

**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 FEBRUARY 5, 2010**

Mayor Clara Nuss 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 Nuss, Committee member Gaechter, DeBoer. The following member was absent: None

Mayor Nuss 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."

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Doherty reviewed the open budget items. Mr. DeBoer and Mr. Gaechter expressed a belief that the fire departments and first aid squad should not have their 2010 amounts reduced from the 2009 levels. Mr. DeBoer asked Mr. Doherty to contact Unionville and see if they would be willing to take a decrease this year, from \$12,000 to \$8,000.

Mr. Doherty responded to the Committee's previous request to see if the Township could reduce operating costs if they hired an outside contractor to maintain the lawns at the parks and municipal buildings. Mr. Doherty based his figures on an unsolicited proposal received from one a vendor in 2007. Mr. Doherty advised that if the bid were to come in at the anticipated cost level, it would affect two road department laborers.

Mr. Doherty explained that if this were to be discussed in detail, he would have to invite the affected employees to be present before further discussion could continue. The Committee asked Mr. Wagner to join the meeting to see if he thought a reduction in personnel would adversely affect the ability of the road department to adequately plow snow.

Mr. Wagner stated that all storms are different, but if necessary, he would make use of on call employees rather than part-time seasonal employees.

Mr. Doherty explained the process regarding a lay-off plan and was asked to invite the affected employees to attend the February 11, 2010 meeting to discuss this matter further.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Mr. Bill Gettler, Gemmer Road, spoke regarding the proposed tax rates and asked the Committee to keep Wantage Township's tax rate down.

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

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Nuss seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Nuss declared this meeting to be adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk