

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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 7 P.M. ON
March 23, 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, Committeeman Ronald Bassani, and Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: Administrator/Acting Clerk Debra Millikin and Glenn Kienz, Township Attorney.

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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items: Monthly Reports for February 2017 Board of Health, Clerks Report, Dog Report, Housing Report, Land Use Report, Property Registration Report, Registrar Report, Tax Collector's Report, Zoning Report, and Resolution 46-2017 through Resolution 48-2017. Motion made by Mr. Bassani, and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #46-2017

RESOLUTION APPROVING KENNEL LICNSE FOR THE DOGGIE CHALET

WHEREAS, under section 5-3 of the revised general ordinance book of Wantage Township allows for kennels to be licensed; and

WHEREAS, The Doggie Chalet, located at 23 Gemmer Road, Wantage known, as Block 142, Lot 2.02 and are reapplying for a kennel license for 2017;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex that it hereby approves the kennel license for 2017 to The Doggie Chalet for Block 142, Lot 2.02.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #47-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF COAH PAYMENT

WHEREAS, The Department of Veteran Affairs determined that Vincent Ricciardi at 56 Armstrong Rd, Block 133 Lot 9.02 had a service connected disability that was totally disabling effective March 3, 1998,

WHEREAS, the Township collected \$500 in COAH fees in 2015, which is contrary to our Township Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Refund \$500.00 to Vincent Ricciardi, Block 133 Lot 9.02 for COAH Fee.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #48-2017

RESOLUTION APPROVING BILLS AND VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage in the County of Sussex that payment is hereby approved for all vouchers that have been properly authenticated and presented for payment, representing expenditures for which appropriations were duly made in 2016 and 2017 Budgets adopted by this local Governing Body, including any emergency appropriations, and where unexpended balances exist in said appropriation accounts for the payment of such vouchers.

Mayor Morris moved the agenda around to allow Dr. Scott Ripley, Superintendent of High Point Regional High School to make a presentation to the Township Committee. Dr. Ripley thanked the Committee for allowing him to make the presentation regarding the proposed budget for High Point Regional High School. Present with Dr. Ripley from High Point Regional High School were: Mr. Seamus Campbell, Mr. Kyle Vealey, and Mr. James Minkewicz. High Point is fully committed to this community and important to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and providing a world class education. SAT scores are rising and average graduation rate is hovering at 95%. Dr. Ripley has been a resident of Wantage Township for over 20 years. Last Thursday there was a tentative budget presentation to the Board. The tax levy for fiscal 2018 will be reduced by \$1,045,200 or a 6.8% reduction which will be \$14,356,618. In the high school there was the reduction of 18 positions to help reduce the tax levy by a \$1,000,000. Operating budget will be reduced by \$1,276,320 or a percentage decrease of 5.38% or will now be \$22,454,130. High Point Regional High School's portion of the tax bill will be reduced. Dr. Ripley introduced Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell stated he would like to invite the Committee to the Stem program on March 30th. Also the following weekend is the school's presentation of 42nd Street Musical and invites the Committee to come and attend the program. Also this Sunday the NJ Herald is running a special section about the 50th Anniversary of High Point Regional High School.

Mr. Campbell then moved into assessments. Proud to say for the 6th consecutive year the SAT scores have continue to improve. The PSAT are offered to all freshman, sophomores, and juniors. AP participation has increased by 100%. Currently have 6

students at Ivy League Colleges. High Point's world class curriculum has been upgraded.

Dr. Ripley stated lastly he would like to speak about pooling resources together whether with the Township or with other school districts. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with the Committee. Mr. Bassani had a couple of questions the percentage went down in 2015 and down again 2016. Are you going out for bonds? Dr. Ripley stated no. Mr. Bassani also questioned about the sending districts shows that Wantage would see an increase of a ½ million dollars, but how does this happen? Dr. Ripley stated it has to do with ratable, and number of students sent from the Township which currently is 50% of the students. Mr. Bassani stated he would like to meet with the school to have a better understanding. Mr. Bassani also questioned drug epidemic and how are you handling this? Dr. Ripley stated that a policy was just passed in February to allow the registered nurse to be able to apply narcan if needed. Dr. Ripley stated it is very important to continue to create relationships with the students and provide support programs. I am not soft peddling the issue of substance abuse in our community. Mr. Campbell advised that Dr. Ripley has added a student center with a student assistance counselor and behaviorist were food and support are provided for at risk students. Mayor Morris commented on the AP program and stated his daughter graduated last year and the AP program was hard, but in college has helped her be a better student. Thank you for coming tonight. Mr. Bassani indicated will not open to the public, however, you can attend the budget meeting on Tuesday, April 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria annex.

REPORTS

Clerk – Mrs. Millikin advised that she was not aware of the bill list being posted on the website. She will make sure it is posted from now on.

Administrator – Mrs. Millikin stated at the last meeting Committeeman Bassani requested an update regarding the flag poles. I received a price of \$690.00 per pole for a 20' pole that is 3 ½" diameter at the top and tapers down to 2 ½" roughly \$1,500 for this cost. The Department of Public Works will complete the work for the Township and will have to pour footings so I am encumbering money of about \$5,000 to make sure there is enough money to complete the work. The DPW will complete in the fall and the project will be completed by Veterans Day (November 11th).

I received a request from the Colesville Volunteer Fire Company to conduct a charitable solicitation on Route 23 and Smith Road in Wantage from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. I have a copy of the resolution here for the Committee to review. The dates are: Friday, May 26th, Saturday, May 27th, Sunday, May 28th, Monday, May 29th, Friday, June 30th, Saturday, July 1st, Sunday, July 2nd, Monday, July 3rd, Tuesday, July 4th, Friday, September 1st, Saturday, September 2nd, Sunday, September 3rd, and Monday, September 4th.

Motion made by Mr. Bassani, and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mrs. Millikin advised that a meeting was held last week with the County Engineering Department regarding the County Bridge X-09 on 565. This project is a realignment and

reconstruction project. The County advised the project will be bid in July and awarded in August/September. Work will begin in the fall. The county will be opening an information center at the County Library location in Wantage next month sometime. The project will take about a year and will involve the entire shut down of this section of roadway.

An e-mail was received this morning inviting the Township to attend the pre-construction meeting for the Route 23 bridge project next Thursday, March 30th at 10:00 a.m. I will attend this meeting to represent Wantage.

Attorney Report – Mr. Kienz advised working a lot with Mrs. Millikin now that there is a full-time replacement. He has been speaking with Mr. Bassani on the Shoprite project and the Mayor on some matters.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Morris indicated the Township is struggling with meeting with NJDEP and the issuance of permits without taking into account local ordinance. Mrs. Millikin has been able to establish a meeting with Senator Oroho and Assemblyman Space regarding the issues related to NJDEP and meeting with them to help assist with some relief.

Mayor Morris advised that the Township has received a donation of a Pavilion for Woodbourne Park from an anonymous donor. As more is made available this will be made public. The project will be completed late summer early fall.

Mayor Morris also advised that Mrs. Millikin and I had a meeting with High Point Regional High School regarding the potential of shared services for maintenance of the park.

Mayor Morris indicated the Wantage First Aid Squad is continuing to make progress on obtaining new members and calls. Atlantic Ambulance is still back up and will continue to be for the near future.

Mayor Morris wanted to thank the Department of Public Works for their tireless effort for cleaning up the roads from the last storm. The town hall received numerous calls after the storm. Mayor Morris indicated he drove through Lake Neepaulin, and Northfield Estates and said people needed to be patient. People in Northfield Estate were clearing their driveways into the roadway and he had to weave around the snow banks. In Lake Neepaulin people are parked on the roadway and it was a like a pinball machine. The Township has an ordinance that does not allow parking on the roadways between November 15th to April 15th overnight. I want to thank the guys for their hard work and ask the public to take a deep breath and relax it was a big storm.

Mayor Morris had a couple reminders Sussex-Wantage School Strategic Plan Meeting for April 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School. There is a spaghetti dinner Saturday, March 25, 2017 at 4 pm to 8 pm to assist Jim Moran who had a house fire and will be at the Colesville Fire House. Reminder that the Beemerville Installment Dinner is April 1st and the Sussex Fire Department Installment Dinner is April 8th. Finally, for those wondering why my head is shaved I participated in St. Baldrick's event and believes the total amount raised was \$40,000 towards childhood cancer. As Dr. Ripley stated the High Point Regional School Budget meeting is April 25th at 7:00 p.m.

Committeeman Gaechter - None

Committeeman Bassani – Mr. Bassani provided a quick update on Open Space regarding the potential purchase of property. Mrs. Millikin and I have a meeting with the County of Sussex regarding open space as well.

Mrs. Millikin advised she had one more item for her administrator report. Recreation Committee had a meeting last night and a Boy Scout by the name of Chris Dely of troop pack 153 would like to do an Eagle Scout project to revitalize the basketball court at Lake Neepaulin beach area. The project would include two basketball poles, backboards, nets and repainting the lines of the court. The completion date would be June 2017. The estimated cost is one thousand dollars and Mr. Dely will be looking for donations. The Recreation Commission is in support of this project and requested the Committee approval for same. The Committee had no issues with the project. Mrs. Millikin indicated she would advise the Recreation Commission to provide Mr. Dely with the approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution 41-2017 Authorizing Participation by the Township of Wantage in the North Jersey Health Insurance Fund Employee Wellness Program.

Mr. Gaechter questioned if the Committee was ready to take action on the resolution. Mayor Morris advised that this was tabled from the last meeting. Mayor Morris indicated he felt it is a good program and a two-year commitment from the Township. Healthy employees make better employees. Mr. Bassani questioned the cost is \$250.00 per employee? Mrs. Millikin stated the 2nd year only, the HIF is responsible for the cost and must pass all milestones in the first year if not the employee cannot participate in year two and must reimburse the HIF for the fit bit. Mrs. Millikin indicated there are specific milestones: a physical, biometric screening, participating in the Wantage Day 5K, and step challenges. Mayor Morris indicated the money would come out of the reimbursement from the HIF that the Township receives yearly.

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Gaechter commented on the program and was not a big fan of the program and not sure we will get our money out of this program and would yield to the Mayor and Mrs. Millikin on this matter and seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call:

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

NEW BUSINESS

2nd Reading & Public Hearing

A Motion is in order to adopt on final reading Ordinance #2017-5 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2017

- i. Opening Hearing to the Public
- ii. Close Hearing to the Public
- iii. Act on Ordinance

Mr. Bassani made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Open Public Mr. Gettler indicated normally a copy of the ordinance is attached to the agenda. Mrs. Millikin indicated she would provide Mr. Gettler a copy of the ordinance.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ORDINANCE # 2017-5

ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE,
COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2017

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex,
State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-165, the Township of Wantage shall pay its
municipal officers and employees for services rendered as shown below. Figures shown represent
annual salary, unless otherwise indicated.

DEPARTMENT & POSITION

Township Committee Ronald Bassani	6,000	Annual
Township Committee William Gaechter	6,000	Annual
Township Committee Jonathan Morris	6,000	Annual
Administrator Debra Millikin	71,500	Annual
Acting Clerk Debra Millikin	38,500	Annual
Acting Clerk Debra Millikin (Contractual Increase)	5,000	Annual
Deputy Township Clerk Christine Von Oesen	54,049	Annual
Clerk Typist Administration Nancy Van Horn	27,140	Annual
Chief Finance Officer Michelle LaStarza	71,842	Annual
Michelle LaStarza Shared Service C.F.O. Salary	15,810	Annual
Debra Millikin Shared Service QPA Stipend	250	Annual
Nancy Van Horn Shared Service Finance Stipend	1,000	Annual
Clerk Typist Arlene DeLaOsa	28,800	Annual
Arlene DeLaOsa Shared Service Finance Stipend	250	Annual
IT Technician Melissa Caton	3,121	Annual
Tax Collector/Tax Search Officer Melissa Caton	59,019	Annual
Melissa Caton Shared Service Tax Stipend	3,500	Annual
Clerk Typist Nancy Van Horn Tax Collection	13,981	Annual
Nancy Van Horn Shared Service Tax Stipend	500	Annual
Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner	55,141	Annual
Kristy Lockburner Shared Service Assessor Stipend	2,000	Annual
Clerk Typist Assessment Nicole Dunn	26,960	Annual
Nicole Dunn Share Service Assessor Stipend	500	Annual
Land Use Secretary Jeanne McBride	14,400	Annual
Zoning Officer (Part Time) Patrick Stefanelli	17,629	Annual
Zoning Secretary Jeanne McBride	14,400	Annual
Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Konopinski	4,516	Annual
Joseph Konopinski, EMMA Grant	4,700	Annual
Michelle LaStarza, EMMA Grant	2,350	Annual
Claude Wagner, EMMA Grant	2,350	Annual

Board of Health Secretary Jeanne McBride	7,200	Annual
Registrar of Vital Statistics Christine Von Oesen	4,026	Annual
Recreation Secretary Arlene DeLaOsa	7,200	Annual
Constable John Abate	2,995	Annual
Judge of the Municipal Court Glenn Gavan	37,454	Annual
Court Administrator Tania Ell	52,341	Annual
Violations Clerk/Cashier (Part Time) Lauren McIntosh	12.75	Per Hour
Assistant Violations Clerk (Part Time) Shirley Rumore	11.04	Per Hour
Court Keyboarding Clerk (Part Time) Jo Ann Klippel	10.20	Per Hour
Court Attendant Dennis Negele	5,139	Annual
Dennis Negele Shared Service Court Stipend	1,800	Annual
Court Attendant Amy Heater	3,939	Annual
Amy Heater Shared Service Court Stipend	1,730	Annual
Animal Control Officer, John Abate	22.24	Per Hour
Deputy Animal Control Officer Claude Wagner	3,183	Annual
Deputy Animal Control Officer Amy Heater	1,787	Annual
Poundkeeper (Part Time) Mike Flood	15.13	Per Hour
Poundkeeper (Part Time) Melanie Monastra	15.13	Per Hour
DPW Supervisor Claude Wagner	69,848	Annual
Building Maintenance John Card	2,081	Annual
Assistant DPW Supervisor Mark Little	24.62	Per Hour
Mechanic John Card	23.95	Per Hour
Road Repairer 2 Richard Fairweather	23.81	Per Hour
Heavy Equipment Operator David Stewart	23.46	Per Hour
Laborer Larry Caton	20.29	Per Hour
Laborer Melvyn Sliker	20.29	Per Hour
Custodian Amy Heater	17.92	Per Hour
Laborer Timothy O'Brien	15.48	Per Hour
Laborer Brian Hundley	15.48	Per Hour
Laborer Dana Welch	15.48	Per Hour
Laborer (Part Time) Seasonal John Dennis	15.61	Per Hour
Laborer (Part Time) Seasonal Michael Flood	15.61	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Darrell Caton	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) William Crum	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Chantz DeGroat	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Michael Flood	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Russell Rome	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Jeffrey Krohn	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Kyle Kuperus	18.00	Per Hour

Section 2. All former ordinances or parts thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

Approval of Minutes

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee March 9, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.

A motion made by Mr. Bassani and was seconded by Mayor Morris

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani, Morris

Nays: None Absent: None

Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Gorman brought up Shop Rite. Mr. Bassani stated that this is still progressing and the traffic light is not something the Township is in favor of, however, the Borough does support. Still have not come in front of the Land Use Board at this time. Mrs. Gorman questioned if Shop Rite is purchasing the property? Mr. Bassani indicated he believed it is being leased by Mr. Wiebol. She also questioned Sussex Motor Sports and the parking of vehicles on the property. Mr. Bassani stated it was approved by the Land Use Board. Mr. Kienz stated that they did come in front of the Board and needed site plan approval and received the approval. Mrs. Gorman stated she believed there was a number approved. Mr. Kienz stated yes. Mrs. Gorman's final question is regarding why there is no Economic Development Commission. She feels there needs to be a EDC as oppose to Land Use Board to pull businesses into Town. Mayor Morris indicated the Township will look into this idea.

Mr. Bill DeBoer stated that the Economic Development Committee had lost interest. He recommends Mrs. Gorman head the Committee.

Mr. William Gettler stated he Thanked the DPW for the job they did. He said the DPW did their job and kept the roads open for emergency vehicles. He wants to congratulate High Point on dropping their budget. Reduction this year should have happened last year. This year the number of students went down by another 65 ½ students. On the 10th of February, he dropped information regarding the 9-11 tax. Wantage is contracted for \$55,000 and the \$60,000 number for the County is actually \$75,000. He questioned the Committee if they have contacted the County regarding the taxing and if anything can be done to eliminate this? Mayor Morris stated no. Mr. Gettler questioned if the Open Space tax of \$700,000 is being returned to the residents. Mayor Morris stated this is in a trust fund. Mr. Gettler stated it ceased to exist as of 12/31/2016.

There being no other member of the public wanting to speak Mayor Morris closed the public session.

Mayor Morris asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Gaechter

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk