

**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
March 8, 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 Glenn Kienz, Esq.

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 38-2018 through Resolution 40-2018. Also, monthly reports for February 2018: Board of Health, Clerk, Driveway, Housing, Property Maintenance, Registrar, Tax Collector, and Zoning.

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 #38-2018

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 2018;

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 2018 to The Doggie Chalet for Block 142, Lot 2.02.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #39-2018

AUTHORIZING REFUND FOR BLOCK 133, Lot 19

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for a tax overpayment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

\$3,023.60 to John and Cindy Tiger, Block 133, Lot 19 for tax overpayment

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #40-2018

AUTHORIZING REFUND FOR ESCROW FOR JEFFREY PARROTT

WHEREAS, the Land Use Secretary has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for a completed escrow application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

\$344.19 to Jeffrey Parrott, for LC-1704 for completed Concept Meeting

REPORTS

Clerk/Administrator – Mrs. Millikin stated the Clerk's Office processed 16 OPRA requests in February.

Mrs. Millikin stated her sincere thanks to all the DPW regarding the past two Nor'easters and all their efforts. The guys worked a lot of hours and dealt with a ton of obstacles whether downed trees or wires on the roads.

Mrs. Millikin stated her and Joe Konopinski, OEM Officer, have been in contact regularly with JCP&L's Area Manager. We have continued to push to get answers on times to have service back to the Township. I realize the frustration of the residents and want to assure them the Township is doing everything in its ability to try to get power fully restored. As of tonight, there are 149 outages still in the Township.

Mrs. Millikin stated based on the past two storms Joe Konopinski and I agree with establishing a facebook page for Wantage OEM in order to disseminate information out to residents. Also, we will be adding additional information to the Township website indicating in the event of an emergency to contact 9-1-1. If a concern about trees down or with road issues to call the non-emergency line at Vernon for assistance after hours. This way Vernon can contact Joe Konopinski, Bob Wagner or myself with issues that arise.

Attorney – Mr. Kienz, Esq. the Township is moving forward with the property on Clove Road. In order to make the site safe the Township will be placing a temporary fence and deal with any vermin issues.

Mayor/Committee Report – Mayor Gaechter stated his thanks to the Road Department. Mayor Gaechter stated in regards to the power outages this is deja-vu with Hurricane Sandy and seems like no changes have been made. JCP&L efforts were mainly in central New Jersey until they finally got up here on Sunday. Mayor Gaechter praised Sussex Rural for getting their customers restored in a timely manner. Mayor Gaechter also indicated Jonathan Rose reached out about any assistance the County could provide. He was

also on a conference call with Congressman Gottheimer's Office. He also indicated the Governor's Office did reach out on Monday.

Mr. Bassani stated the Open Space Committee met and Autumn Sylvester met with the group about moneys the County may have. One of the areas of interest is trying to put moneys towards aquafers. The Committee thought it might be worth pursuing the boat ramp at Lake Neepaulin. Mr. Bassani also stated the Committee discussed the two open space projects moving forward. Mr. Bassani stated that Mrs. Millikin and I met with Blue Collar at this point and they will be discussing some of the items to address for the next meeting. Another update will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Morris stated High Point Regional High School will be holding a community school forum on March 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the media center. Some of the speakers will be Francis Koch, Chief Michael Richards, Sheriff Strada, Sgt. Bambara, and Trooper Bowness and feels this is important discussion based on what has occurred recently in Florida. Mr. Morris asked that this be placed on facebook and the website.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Gaechter stated that a Citizen Leadership Form was received from Darryl Wuhrl for appointment to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission. Mayor Gaechter would like to appoint him to the Alternate 1 position for a two-year term. Mayor Gaechter requested a vote.

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

NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to approve on first reading Ordinance #2018-05 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER XXI OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, AMENDING RECREATION DEPARTMENT FEES FOR WANTAGE TOWNSHIP.

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

ORDINANCE 2018-05

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER XXI OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, AMENDING RECREATION DEPARTMENT FEES FOR WANTAGE

TOWNSHIP

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, as follows:

Section 1. Section 21-18 of Chapter XXI of the Wantage Township General Ordinances is amended in part, adjusting the fees for Recreation Department to include the following:

A.21-18 RECREATION DEPARTMENT FEES

The following fees are payable to the Township of Wantage.

Pavilion Use Application Fee	\$ 50.00
Pavilion Use Deposit	\$ 250.00 refundable if no damage

Section 2. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such provision(s) shall be deemed severable and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to introduce the 2018 Wantage Township Municipal Budget in the amount of \$7,319,458.00, which is a flat tax rate of .294. Public Hearing will be April 12, 2018.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting on February 22, 2018, and Executive Session Minutes on February 22, 2018.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Ted L'Estrange 6 Geoffrey Court, Otisville, NY – he stated he is here to speak about the genocide and the violent persecution and state-sanctioned killing of Falun Gong practitioner and other prisoners of conscience in China for their organs. He submitted information for the Committee's review and requested the Committee consider a resolution regarding this matter.

There being no other public this portion of the meeting was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Gaechter stated a motion is in order to approve Resolution #41-2018 Authorizing the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations – Blue Collar.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #41-2018

EXECUTIVE SESSION MARCH 8, 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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, assembled in public session on March 8, 2018, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on March 8, 2018, at 7:20 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. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Morris

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 because ongoing negotiations.

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 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk