

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET 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 JANUARY  
19, 2012**

---

Mayor Gaechter 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 Gaechter, Committeemen Bassani, DeBoer. The following member was absent: None.

Also present: CFO Michelle La Starza

Mayor Gaechter led those present in the Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Gaechter 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**

Mr. Doherty reviewed spreadsheets showing projected departmental spending levels for 2012, as well as projected salaries. General review and discussion of the material presented took place.

Discussion turned to the proposed budget for the First Aid Squad. Mike Puskas and Marisa Gorman spoke on behalf of the needs and accomplishments of the Wantage Township First Aid Squad. Mr. Puskas engaged in a n ambulance replacement needs analysis with the members of the governing body. Mr. Bassani expressed a desire to have pro-active efforts undertaken to solicit bid proposals from various vendors. Members of the public inquired regarding whether shared service ventures were pursued for fuel purchase, and the extent to which mechanical problems were currently being experienced with existing ambulances. Mr. Puskas responded to those inquiries.

Discussion turned to the proposed budget for the Fire Department. Larry Bono spoke on behalf of the Wantage Fire Department. Mr. Bono presented several equipment items needed by the Department, and expressed a desire to see the LOSAP contribution increased. The members of the governing body expressed support for giving consideration to the equipment needs, but no consensus was expressed in favor of increasing the LOSAP contributions.

General review and discussion continued with respect to the various budget line items and their proposed spending levels for 2012.

### **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Art Jacobs offered observations regarding the impact of school budgets on the tax burden and general spending.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, gave a letter to Mayor Gaechter from a resident; expressed a desire to see the snow removal budget reduced; expressed unhappiness with a proposed Compliance Plan for adjusting valuations of various properties within Wantage.

Diane Snure and Rudy Solar also expressed unhappiness with the proposed Compliance Plan.

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

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

Mayor Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting to be adjourned.

---

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk