

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL
BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, N.J.,
ON MAY 12, 2011**

Mayor DeBoer called the meeting to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor DeBoer, Committeeman Gaechter, Committeeman Bassani. Also present: Township Attorney Michael Garofalo, Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza. The following members were absent: None.

Mayor DeBoer 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."

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor DeBoer invited all persons present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET HEARING

Administrator Jim Doherty offered an analysis of the proposed 2011 Wantage Township Municipal Budget. Details were offered to reflect multi-year trends regarding salaries, operating expenses, debt, capital projects, and tax impact. Mayor DeBoer offered an explanatory statement regarding the reasons for the proposed increase in the salaries for the members of the governing body, explaining that it has been many years since any adjustment was made, and the recent decision of the governing body to eliminate paid health benefits for the elected officials warrants consideration of an adjustment in the stipend to help offset the increased cost burden being incurred by the governing body for that decision.

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting to the public at this time, for the purpose of conducting the Public Hearing on the 2011 proposed municipal budget.

Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, asked questions regarding the debt analysis offered during Mr. Doherty's presentation. Mr. Doherty offered responses to these questions.

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, inquired regarding details of the Legal Expenses budget line item. Mr. Doherty offered a response to this question.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, stated his belief that no one has complained about the debt level of Wantage Township for several years; stated his desire to see a tax decrease; offered input regarding his belief that a tax reduction could be achieved by adjusting the tax collection rate, Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, snow removal expenses, and Construction Department staffing.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, expressed her belief that the governing body had worked hard on this budget; supported the observations made by Mr. Gettler; and suggested reductions should be made in the staffing of the Land Use Secretary position.

Mayor DeBoer and Mr. Gaechter explained that they have reviewed this position's status, and will continue to monitor it to determine if any change is appropriate in the future.

A general discussion took place between Mayor DeBoer and Ms. Smulewicz regarding the staffing level of the Land Use Department.

Mr. Bassani stated his belief that the figures for tax collection rate were different from the ones presented by Mr. Gettler, and asked Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza for confirmation. Ms. La Starza confirmed that Mr. Bassani was correct, and that it would not be possible to adjust the tax collection rate to the figure suggested by Mr. Gettler.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor DeBoer closed the public hearing on the 2011 Wantage Municipal Budget.

Amendment to Proposed 2011 Municipal Budget

Mr. Doherty offered an explanation regarding the details of a proposed amendment to the 2011 Wantage Municipal Budget as it was introduced.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following Amendment to the Introduced Wantage Township Municipal budget. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion.

**Resolution
TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
Amendment to 2011 Budget**

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised, and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2011 be made:

	FROM		TO
3. Miscellaneous Revenues - Section D: Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated With Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services- Interlocal Service Agreements Offset with Appropriations: Animal Control Agreements	\$ 72,530.00		\$
79,863.00			
Total Section D: Interlocal. Municipal Service Agreements Offset with Appropriations	\$ 152,197.00	\$	159,530.00
3. Miscellaneous Revenues - Section F: Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated With Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services- Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations, Garden State Preservation Trust Fund Green Acres Matching Grant	\$		\$
72,500.00			
Total Section F: Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations	\$ 238,721.00	\$	311,221.00
Summary of Revenues			
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 1,717,231.00	\$	
1,797,064.00			
3. Miscellaneous Revenues			
Total Section D: Interlocal. Municipal Service Agreements Offset with Appropriations	\$ 152,197.00	\$	159,530.00
Total Section F: Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations	238,721.00		311,221.00
5. Subtotal General Revenues (Items 1,2,3 and 4)	3,077,231.00		
3,157,064.00			
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget:			
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 3,506,293.00		
3,504,240.00			
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	\$ 3,506,293.00		
3,504,240.00			
7. Total General Revenues	\$ 6,583,524.00	\$	
6,661,304.00			
A) Operations - Within "CAPS"			
Animal Control Other Expenses	\$ 7,530.00		\$
10.00			
Plumbing Sub Code Salaries and Wages	\$ 12,550.00		\$
15,068.00			

Amendment to Proposed 2011 Municipal Budget, Continued

Total Operations {Item 8(A)} Within "CAPS"	\$	3,416,987.00	\$	3,411,985.00
Detail				
Salaries and Wages	\$	1,361,523.00	\$	1,364,041.00
Other Expenses ((Including Contingent)	\$	2,055,464.00	\$	
2,047,944.00				
E) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures-Municipal Within "CAPS"				
Defined Contribution Program	\$	1,716.00	\$	2,090.00
Total Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures-Municipal Within "CAPS"	\$	289,093.00	\$	
289,467.00				
(H-1) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"	\$	3,706,080.00	\$	3,701,452.00
A) Operations - Excluded from "CAPS" LOSAP	\$	30,000.00	\$	
40,000.00				
Total Other Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	\$	30,000.00	\$	
40,000.00				
Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues				
Garden State Preservation Trust Fund				
Green Acres Matching Grant				72,500.00
Total Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues		76,900.00		149,400.00
Total Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"	\$	311,567.00	\$	394,067.00
Detail				
Other Expenses	\$	219,200.00	\$	
301,700.00				
(H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Pruposes Excluded from "CAPS"	\$	1,518,377.00	\$	1,600,877.00
(O) Total General Appropriations - Excluded from "CAPS"	\$	1,518,377.00	\$	
1,600,877.00				
(L) Subtotal General Appropriations (Items (H-1) and (O))	\$	5,224,457.00	\$	5,302,329.00
(M) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$	1,359,067.00	\$	1,358,975.00
9. Total General Appropriations	\$	6,583,524.00	\$	6,661,304.00
Summary of Appropriations (A) Operations:				
(A+B) Within "CAPS" - Including Contingent	\$	3,416,987.00	\$	3,411,985.00
Statutory Expenditures	\$	289,093.00	\$	289,467.00
(A) Operations - Excluded From "CAPS"				
Other Operations	\$	30,000.00	\$	40,000.00
Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues		76,900.00		
149,400.00				
Total Operations - Excluded from "CAPS"		311,567.00		394,067.00
(M) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$	1,359,067.00	\$	1,358,975.00
9. Total General Appropriations	\$	6,583,524.00	\$	6,661,304.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that three certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services for her certification of the local municipal budget so amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this complete amendment, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-9, be published in the New Jersey Herald in the Issue of June 3, 2011, and that said publication contains notification of the public hearing on said amendment to beheld at the Wantage Township Municipal Building on June 9, 2011 at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

Upon roll call,

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor DeBoer requested that the members of the Committee review the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Bassani and Mayor DeBoer expressed a desire for separate review and consideration of the bill list.

There being no other Committee member present wishing to comment on the proposed Consent Agenda, Mayor DeBoer requested approval of the remainder of the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA, continued

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following for filing:

- Construction Department Report for April 2011
- Board of Health Report for April 2011
- Clerk's Report for April 2011
- Tax Collector Report for April 2011
- Registrar Report for April 2011

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Raffle License RL 11-13 to American legion Post 213, to conduct an Off Premise 50/50 raffle on June 26, 2011.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Raffle License RL 11-14 to Beemerville Fire Dept, to conduct an on premise 50/50 raffle on various dates during the months of June through November, 2011. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Municipal Endorsement for application of Beemerville Fire Department for State-issued Special Permit to serve alcoholic beverage at a social event on May 14, 2011. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of overpayments for Homestead Benefit payments received directly from the State as follows:

- a. \$233.68 to Michael & Nancy Slockbower, Block 1.01 Lot 23.02
- b. \$271.61 to Eric Peter & Margaret Hansen, Block 27 Lot 2.05
- c. \$202.56 to Richard & Joann Strader, Block 32 Lot 6.02
- d. \$152.16 to Robert & Elaine Smith, Block 53.07 Lot 6
- e. \$232.82 to Christine Traficante, Block 64 Lot 46
- f. \$166.42 to Eric & Tiffany Thomas, Block 67 Lot 19
- g. \$123.97 to Gregoria & Damaris Apont, Block 74 Lot 15
- h. \$195.92 to Robert & Anne Childs, Block 90 Lot 13
- i. \$223.76 to Irena Demarest, Block 94, Lot 13
- j. \$260.91 to Kathy Wilson, Block 113 Lot 7.02
- k. \$180.15 to Diana Escruceria & G. Quiros, Block 125 Lot 3.19
- l. \$404.77 to Joseph & Theresa Donnelly, Block 138 Lot 6.21
- m. \$225.98 to Donald & Raijean Johannsen, Block 140 Lot 32
- n. \$275.70 to Janice Murphy, Block 143 Lot 10.03
- o. \$263.70 to Ronald & Joan Sisko, Block 148 Lot 11
- p. \$499.32 to Anthony Lemma, Block 164 Lot 28.02

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of land use application L-11-2009 to Nicole Bourne in the amount of \$528.41 for Block 33 Lot 3.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the release of Performance Bond number 5023422 which has been replaced by Bond number 5030064, on various property lots within the Block 132 Lot 3 subdivision. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve renewal of Vehicle Wash Shared Service Agreement with Branchville for 2011. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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Mayor DeBoer named the Week of May 16 to be "RELAY FOR LIFE DAYS", as follows:

American Cancer Society Relay For Life®
Proclamation for Wantage TOWNSHIP

WHEREAS, Relay For Life is the signature activity of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to fight back against cancer; and

WHEREAS, money raised during Relay For Life of Wantage County supports the American Cancer Society's mission of saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays - by helping people stay well, by helping people get well, by finding cures for cancer and by fighting back; and

WHEREAS, Relay For Life helped fund more than \$150 million in cancer research last year;

Now, Therefore, I, William DeBoer, Mayor of Wantage Township, do hereby proclaim the week of May 16 as "RELAY FOR LIFE DAYS" and encourages citizens to participate in the Relay For Life event at Sussex County Community College on May 21-22, 2011

Bill List

Mr. Bassani requested that future bill lists spell out in greater detail the descriptions and explanations of the items being purchased, and requested that greater lead time be provided prior to a meeting for review of items being presented for consideration of the governing body.

Mr. Bassani offered question regarding several items shown on the bill list. CFO La Starza offered responses to these questions.

Mayor DeBoer requested separate consideration of the bill payment for the repair of ambulance in the amount of \$1,006.12.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the proposed bill list, excluding the bill to DeBoer's Auto in the amount of \$1,006.12. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mayor DeBoer explained that the amount he was charging for repair to the ambulance was less than the low quote offered, which provides a cost savings for the Township.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the bill to DeBoer's Auto in the amount of \$1,006.12 for repair of ambulance. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: DeBoer

Administrator's Report

Clove Hill Manor Bonding: Mr. Doherty stated that this matter remains unresolved. No positive response to the Township's call for the bond has been received. Mr. Doherty suggested the governing body may wish to review their options with the Municipal Attorney and offer advice regarding a desired course of action. General discussion did take place at this time. No formal action was taken. Mayor DeBoer agreed to speak directly with Mr. John Maione to ascertain if a resolution to this matter could be achieved.

Amendment to Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance: Mr. Doherty reported that Mr. Garofalo has prepared a draft of this ordinance, which is now being reviewed by the Township Engineer for compliance with engineering standards that FEMA will expect to be included in the ordinance.

Salary Ordinance Amendment: Mr. Doherty suggested the governing body give consideration to the proposed salary ordinance amendment on May 26 with final adoption date scheduled for June 9.

Administrator's Report, Continued

Amendment to Domestic Animal Ordinance: Mr. Doherty stated that the Land Use Board has presented the governing body with an Ordinance for consideration of adoption. Mr. Doherty stated that he has scheduled this for consideration of introduction on May 26.

Small Wind and Solar Energy Systems Ordinance: Mr. Doherty stated that the Land Use Board has presented the governing body with an Ordinance for consideration of adoption. Mr. Doherty stated that he has scheduled this for consideration of introduction on May 26.

Ordinance Prohibiting Outdoor Wood Burning Furnaces: Mr. Doherty stated that the Land Use Board has presented the governing body with an Ordinance for consideration of adoption. Mr. Doherty stated that he has scheduled this for consideration of introduction on May 26.

Mayor DeBoer asked Mr. Doherty to invite Land Use Board Chairman Jim Smith to attend the next meeting.

Mr. Bassani identified several items that he requested Mr. Smith be prepared to address at the next meeting, to assist him in his deliberations on these proposed ordinances, including the definition of lot size for keeping of domestic animals, and the support data used to reach a conclusion that outdoor wood burning furnaces should be banned.

Purchase of New Riding Lawn Mower: Mr. Doherty presented the governing body with the results of a Quotation Process for the purchase of a new riding lawn mower.

Mr. Gaechter moved to purchase a Scag Riding Lawn Mower from Bassani Power Equipment of Wantage, New Jersey, in the amount of \$10,300. Mayor DeBoer seconded the motion. On the question, Mr. Gaechter reviewed the various makes and models of riding lawn mowers solicited, and explained that price and all other factors considered, the Scag Riding mower is the appropriate item of equipment for consideration of purchase. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: Bassani

Ordinance 2011-04: Fully Funded Capital Ordinance for purchase of Riding Lawn Mower.

Mr. Gaechter moved to introduce Ordinance 2011-04, entitled "Ordinance Appropriating the sum of \$10,300 For The Purchase Of Mower", with a final hearing date scheduled for May 26, 2011. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Executive Session Request: Mr. Doherty requested the governing body consider a motion for holding an Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing Negotiation Strategy with the Unions for the upcoming renewal of employment collective bargaining contracts; personel matters involving the terms and conditions of employment of the Administrator Clerk; and discussion of pending litigation involving the Lake Neepaulin Dam Special Assessment.

Resident Concern: Mr. Doherty inquired if the members of the governing body had an opportunity to review the situation involving the driveway at 154 Holland Road. Mr. Gaechter stated that he had, and that he finds himself in agreements with the proposed response of the Township Engineer and the DPW Supervisor that the driveway drainage problems being experienced by this property owner result from circumstances other than the repaving of the public road. Maor DeBoer and Mr. Bassani expressed consensus for this position.

Tax Appeal Statute: Mr. Doherty inquired if the governing body were inclined to adopt a Proposed Resolution in support of a Bill which would Share the Cost of Tax Appeals among county and school budgets as well as municipal budgets.

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Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following Resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A-3412 SHARING THE BURDEN OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL REFUNDS

WHEREAS, when County Tax Board appeals are granted the municipality must reimburse the property taxpayer 100% of the appealed tax levy, which includes the municipal, school, county and any special districts tax ; and
WHEREAS, the municipal tax collector makes the adjustment from the appeal as a credit on the 4th quarter tax bill resulting in the municipality's fund balance for the preceding year to diminished , if not completely depleted; and
WHEREAS, a recent League of Municipalities' survey has measured the extent to which residents have filed and won tax appeals in 2010; and
WHEREAS, one hundred fifty (150) municipalities, representing all both large and small municipalities in all 21 counties, that participated in the survey reported property value declines of more than \$87,900 ,000, which resulted from 19,788 tax appeals filed in 2010; and
WHEREAS, those responding to the survey indicated that 13,760 appeals were filed in 2009, compared to 19,788 in 2010 , representing an increase of 43.7%; and
WHEREAS, a municipality often experiences an increase in tax appeals because they have conducted a revaluation, however, only 5 of the 150 municipalities, which participated in our survey, indicated that their 2010 appeals resulted from revaluations; and
WHEREAS, as a way of comparison, 23 of the participating municipalities conducted revaluations in 2009 , when fewer tax appeals were presented to the County Tax Boards; and
WHEREAS, the 2010 spike in appeals should be attributed to the economic down-turn, which lowered property values and placed increased stress on the income of homeowners, all around our Garden State ; and
WHEREAS, the survey also indicated that in 2010 the various County Tax Boards have granted average property value reductions of close to \$5,000, per appeal; and
WHEREAS, fifty-six percent of those responding indicated that the successful tax appeal s would have an impact on fund balances and place additional pressures on local officials during 2011; and
WHEREAS, although the survey was a snapshot picture in time , it can be used to project what might follow in **2011** , since the reductions, which were granted by County Tax Boards in 2010, will have a multiplier effect when neighbors learn of their neighbor' s tax reduction, which will likely increase the appeals and in the alternative, Tax Assessors could be forced to adjust property values, based upon the appeal information; and
WHEREAS, successful tax appeals have a three-fold negative impact on municipal budgets. First, the municipality, as the collector of taxes for the School district, county and special districts, must fund the full cost of the legal defense of the assessment. Second, since State law guarantees to the county and the school district 100% of their levies, the municipality bears the full cost of any re-imburements resulting from the appeal (as well as the full burden for any uncollected taxes). Third , the end result will be a further decline in the property tax base used to support Municipalities , County governments and School systems; and
WHEREAS, in light of the revenue limitations that have been placed on all levels of local government by the Legislature (2% cap), such declining values will compound and add additional stress to local public officials, as they grapple with the issues confronting the tax paying public; and
WHEREAS, Assemblyman Carroll has recent y introduced A-3412 , which requires fire districts, school districts, and county governments to share in burden of property assessment appeal refunds;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage hereby urge the swift passage and signing of A-3412; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Upon roll call,

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

Municipal Endorsement of First Aid Squad Coin Toss: Mr. Doherty requested consideration of this matter.

Mr. Gaechter moved to confirm the Township's endorsement of a Colin Toss Permit application made to the County of Sussex for the Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Township Property Maintenance Code: Mr. Doherty reminded the members of the governing body that this topic was ready for consideration of the governing body at their convenience.

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the Attorney to prepare an amendment to Wantage Township Ordinances which would eliminate the "3-year rental inspection cycle" provision of the Township Property Maintenance Code. Mr., Gaechter seconded the motion. General discussion of this motion took place including protecting the rights of landlords and tenants, protecting property values and safety, and preserving privacy rights. Upon roll call,

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

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Approval of State Local Cooperative Housing Inspection Program: Mr. Doherty requested the consideration of the governing body for renewing this program for the State's upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Gaechter moved to renew the Township's participation in the State Local Cooperative Housing Inspection Program. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. General discussion and review took place with respect to this motion, to review the work involved and the revenue impact of not participating in the program. Upon roll call,

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

Boulder Hill Boulevard Bus Stop: Mr. Doherty reviewed various communications from the Schools and residents, regarding this matter. Mr. Doherty informed that the Sussex Wantage School Superintendent has informed that the door-to-door bus stop provision for the Kiddie Academy shall continue uninterrupted for the remainder of the current school year.

Attorney's Report: Mr. Garofalo offered an update report on activities associated with tax appeals being defended by Mr. Garofalo and Tax Assessor Melissa Rockwell.

Township Committee Member Reports

Mr. Bassani offered his Committee Report, stating that he attended a recent Eagle Scout Ceremony and enjoyed the opportunity to do so. Mr. Bassani suggested that if it were possible, an upgrade in the quality of the Proclamations from Wantage Township would be warranted for future ceremonies and presentations.

Mayor DeBoer offered an update on his attendance at the Mayor's Conference, indicating he had the opportunity to network with various state officials regarding matters of interest and concern to the Township, including sewer service area designations, shared services, and business-government interaction.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Wantage governing body held on April 28, 2011. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor DeBoer stated that the Township enjoys the benefits of numerous shared service ventures, and thanked Administrator Jim Doherty for his efforts and accomplishments in this regard. Mr. Doherty thanked the governing body for their support and understanding of the process involved in achieving successful shared service arrangements.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting to the public at this time, for any questions or comments involving the good and welfare of the community.

Dorothy Gerkin, Ryan Road, thanked the Public Works Department for their efforts in snow removal this winter, and expressed concern with speeding vehicles and litter on her road.

Mayor DeBoer requested Mr. Doherty to contact the school authorities along Ryan Road and request that an announcement be made to reinforce the need to drive within the speed limit. Mayor DeBoer also mentioned that the Clean Communities program is available as a means by which to address litter concerns in Wantage.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION, continued

Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, inquired if the Mayor's questions regarding the part time Clerk Typist for the court had been answered. Mayor DeBoer confirmed that they were. Ms. Merritt offered observations regarding the potential impact of adjusting the inspection schedule on tenant situations in Wantage. Mr. Garofalo agreed that the decrease in the extent of monitoring represented the greatest potential impact of removing the 3-year inspection cycle.

Ann Smulewicz, 108 Route 23, asked for a clarification of the document that was sent to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection mentioned in the Mayor's Report. Mr. Doherty confirmed it was Mr. Pellow's report regarding Sewer Service Areas.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, thanked Mr. Doherty for providing a response to his OPRA request; thanked Mr. Bassani for his motion to have the Property Maintenance Code amended; offered the opinion that the Township should reconsider its renewal of participation in the State Local Rental Inspection Program; offered a presentation involving the history of inspections of motels and multi-family housing units; and expressed concerns and observations with respect to the standards, codes and references utilized by the Township.

Ms. Smulewicz stated that the owner of the Sussex Motel had indicated to her that he is inspected both by the State and the Township.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Gaechter moved as follows:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matters:

- A collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions
- Pending litigation or contract negotiation, specifically: Gorman v. Wantage Township
- A matter involving the terms and conditions of employment, of a specific employee employed or appointed by the public body, being the Administrator Clerk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Minutes will be kept on file in the municipal clerk's office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

After meeting in closed executive session, the members of the governing body returned to open session and continued with the regular order of business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. Bassani moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting adjourned.