

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING 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 MARCH 11, 2010**

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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 members DeBoer and Gaechter. The following member was absent: None  
Also present Township Attorney, Angelo Bolcato

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."

Mayor Nuss asked the Girl Scouts to lead the assembly in the Salute to the Flag.

#### **PROCLAMATION**

The Girl Scouts and Mayor Nuss recited a proclamation naming the week of March 7, National Girl Scouts Week. The Mayor and Committee thanked the Girls Scouts for their participation and community service with a warm round of applause.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Nuss requested that the members of the Committee Review the Consent Agenda. There being no Committee member present wishing to comment on the proposed Consent Agenda, Mayor Nuss requested approval of the Consent Agenda.

#### **APPLICATIONS**

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve the following applications:

- Raffle License RL10-03, to Beemerville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, to hold an On-Premise Merchandise Raffle on April 9, 2010
- Raffle License RL10-04, to Beemerville Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, to hold an On-Premise 50/50 Raffle on April 9, 2010
- Raffle License RL10-05, to American Legion Post 213, to hold an Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle on June 27, 2010

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

#### **REPORTS**

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve the following for filing:

- Clerks Report for the Month of February 2010
- Construction Department Report for the Month of February 2010
- Board of Health Report for the Month of February 2010
- Registrar's Report for the Month of February 2010
- Tax Collector's Report for the Month of February 2010

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Payment of Bills for the meeting of March 11, 2010.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve 2009 Budget Appropriation Reserve Transfer totaling \$1,500. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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**RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to authorize refund of tax overpayment on Block 121 Lot 3.15 in the amount of \$5,200 to Lawrence & Helen Earl Family, LLC.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to authorize release of Soil Erosion Bond on Block 161 Lot 7.01 in the amount of \$2,500 to Lisa Stevens. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to authorize.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve hiring of Michael Weloske as part time seasonal employee of the Public Works Department, at a rate of \$18 per hour, to be utilized only when a regular employee of the Public Works Department is unavailable for snow plowing duty.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve release of 2010 Soil Removal License to Bicsak Brothers LLC, subject to restrictions imposed by Township Engineer Harold Pellow in his letter dated November 12, 2009.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Annual Soil Removal Certification Renewal of Charles & Audrey Sargent for Block 121 Lot 18.01, Dyer Road.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Annual Soil Removal Certification Renewal of Lois Wright for Block 136 Lot 5, Route 23.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Annual Soil Removal Certification Renewal of Space Farm Realty for Block 160 Lot 2, Lusscroft Road.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve 2010 Mechanical Amusement Device License for Pleasant Acres Farm Campground.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Shared Services Agreement with Andover Township for 2010 Animal Control service.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to approve Tonnage Grant Application Resolution in compliance with the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Nuss requested Mr. Doherty present the Administrator's report.

**SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT, FRANKFORD TOWNSHIP:** Mr. Doherty advised the Committee of a proposed Shared Service agreement with Frankford Township in the event we are needed for back-up to their Animal Control Officer. Mayor Nuss questioned our liability coverage. Mr. Doherty stated it is covered as are the other Shared Service Agreements for Animal Control.

Mr. Gaechter made a motion to approve Shared Services Agreement with Frankford Township for 2010 Animal Control service.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF FUNDING REQUEST:** Mr. Doherty advised that the Trust For Public Land is making an application for federal grant funds that would allow them to purchase Block 21, Lot 25.01 and 25.02 in Wantage Township, referenced as the Kenely Property. This 165 acre parcel is located at the intersection of State Route 284 and Possum Glen Road, opposite Janice Drive. The property would be added to the Wildlife Refuge as dedicated open space. The Committee agreed to send a letter of support for this application to our federal legislators.

**MEETING SCHEDULE IN APRIL:** Mr. Doherty informed the governing body that Committeeman Gaechter cannot attend the April 8 meeting due to conflict in scheduling. The Committee agreed to change the meeting to April 15, 2010.

**911 DISPATCH CONSOLIDATION:** Mr. Doherty asked the governing body consider a position statement in regard to 911 Dispatch Consolidation through the County of Sussex. Mayor Nuss stated that she spoke with the County Administrator and he stated that the fee will be a fair one. Mr. Gaechter spoke with Freeholder Parrott who is getting negative feedback on the increase. Mr. DeBoer stated that this project should be partially funded by the State. Mr. Doherty stated that the consolidation will take place, the only question is how much it will cost, and urged the Committee to consider setting a maximum dollar amount in support of the consolidation.

**REASSESSMENTS:** At the request of Mayor Nuss, Township Tax Assessor Melissa Rockwell offered her thoughts and input on the concept of an Annual Reassessment Program. Ms. Rockwell explained that Wantage Township is still at 100% to market to value, and in this economy a reassessment would not be a good idea; there were only 40 sales within the Township that could be used to determine a market value and foreclosures are not included. Ms. Rockwell further explained that we only have eight appeals filed to date. Ms. Rockwell feels that a reassessment could be looked at in the future, once we have the sales to support a market value. At this point, the State would not allow for a reassessment. Mr. Doherty explained that an in-house reassessment program would save significant monies over a total revaluation program every 10 years.

Mr. Doherty read article seven of the shared service agreement which keeps any liability for Frankford their responsibility in an event of a lawsuit under the approved Animal Control Agreement.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mayor Nuss requested Mr. Bolcato present the Attorney's report. Mr. Bolcato had nothing new to report.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. DeBoer expressed concern regarding the missing monument on Cemetery Road and asked if the historical society would consider a safer spot to move a monument from Libertyville Road for safe keeping.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Nuss explained that April 1, 2010 is Census Day and it is very important for everyone to fill out the information accurately as some of our aid figures are based upon these numbers. Mayor Nuss asked Mr. Doherty to prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

Mayor Nuss informed the Committee that Paula Lerch, 108 Coykendall Rd, asked that she be informed of any committee which may be formed regarding the power lines.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Health Benefits Plan**

General discussion took place with Insurance Risk Consultant Frank Covelli, regarding current plan structure in Wantage Township for Health benefits, and available options for pursuit of cost control. Mr. Covelli gave an overview of our history regarding health benefits and informed the Committee that using mail order for prescriptions could save the Township money. Mr. Gaechter asked if a \$10 co-pay would result in a significant decrease. Mr. Covelli stated that the decrease would not be significant and asked Mr. Gaechter for the name of the municipality he was comparing Wantage Township to so he could better explain any differences in benefits.

**Funding of Fire Department Contributions**

General discussion took place regarding the response of Minisink Hose Company to the suggested reduction in Wantage Township funding for calendar year 2010. Mr. DeBoer explained that he brought up the proposed decrease due to the extreme hard times we are facing. Larry Bono, Colesville Fire Department informed Mr. DeBoer that Minisink covers the northwest corner, and are first responders for much of Wantage Township. The Committee agreed to keep funding levels the same as last year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Introduction of Ordinance 2010-03: Outdoor Furnaces**

Mr. DeBoer made a motion to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2010-03 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XIII OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE TO REGULATE OUTDOOR FURNACES AND BOILERS, BEING THE ZONING ORDINANCE". Final Hearing scheduled for April 29, 2010.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Gaechter made motion to approve the regular and executive session minutes of the meetings of the Wantage governing body held on February 11, 2010, and the Regular Minutes of the Budget Work Session Meeting of February 5, 2010.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Bill Gettler, Gemmer Road, asked how the loss of Sussex Borough for Construction and Animal Control would affect our budget. Mr. Gettler was informed that Wantage Township will continue the Construction Shared service agreement and has replaced Sussex Borough Animal Control with Andover and Lafayette Townships, increasing revenues. Mr. Gettler stated that the costs regarding the consolidated 911 system were inaccurate. Mr. Gettler gave his estimates of the tax rates and asked for a reduction in taxes from High Point Regional High School and Wantage Township.

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**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Michael Rainer, 118 Moore Road informed the Committee that he uses mail order for his medications and it works out very well. Mr. Rainer expressed concern with Mt. Salem Road, between 519 and 651. He feels the DPW is waiting too long to plow this area. Mr. Rainer questioned a letter received from the State informing him that he cannot appeal his taxes unless his value is over \$1,000,000. Ms. Rockwell explained that he cannot appeal directly to the State, but can appeal to the County. Mr. Rainer questioned what type of anti-freezing agent is being used on the road. Mr. Doherty explained that the brine is made of salt and water.

Mr Gettler feels the State should reissue the letters regarding appeals.

Ron Bassani, 6 Roberts Way, questioned the health benefits package discussed during the meeting and gave his recommendations regarding negotiations. The Committee addressed his concerns. Mr. Gaechter advised that he brought up the need to look at lowering the prescription plan, but is looking into minor changes to save thousands, which would have minimum impact on employees.

Mr. Gettler brought up the health care rates quoted by the Consolidation Study Commission. Mr. Gettler's question was addressed.

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

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Nuss declared this meeting to be adjourned.

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James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk