

**MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP SESSION 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 THE DATE OF JANUARY 22,
2009**

Mayor Parker Space called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Space, Committee members DeBoer and Nuss. The following member was absent: None

Mayor Space 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."

Mayor Space led the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Doherty informed the Committee that the non-union employees of Wantage met with him last Friday to voice concerns that in 2006, the governing body had negotiated for employee benefit concessions in exchange for a 4%, 4% and 3.75% salary increase over the next three years. The Committee members stated that circumstances have changed since then, they were concerned with keeping existing employees from a layoff than increasing salaries for 2009.

Discussion took place regarding various items in the budget including a decrease in the first aid contribution and no increase for the fire departments and recreation budgets.

The Committee agreed that they were not interested in spraying Wantage Township for Gypsy Moths in 2009 since spraying certain areas would not protect the entire township, and would be extremely costly.

Mr. Doherty asked the Committee to give some thought to offering employees a \$500 per month incentive if the employee chose to waive municipal health benefits.

Mr. Doherty also asked the Committee to think about adding \$7,000 to the 2009 budget for repairs to a runoff and icing problem at 190 Mudtown Road; sound barriers around the dog pound; roof repairs to the municipal building; purchase of a new roller for the DPW and construction of a vehicle washing station.

The Committee decided to hold off on decisions regarding leasing a vehicle for the building inspector and for a GPS monitoring system for same until further discussions could take place.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Mr. Gettler asked for a copy of the budget worksheets and voiced his objections to tax increases. Mr. Coykendall stated that he would like to see a GPS system used for building inspectors for accountability. Mr. Compa asked if Ms. Nuss has found a health care policy for \$500 per month, why is it necessary for Wantage Township to pay \$20,000 per year.

As there was no one else from the public who wished to address the Committee, Mayor Space closed the meeting to the public.

Mr. Doherty provided Mr. Gettler with copies of the budget worksheets.

There being no other items for consideration at this time, Mrs. Nuss moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

Ayes: DeBoer, Nuss, Space **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None

Mayor Space declared this meeting to be adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk