

**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 SEPTEMBER 29, 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, and Committeeman Bassani. The following members were absent: None. Also Present: Township Attorney Michael Garofalo, Assistant Municipal Clerk Christine Von Oesen; Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza.

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."

Mayor DeBoer led the assembly in the salute to the American Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor DeBoer 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 DeBoer requested approval of the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve for filing, the Public Notice of the Change in Meeting Schedule for First Meeting in October, reflecting that the first meeting of the Wantage Governing Body for October has been changed from October 13 to October 20, 2011.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Raffle License RL 11-24 to American Legion Post #213, for On Premise 50/50 Raffle. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Raffle License RL 11-25 to Friends of Lake Neepaulin, for Off Premise 50/50 Raffle. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to confirm update of appointed Risk Management Consultant from Hale Insurance to Hub International, in recognition of Hub International corporate purchase of Hale Insurance, for record keeping purposes. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve authorizing Application to NJ Department of Transportation for FY 2012 Municipal Aid Application for project to Resurface Pigeon Hill Road from Route 628 Intersection to High Point High School. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve authorizing s to NJ Department of Transportation for FY 2012 Municipal Aid Application for projects to Resurface Pigeon Hill Road from Route 628 Intersection to High Point High School, and to extend the Walking Path at Woodbourne Park.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Shared Services Agreement between Branchville Borough and Wantage Township for the services of Certified Recycling Professional James Doherty during calendar year 2012. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to confirm that no plans exist for future public use of the paper street named Keyes Drive, per input and recommendation of the Township Engineer and Township Administrator.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

CONSENT AGENDA, Continued

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve renewal of membership in the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council through September 30, 2016. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve renewal of Registration for Commodity Resale System of Cooperative Purchasing between Wantage Township and the Sussex Wantage Regional School System for Gasoline and Diesel Fuel. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, Gaechter, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Administrator Report: As offered by Christine Von Oesen

Construction Department Fees: Construction Official Patrick Stefanelli offered a presentation regarding suggested adjustments to the current fee schedule for the Construction Department. General review and consideration of this suggestion took place. No action was taken at this time.

Emergency Management Coordinator Report: A written report from EMC Joe Konopinski was reviewed at this time. General discussion took place with Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza, who indicated that once costs were known, the Township would most likely need to adopt a special emergency appropriation to authorize the money necessary for local repairs. As FEMA Grant money is approved, these local costs can be reimbursed.

The members of the governing body expressed a desire to obtain a comprehensive report concerning the projects needing attention from Hurricane Irene, once that is available.

Traffic Concerns at Intersection of Decker Road and County Route 519: After review of a report regarding resident concern with traffic safety at this intersection, the members of the governing body suggested sending a letter to the residents of Eileen Drive asking for voluntary cooperation in maintaining a 50 foot No Parking buffer within the intersection.

Repairs to Old Clove Road and Layton Road: The governing body held discussion with Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza regarding the status of addressing repairs of these roads from Hurricane Irene and a likely action plan which will be required to fund the said repairs. No action was required at this time; none taken.

A question was raised regarding the status of the Lake Neepaulin Dam. Mr. Tom Jable of FOLN addressed the governing body at this time with details of the response activities during and after the hurricane.

Assessor Position and Office Staffing: The governing body agreed to enter into a closed executive session later in the meeting for the purpose of discussing this topic.

General discussion took place at this time with Assessor Department Employee Kristi Lockburner and County Tax Administrator Melissa Rockwell, to review the details of Reassessment programs versus Revaluation programs. Ms. Lockburner indicated that the opportunity exists for neighborhood assessment maintenance programs, and she would pursue further research into the details of such a program.

Township Committee Member Reports:

Mr. Gaechter reported that the State Department of Environmental Protection has been approving numerous areas of Wantage Township for "Sewer Service Area" which were previously not being given approval. Mr. Gaechter complimented Mayor DeBoer on his efforts and accomplishment in achieving this success.

Mayor DeBoer indicated his belief that the success in achieving additional sewer service area approvals was a team effort. Mayor DeBoer also reported that the State of New Jersey has terminated the Plan Endorsement process, so there would be no need for Wantage to pursue this any further.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Ordinance 2011-09: Fire Department Membership

Mr. Gaechter moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2011-09 entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING IN PART SECTION 2-8 OF CHAPTER II OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF WANTAGE TOWNSHIP ENTITLED “FIRE DEPARTMENT”, with a final hearing date scheduled for October 20, 2011.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2011-10: Bond Ordinance for Purchase of Fire Vehicle

The members of the governing body held general discussion regarding the purchase of a fire vehicle. Mayor DeBoer encouraged Mr. Bassani to contact the Fire Department officers to address specific questions, and indicated he would ask a Fire Department representative to attend the October 20 meeting in case there were any remaining questions thereafter.

Mr. Gaechter moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2011-10 entitled “BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE ENGINE AND ASSOCIATED FIRE EQUIPMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$600,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$570,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF”, with a final hearing date scheduled for October 20, 2011. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Resolution Amending Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Gaechter moved to amend the Township’s Capital Improvement Plan to reflect inclusion of the purchase of a Fire Vehicle as described in Bond Ordinance 2011-10.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2011-11: Newton Avenue Improvement

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2011-11 entitled “ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$65,100.00 FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF NEWTON AVENUE”, with a final hearing date scheduled for October 20, 2011.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Wantage governing body held on September 8, 2011. Mayor DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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.

Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered comments regarding his views on the meeting dates schedule of the governing body; issues he had with the power companies during Hurricane Irene; disagreement with several areas of OPRA responses which were redacted; observations regarding the enforcement of ordinances in Wantage; a desire to have minutes adjusted to reflect his understanding of actions taken by the governing body; concerns he has regarding whether or not employee Kevin Kervatt is a part of the Construction Department; and inquiries regarding the current workload of employee Kevin Kervatt.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION, Continued

Ms. Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, offered a reminder that the Recreation Commission's Antique Car Show will be held next weekend. Ms. Merritt also asked if any action will be taken regarding her previous request that the starting time of governing body meetings be changed.

Mayor DeBoer stated that the schedule is already set for 2011, but he was sure that whoever would be Mayor in 2012 would give all due consideration to Ms. Merritt's request when it came time to schedule the 2012 meeting dates.

Mr. Rocco Russo, South Shore Drive, engaged Mayor DeBoer in a discussion regarding comments reported in the newspaper about the costs of repairing the Lake Neepaulin Dam. Mayor DeBoer clarified that his comments were that costs of the dam repair would become a judgment call of the Tax Assessor. Mr. Caruso expressed the opinion that the residents should not be expected to pay these repair expenses.

Ms. Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, offered her thanks to the governing body and specifically to Mayor DeBoer for achieving inclusion of her property within the Sewer Service Area of the Route 23 corridor.

Mr. Russo offered an observation that when repairs are done to Old Clove Road, the action plan should include action to widen and clear a clog in the stream leading from Old Clove Road to Lake Neepaulin.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bassani moved to enter into closed executive session 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 matter(s):

- ≡ Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege: Negotiations with the County of Sussex regarding potential shared service ventures
 - ≡ A matter involving the terms and conditions of employment of a specific employees of the Tax Offices
- 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. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

After meeting in closed executive session, Mr. Bassani moved to return to open session and continue with the regular course of action. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting adjourned.