

**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 7:00 P.M. ON  
JANUARY 25, 2018**

Mayor Gaechter 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 William Gaechter, Deputy Mayor Ronald Bassani, and Committeeman Jonathan Morris. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Debra Millikin and Township Attorney Glenn Kienz.

Mayor Gaechter 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 Gaechter requested a motion to approve Resolution 20-2018 through Resolution 23-2018. Monthly Reports for December 2017 for: Board of Health, Clerk, Housing Report, Property Maintenance, Registrar Report, Tax Collector Report, and Zoning Report.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #20-2018

AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL AND POUND  
SERVICES WITH TOWNSHIP OF ANDOVER FOR 2018

WHEREAS, the Township of Andover desires to enter into a shared service agreement with the Township of Wantage for animal control and pound services for 2018; and

WHEREAS, the annual fee for the calendar year 2018 is \$8,968.00; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Town of Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey that the Mayor and Acting Municipal Clerk are authorized to execute an agreement for animal control and pound services with Township of Andover for the calendar year 2018.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION 21-2018

APPOINT LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, Appendix A:9-41 of the NJ Statutes Annotated, and N.J.A.C. 13:64-2.3 pertaining to Emergency Management, require that every New Jersey municipality create a Local Emergency Management Committee; and

WHEREAS, the individual appointed as the local Emergency Management Coordinator shall also be a member of, and shall serve as Chairman of, said Local Emergency Planning Committee;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage that it hereby concurs with the appointment of the individuals recommended by Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Konopinski for membership on the Township of Wantage Local Emergency Management Committee for calendar year 2018 as listed below:

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency Management Coordinator	Joseph Konopinski	thru 12/31/20
Deputy Coordinator #1	Edward Vander Berg	thru 12/31/18
Deputy Coordinator #2	Thomas Madsen	thru 12/31/18
F.A.S., EMC member	Jeff Post	thru 12/31/18
F.A.S., EMC Alternate	Christopher Little	thru 12/31/18
Damage Assessment	Patrick Stefanelli	thru 12/31/18
Fire Chief, EMC member	Justin Vander Groef	thru 12/31/18
Facilities, EMC Member	Amy Heater	thru 12/31/18
Communications, EMC Member	William Gebhart	thru 12/31/18
DPW Supt., EMC Member	Claude Wagner	thru 12/31/18
Sanitarian, EMC Member	Michael Plaza	thru 12/31/18
Finance/Resource Mgt., EMC Member	Michelle La Starza	thru 12/31/18
Resource Management	Larry Bono	thru 12/31/18
Mayor, EMC Member	William Gaechter	thru 12/31/18
Public Information Officer	Debra Millikin	thru 12/31/18
Media	New Jersey Herald	thru 12/31/18
Evacuation	Leroy Little	thru 12/31/18
Operations, EMC Member	Joseph A. Konopinski	thru 12/31/18

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if any positions become held by different individuals in the 2018 calendar year then said individuals will assume the aforementioned titled responsibilities on the Township of Wantage Local Emergency Management Committee.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #22-2018

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 2017 and 2018 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.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #23-2018

AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR TAX COLLECTION SERVICE WITH ANDOVER BOROUGH

WHEREAS, the Borough of Andover desires to enter into a shared service agreement with the Township of Wantage for Tax Collection Services for 2018; and

WHEREAS, the annual fee for the calendar year 2018 is \$12,670.00; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Town of Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are authorized to execute an agreement for Tax Collection Service with Andover Borough for the calendar year 2018.

**REPORTS**

Clerk/Administrator – Mrs. Millikin introduced Kate McNare from Project Self Sufficiency (PSS) regarding the new program launch of PSS Rover. Ms. McNare stated that PSS received a grant for an RV to allow for mobility for PSS. It will be located in Sussex and will allow for Case Management Services, Computer Training, Info/Referrals to Community Resources, One-on-One Supportive Counseling, Access to Computers for Job Search, Job Training Skills and Job Search Assistance, and Basic Needs – Food, Clothing and Infant items. Grand unveiling will be on March 1, 2018. The Committee thanked Ms. McNare for the information. Mr. Bassani asked Ms. McNare if PSS could be at Wantage Day.

