Mayor Morris questioned if the DPW can wait on the refurbishment of the truck. Mrs. Millikin stated yes. Mr. Bassani stated you look at the budget and give the Committee the prioritizes. Mrs. Millikin indicated the RUT (reserve for uncollected taxes) is the reason for the increase and out of the Township's control.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

Mayor Morris asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Morris

Ayes: Bassani & Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk