

**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 FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

Mayor Gaechter 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 Gaechter, Committeeman DeBoer, and Committeeman Bassani. The following members were absent: None. Also Present: Township Attorney Michael Garofalo.

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."

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve the following reports for filing:

Construction Department Report for January 2012

Board of Health Report for January 2012

Clerk's Report for January 2012

Tax Collector Report for January 2012

Registrar Report for January 2012

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve Raffle application RA12-03 to American Legion Post 213 Charles Auberger, to conduct an off premise 50/50 raffle on June 24, 2012

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve Raffle application RA12-04 to High Point Regional High School Booster Club, to conduct an off premise 50/50 raffle on June 1, 2012

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the refund of \$145.00 to Up and Above Contractors LLC to reimburse overpayment on a building permit fee associated with Block 121 Lot 3.39.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the refund of \$25,934.69 to Robert Rothman, and \$63,723.40 to Jesse Wolosky, for Tax Lien redemptions on Block 21 Lot 5.01 and Block 7 Lot 15.01, respectively. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the renewal of Shared Service Agreement with Franklin Borough for the use of the Township Vehicle Wash Station for 2012.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal Certification for Space Farms Realty for the year 2012. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal Certification for Shotco Inc. for the year 2012. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

Mayor Gaechter offered the following Mayor's Proclamation, congratulating Robert Marcus Raggi for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout:

WHEREAS, Robert Marcus Raggi has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, which represents an accomplishment of high regard within the Wantage Community, and

WHEREAS, as a member of Boy Scout Troop 97, Robert has held numerous Leadership positions in the troop, and

WHEREAS, Robert has distinguished himself through on-going service to his community, and

WHEREAS, Robert has actively participated in leadership positions for his Troop activities and has provided mentoring for many younger Boy Scouts, and

WHEREAS, such a fine record of accomplishment is worthy of praise and recognition,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William GAECHTER, Mayor of the Township of Wantage, hereby offer my congratulations to Robert Marcus Raggi for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the entire Wantage Community is hereby encouraged to join in the recognition of this fine accomplishment.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Alarm Monitoring Quotations: Mr. Doherty reviewed with the governing body the results of the solicitation process for alarm monitoring services. General discussion took place regarding this matter.

After due review and consideration, Mr. Bassani moved to award the contract for 2012 alarm monitoring services to AB Code Security of Newton, NJ. Mayor Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Public Notices on Website: the members of the governing body reviewed proposed public notices to be placed on the website, offering public information on filing a tax appeal, and obtaining permits for wood burning stoves. The governing body considered the proposed wording for both public notices to be appropriate and instructed the Administrator to post both notices.

ATTORNEY REPORT: Mr. Garofalo requested a brief executive session to discuss matters of pending litigation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Bassani initiated a discussion regarding the review of current policy for applying an 18% late penalty on unpaid taxes which remain unpaid at the end of a calendar year. On the topic of whether or not it was possible to create a hardship review procedure, which might enable the governing body to give consideration of relief on this situation, Mr. Garofalo advised that it is legal to assess a late penalty or not assess a late penalty, and it is legal to establish a hardship review process, but if the governing body were to create a hardship application process, it would be very challenging to establish criteria for what constitutes a "hardship" and apply it in a manner that is fair and equitable to all parties. After review and consideration, the governing body decided to retain the current policy.

Mr. Bassani initiated a general discussion on the topic of improvements and bonding at the Clove Hill Manor development. Mr. DeBoer and Mr. Garofalo reported progress on these topics.

Mr. Bassani initiated a general discussion on the topic of negotiations with employees. General review of options for strategies took place.

Mr. Bassani repeated his request made previously for the Fire Department and First Aid Squad to submit detailed budget information to the governing body.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS, Continued**

Mr. DeBoer expressed on going desire to continue contacting JCP&L to receive a response on the topic of potential changes in service territory between JCP&L and Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Final Adoption of Ordinance 2012-01**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2012-01 entitled "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XXI, FEES, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE." Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Prior to final roll call, Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments with respect to this proposed Ordinance. There being no one present wishing to speak on this topic, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public and requested a roll call vote. Upon roll call,

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2012 and the minutes of the Special meeting held on February 7, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mayor Gaechter 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 an article in the newspaper regarding the county budget; offered thanks to the Wantage governing body for their efforts to control spending in the 2012 municipal budget; offered comparisons between last year's budget and this year's budget; and offered an analysis which requested that an additional \$19,035 be removed from the proposed 2012 municipal budget.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor Gaechter 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 matters: On-going litigation involving Gorman.

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.

Mayor Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

After meeting in closed executive session, Mayor Gaechter declared the meeting reconvened in open session and the governing body returned to the regular agenda.

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Mayor Gaechter re-opened the meeting to the public to accept a public comment.

Ms. Karen Merritt spoke regarding the issue of obtaining insurance on a wood-burning stove installation when the circumstances involve a landlord-tenant arrangement.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting adjourned.

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James R. Doherty, Municipal Clerk