Mrs. Millikin advised that she received a request from Reuben Klin regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gran Fondo Bicycling Event for June 3, 2018. It will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She wanted to confirm no issue with this request. The Committee had no issue. Mr. Morris just

advised that arrangements should be made with the Fire Police for traffic control in Wantage.

Mrs. Millikin advised the ice drill was held by the Fire Department at Lake Neepaulin on Sunday. All went well and no issues.

Mrs. Millikin stated she has a meeting with RER next Tuesday at the Municipal Building to meet with them regarding some issues with soil with Sussex County Soil Conversation.

Mrs. Millikin advised Ficor has completed the guardrail work on Havens Road.

Mrs. Millikin requested the Township Committee advise of dates that would work for the Budget Meetings. The Committee requested that Mrs. Millikin submit some dates for consideration.

Mrs. Millikin's final item is Fire Chief, Justin Vander is here to update the Committee on the SCBA's through the AFG grant. Chief Vander Groef stated that he first wants to recognize Mrs. Gorman who donated the pet oxygen masks. The AFG grant for 2016 the department has taken delivery of the SCBAs last week and in the process of getting everything labeled and inventoried. The training is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup> for training and fit testing will be completed. Currently in the process of completing the 6-month report and closing out this grant. He indicated now working on completing the 2017 AFG grant which is due next Friday. The Department is requesting the replacement of the compressor system. The final item is the high band radio conversion this began when Mr. Morris was Fire Chief. The Department has been under high band radio for the past two months and going really well and thank you for your support. Mr. Morris questioned the fit testing is this being supplied by the company the packs were purchased. Mr. Vander Groef stated yes, however the Beemerville fit test will be done at the same time. Mr. Vander Groef stated he has spoken with Sussex Fire Department and they are aware they are using this vendor. Mrs. Millikin stated that is all she has.

Attorney – Mr. Kienz stated he had an update on Clove Road. Having a problem tracking down the current owners and appear that they are deceased. Family members have been a bit difficult to contact as well. Inspections have been done and beginning the court process. Mr. Butto has been extremely helpful.

Mayor/Committee Report – Mayor Gaechter stated that James Dzeinsonksi is turning 100 tomorrow.

Mr. Bassani has no report.

Mr. Morris stated some may be aware a resident of Wantage on January 12<sup>th</sup> Jeff Ricker, who is a fireman, was delivering for suburban propane and was in Florida, New York when he came upon a house that had smoke coming out of it. He went around the house and found a 92-year-old gentleman who was trapped and broke a window and got him out of the house. He deserves recognition for saving this man's life.

Mr. Morris stated the only other issue is Debi, Glenn and I have been working hard on the pavilion use application and would like to move this forward. Mr. Morris stated he placed a \$50.00 usage fee. This will allow us to reimburse electric or help cover an employee going on site to make sure things are cleaned up. Placing a \$250.00 security deposit that will be refunded has to be done by resolution. Mayor Gaechter stated he was not looking at making money, but feels it helps cover costs. Mayor Gaechter also questioned if this is strictly for Wantage Residents to apply for usage. Mr. Morris stated yes. Mr. Bassani stated he had a question that this pavilion was donated by a Wantage Resident, however, Woodbourne Park was purchased through Green Acres Money can this restriction be placed on the pavilion use? Can this legally be done. Mr. Kienz stated yes because you are requiring a resident to apply for the pavilion use application. Mr. Bassani stated no alcohol great idea. Mr. Bassani questioned the applicant shall supply a port-a-potty for 15 people. Mr. Morris stated this is being changed to 100 people. Discussion ensued and asked Mrs. Millikin to reach out to a port-a-potty company on how many people are serviced by one port-a-potty. Mr. Bassani questioned if drones were eliminated. Mr. Kienz stated this was removed because drones are utilized for weddings. Discussion ensued regarding the liability of a person utilizing the pavilion that they will hold the Township harmless. Mr. Bassani suggested that this also be placed above where they sign as well. Mr. Gaechter questioned the land owner liability act if the Township is charging a fee then this act is out the window. This is why the Township did not charge for boats at Lake Neepaulin. Discussion ensued on this matter. Mrs. Millikin advised that typically the hold harmless is signed and the indemnification. Mayor Gaechter requested Mr. Kienz to research this issue as well.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mayor Gaechter stated that at the reorganization Mr. Bassani was appointed as the Class III member for the Land Use Board. Mr. Bassani has stated his concern not to be on the Board so Mayor Gaechter stated he would like to appoint Mr. Morris to the Land Use Board as the Class III member till 12/31/2018.

Mayor Gaechter made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Bassani.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Gaechter stated that unfortunately two appointees of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee have turned down their appointments. Christine Keller and Karen Merritt do not wish to continue on the Committee. I want to thank them for their service.

Mayor Gaechter stated after reviewing the Citizen Leadership Forms there is one person interested in the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee. I would like to appointment Mrs. Kathy Gorman to an appointment to 12/31/2019 to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call:

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

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion is in order to withdraw ORDINANCE #2018-01 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 2011-02 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, ABOLISHING THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX AND THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AND ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL COURT FO THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX, THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AND THE BORUOUGH OF BRANCHVILLE. A motion is in order to introduce on first reading ORDINANCE #2018-02 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL ORDINANCE 2011-02 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, ABOLISHING THE MUNICIPA COURT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX AND THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AND ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX, THE TOWNSHIP OF STILLWATER AND THE BOROUGH OF BRANCHVILLE.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Gaechter stated this is simply adding Branchville Borough to the Court and some legal language needed to be added. The Township is happy to have Branchville Borough joining the Township Court.

Mr. Bassani questioned before going off of new business he is concerned with this report from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee regarding Wantage Day. Wantage Day is a huge event and the Recreation Committee decided not to have Wantage Day for 2018. Mayor Gaechter stated you have an older version that he spoke with Mrs. Millikin and there was no vote taken so this has been changed to discussion. Mr. Bassani if this comes up again we want Wantage Day to go forward.

Mayor Gaechter read the Meeting Updates from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee from January 24, 2018. Mayor Gaechter stated that due to the new ordinance all the positions were up and all appointments were done by this Committee and no one was removed and some of the members took offense to who was an alternate and who was not and lead to the issue with Wantage Day. He stated the priority is to have a full Recreation Membership. This is why the appointment was just done to make the Committee full and hope to have two more appointments for the alternate positions within the next couple of meetings.

Mayor Gaechter stated that the Recreation Committee is in agreement to have the pavilion dedication at the Easter Egg Hunt Event. The date set for the event is Sunday, March 25, with a rain date of Saturday, March 31, at Woodbourne Park starting at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Gaechter also advised that the dedication of the Jim Doherty Memorial will be on opening day of baseball/softball on Saturday, April 14, at Woodbourne Park baseball field #4.

Mayor Gaechter also thanked Dan VanderBerg , the President of the Sussex Kiwanis Club, who made a donation to the Easter Egg Hunt by purchasing all 7,000 Easter Eggs.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Reorganization Meeting on January 8, 2018 and Regular Meeting on January 8, 2018.

Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Bassani.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Special Meeting on January 19, 2018.

Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mayor Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Allison Hensley, 1 Cedar Street in Newton advised the February spay and neuter date will be canceled and the next date will be April 24<sup>th</sup>. There is an adoption day on Saturday and requested to place something on the website. Ms. Hensley will e-mail the information to Mrs. Millikin.

There being no other member of the public wishing to speak this portion of the meeting was closed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to approve Resolution #24-2018 Authorizing the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matter – Blue Collar, Berry Road and Sherman Ridge, and Litigation – Mid American Salt and When Pigs Fly.

Motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Bassani

Upon Roll Call:

Aye: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris    Nay: None    Absent: None    Abstain: None

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #24-2018

EXECUTIVE SESSION JANUARY 25, 2018

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specific purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and designated below:

- (1) Contract Negotiations – Blue Collar  
Berry Road  
Sherman Ridge Road
- (2) Litigation – Mid American Salt  
When Pigs Fly

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, assembled in public session on January 25, 2018, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on January 25, 2018, at 7:45 PM in the Township of Wantage Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, NJ, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific item designated above.

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion to come out of Executive Session.

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

Upon Roll Call:

Aye: Bassani, Gaechter, Morris      Nay: None    Absent: None      Abstain: None

Mr. Kienz advised the items discussed in Executive Session tonight will not be disclosed at this time.

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:



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

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk