

**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 APRIL 26, 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; Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza.

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. Bassani moved to approve the following reports for filing:

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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

- Construction Department Report for March 2012
- Board of Health Report for March 2012
- Clerk's Report for March 2012
- Tax Collector Report for March 2012
- Registrar Report for March 2012
- Township Engineer Status Report on 565 Land Development Soil Removal Permit

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following Licenses:

- Raffle application RA12-11 to Beemerville Presbyterian Church, to conduct an on premise merchandise raffle on October 5, 2012
- Raffle application RA12-12 to Beemerville Presbyterian Church, to conduct an on premise 50/50 raffle on October 5, 2012
- Raffle application RA12-13 to Beemerville Fire Department Inc., to conduct an on premise merchandise raffle on May 11, 2012
- Raffle application RA12-14 to Beemerville Fire Department Inc., to conduct an on premise 50/50 raffle on May 11, 2012
- Raffle application RA12-15 to Beemerville Fire Department Inc., to conduct an on premise merchandise raffle on June 1, 2012

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Payment of bills for the meeting of April 26, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Certifying compliance with the Requirements of the Local Finance Board for Self-Examination of the Municipal Budget, as follows:

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BUDGET SELF EXAMINATION AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION Continued

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5 the Township of Wantage has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2012 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Wantage that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A-4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met (Complies with the "CAP" law)
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated,
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the extension of Renewal for Soil Removal Permit of 565 Land Development LLC, up through the date of June 30, 2012, subject to terms and conditions established by the Township Engineer in his report dated March 5, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to name David Tynan, Jr. the Fire Official for the Wantage Township Fire Prevention Bureau effective July 1, 2012, in accordance with the Shared Services Agreement between Wantage Township and Vernon Township for Fire Prevention Bureau services.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize municipal consent for the Wantage Township First Aid Squad to conduct coin toss fund-raising activities at Ross's Corner on May 25 through May 28, subject to compliance with conditions established by the County of Sussex for use of County Highways.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to confirm the appointment of Bill Patterson as the Part time, temporary Fire sub Code Official/Fire Prevention Inspector at \$32.50 per hour for 6 hours per week.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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CONSENT AGENDA, Continued

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Shared Service Agreement to provide Animal Control services to Lafayette Township for the remainder of 2012, effective May 1, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of \$1,093.55 to S. Baker for completed land use application L-20-2005. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of \$1,522.59 to GMAC Mortgage for tax overpayment on Block 40 Lot 10.04. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Supporting the Hiring Our Heroes Program's Employment Initiative Program for members of the US Armed Forces, as follows:

Whereas, on Tuesday, January 24, the Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces reminded all Americans that, "Above all, our freedom endures because of the men and women in uniform who defend it," and that "... this generation of heroes has made the United States safer and more respected around the world." and

Whereas, the President, further, promised, "As they come home, we must serve them as well as they've served us", which includes giving them the care and the benefits they have earned "... And it means enlisting our veterans in the work of rebuilding our nation." and

Whereas, National Guard and Reserve forces today total over 1 million service members and represent 48 percent of our total military force; while every day around the globe, thousands of men and women in uniform, including dedicated members of the National Guard and Reserves, risk their lives and make great sacrifices to defend our national interests, serving extended tours away from their homes, families and jobs; and

Whereas, at the same time, we are now seeing unprecedented levels of unemployment and underemployment among members of the Guard and Reserve, as up to 22 percent of Guard and Reserve members face unemployment; and

Whereas, in this time of economic uncertainty, the Employer Support Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is focusing on connecting employers with the talented pool of service members and their spouses, with the intent of facilitating meaningful employment opportunities; and

Whereas, to further this goal, the New Jersey ESGR has launched an Employment Initiative Program (EIP), which is a collaborative effort with federal agencies including the Department of Labor (Veterans Affairs), the Department of Veterans, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management; and

Whereas, the goal is to enhance the employment process and serve as an effective resource for service members and employers. ESGR is also partnering with Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces (EPAF) through EIP with a high-tech and high-touch approach; and

Whereas, for almost a year, now, the United States Chamber of Commerce has also endeavored to find employment for our returning veterans and the spouses of those who continue to serve, at home and abroad, with its Hiring Our Heroes program; and

Whereas, the Hiring Our Heroes program is a nationwide effort to help veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment, in partnership with the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL VETS), to improve public-private sector coordination in local communities, where veterans and their families are returning every day; and

Whereas, despite those efforts, the unemployment rate for veterans of our Armed Forces in our Nation and in our State continues to exceed the over-all rate; and

Whereas, in order to take the lead on advancing the EIP to the next level, the New Jersey ESGR has enlisted strong and positive support from corporate leaders, the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, US Dept. of Labor/VETS and the New Jersey League of Municipalities; and

Whereas, it is incumbent on all of us to prove that New Jersey cares for the men and women in uniform who risk their lives and make great sacrifices to defend our national interests; and

Whereas, this employment initiative can be New Jersey's way of saying thank you to the men and women who made great sacrifices to protect our nation's freedom; and

Whereas, local officials throughout the State of New Jersey, working together through the League of Municipalities, and with the New Jersey ESGR, their local and State Chambers of Commerce, and local business leaders can help to advance basic fairness to our vets and their families by pursuing one simple goal: to allow America's over one million unemployed veterans and military spouses to follow their dreams, instead of spending their lives just trying to catch up;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, on this 26th Day of April, 2012 that the Mayor and Committee of Wantage Township recognizes that we will never be able to repay the debt we owe to all members of our armed forces; and

Be It Further Resolved, that in gratitude, Wantage Township pledges its enthusiastic and unqualified support for the Employment Initiative Program of the New Jersey Employer Support Guard and Reserves; and

Be It Further Resolved, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities and to our neighboring municipalities.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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CONSENT AGENDA, Continued

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the Bond Reduction for Rubin Hills Properties, LLC, in the amount of \$640.00, for project on-going on Libertyville Road, in accordance with recommendations of the Township Engineer dated April 4, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Change Order #1 for the Layton Road Drainage Project, representing a net reduction of \$1,392 in the contract price, resulting from adjustments to quantities of materials used during the project, as recommended by the Township Engineer dated April 4, 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to accept the Completion of the Project Entitled Layton Road Drainage Project, as per the recommendation of the Township Engineer dated April 4, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to accept Change in dates for the Wantage First Aid Squad to hold their fundraising Car Wash activities, which will now be held on the dates of May 19 – 20 with rain dates of June 2 – June 3. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

Mayor Gaechter offered the following Proclamation,

Congratulating Timothy Mitchell for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout:

WHEREAS, Timothy Mitchell 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 84, Timothy has held numerous Leadership positions in the troop, and

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

WHEREAS, Timothy has actively participated in 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 Timothy Mitchell 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.

Mayor Gaechter offered the following Proclamation,

Proclaiming the Week of May 14 to be "Relay For Life" Week in 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 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, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Wantage does hereby proclaim the week of May 14 as "RELAY FOR LIFE DAYS" and encourages citizens to participate in the Relay For Life event at Sussex County Community College from 4:00 p.m. Saturday to 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

BUSINESS RECYCLING APPRECIATION GRANTS

At this time, Mayor William Gaechter and Sussex County Recycling Coordinator Reenee Casapulla presented the following Wantage Township Businesses with Certificates of Appreciation and Grant checks for their contributions to the Wantage Township Recycling Program:

Beemerville Auto Wrecking: \$350 - for recycling Auto Scrap. This tonnage provides a large contribution to the Township's recycling tonnage figures. Even with a downturned economy negatively affecting his business, Mr. Gordon Jennings continues to be the largest single business contributor to the recycling program in Wantage.

Sussex Meat Packing, Friendly's, A&P: \$350 each, - for Food Waste recycling. Food Waste is not a mandatory recyclable material in Sussex County or in Wantage. These businesses recycle their food waste on a voluntary basis rather than because the law requires it, which contributes to the recycling totals of Wantage Township.

Sussex Queen Diner and Bella Vita Ristorante: \$150 each, for food waste (cooking oil, grease, waste water). By entering into contracts for the removal of cooking oil and grease, these businesses make a voluntary contribution to the recycling tonnage efforts above and beyond what the law requires, and contributes to a healthier environment.

Tire King - \$150 - for recycling tires. As the company marketing used tires each year from Wantage Tire Turn In Day, this business helps increase the Wantage recycling tonnage figures and helps improve the Wantage landscape by reducing abandoned, illegally-dumped tires.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative: \$150 - Dry Cell Battery Recycling. In addition to maintaining the required business recycling program for cardboard, office paper, and glass/aluminum/plastic, SREC also voluntarily began a recycling program to accept recyclable batteries (not car batteries) from their employees and the general public.

Lakeland Bank - Office Paper Recycling - Lakeland Bank efforts at office paper recycling contribute to the overall tonnage figures of the Wantage recycling program.

Wantage Recycling Coordinator Jim Doherty explained that these grants are paid from the New Jersey Recycling Tonnage Grant.

Mayor Gaechter expressed his deep appreciation for the accomplishments of these businesses on behalf of the Wantage community.

2012 WANTAGE MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. Doherty offered a presentation of the proposed 2012 Municipal Budget at this time. Mr. Doherty highlighted the accomplishments of the governing body with this budget as follows:

APPROPRIATIONS (SPENDING PLAN)

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN 2011: \$6,661,304.00

TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS IN 2012: \$6,508,565.00

THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE HAVE REDUCED THE SPENDING PLAN BY \$152,739.00.

TOWN-WIDE LOCAL TAX BURDEN

TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED IN 2011 FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURPOSES: \$3,504,240.00

TOTAL TAXES TO BE COLLECTED IN 2012 FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PURPOSES: \$3,352,877.00

THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE HAVE REDUCED THE LOCAL TAX BURDEN BY \$151,363.00.

LOCAL TAX RATE

LOCAL PORTION OF TAX RATE IN 2011: \$.240

LOCAL PORTION OF TAX RATE IN 2012: \$.240

THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE HAVE DELIVERED A FLAT LOCAL TAX RATE FOR 2012 – NO INCREASE IN THE LOCAL PORTION OF THE TAX RATE.

SURPLUS

SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR 2010: \$675,568.30

SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE YEAR 2011: \$953,959.00

THROUGH SOUND FISCAL POLICIES, THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE HAVE INCREASED THE SURPLUS AVAILABLE TO HELP OFFSET THE LOCAL TAX BURDEN BY \$278,391.00.

SALARIES

TOTAL SALARIES BUDGETED FOR 2011: \$1,456,408.00

TOTAL SALARIES BUDGETED FOR 2012: \$1,427,448.00

THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE HAVE DECREASED SALARIES BY \$28,960.00

BUDGET HEARING

At this time, Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments with respect to the 2012 Wantage Municipal Budget.

Ms. Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, asked questions regarding clarifications on Health Benefits Costs. Mayor Gaechter and Mr. Doherty responded to the question.

Mr. Gettler congratulated the governing body for holding the local portion of the tax rate flat; expressed concern with the School tax impact and County tax impact, and expressed a desire to see more money taken out of the Snow Removal budget.

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

Mr. Doherty explained that an amendment to the 2012 Wantage Municipal Budget shall be given consideration at the next meeting prior to adoption of the said budget, which will reflect the elimination of a proposed Grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation which will not be received this year. No impact will take place on the tax picture from this amendment.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Youth In Government: Mr. Doherty offered information regarding the proposed 2012 Youth in Government program, which will be held on May 15, 2012 at Sussex Borough Hall.

Outdoor Event License: Mr. Doherty offered details of an application by Spirit of the Arts Foundation, a Non-Profit Group, who seeks to hold a series of Vendors/Craft Fairs at the Sussex Airport on four dates, May through August. The application is in order. The applicant seeks municipal approval to hold these events, as well as waiver of the \$100 license Fee.

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the Outdoor Event License for Spirit of the Arts Foundation as explained by Mr. Doherty, and to waive the \$100 application fee.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Bulky Waste Program: Mr. Doherty reported the results of the bid opening for the Bulky Waste Collection program, reporting that one bid was received from Blue Diamond Disposal.

Mr. Bassani moved to award the contract for Bulky Waste Collection to Blue Diamond Disposal of Succasunna, New Jersey in the amount of \$190 per ton. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

On the Question, Mr. Bassani requested Mr. Doherty to contact other potential vendors who did not submit a bid, to ascertain why they chose to not submit a bid.

Upon Roll Call,

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

Status of Laser 1 Request for Referendum: Mr. Doherty invited the governing body to review the status of this request. Mr. DeBoer expressed his willingness to support the needs of this business by placing a referendum question on the ballot. General review and discussion took place, after which it was agreed to revisit this issue for action in the month of July, which will provide sufficient time to place a question on the November ballot should that be the decision of the governing body.

Noise concerns regarding Airport Pub & Package: Mr. Doherty reported that a neighbor has expressed concern with the noise from Airport Pub & Package from their entertainment venues. Mr. DeBoer stated that he has spoken with the owner of this business and has obtained assurances that the business wishes to work with the Township to satisfy residential neighbors. The governing body authorized Mr. Doherty to send a letter to the Airport Pub & Package requesting voluntary action to keep noise levels at a satisfactory level and time factor, so that the governing body will not need to consider taking action in regard to the matter. The governing body also requested Mr. Doherty send a letter to the neighbor, updating him on the actions taken by the Township on his behalf.

Sullivan County Proposed Casino: Mr. Doherty reported that a letter has been received from the U.S. Department of Interior, inquiring if Wantage Township has any input with regard to a proposed Casino that will be located in Sullivan County, New York. The members of the governing body agreed by consensus they had no input they wished to provide on this matter.

Administrator's Report, Continued

Request for Executive Session

Mr. Doherty reported that Mr. Bassani has requested an executive session to discuss the status of negotiations with employee collective bargaining unit unions, and to discuss the status of litigation involving Gorman v. Wantage Township.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1

Final Adoption of Capital Ordinance

Mr. DeBoer moved to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2012-02, entitled "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$65,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF DPW VEHICLE".

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion.

Prior to final roll call vote, 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 address the governing body regarding this proposed Ordinance, Mayor Gaechter requested a roll call.

Upon Roll Call,

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

ATTORNEY REPORT: Mr. Garofalo offered an update report regarding the status of Affordable Housing Developer Fees in the State of New Jersey.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

St. Clare's Hospital Issue

Mr. DeBoer initiated a discussion regarding the potential closure of In-patient services at St. Clare's Hospital. All members of the governing body expressed opposition to this proposed course of action.

Mr. DeBoer moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey, is a vital service provider for essential health care in the High Point region of New Jersey, with a remarkable record involving countless instances of life-saving service for almost a century, and

WHEREAS, St. Clare's is the only hospital located in the immediate vicinity of citizens within the High Point region, making it an essential part of the community, and

WHEREAS, there is currently a plan being considered which would close the Hospital's In-patient services, and

WHEREAS, the relative geographic isolation of residents living in Northwest New Jersey requires the presence of In-patient services at St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex, as all other hospital services are too far removed from quick response capability in emergency situations, and

WHEREAS, the absence of In-patient services at St. Clare's Hospital will, inevitably, drive business and revenue out of the State of New Jersey, as citizens of Northwest New Jersey will seek medical attention across the New York and Pennsylvania borders to compensate for the loss of service availability at the St. Clare's facility, and

WHEREAS, the harm which will result from the closure of In-patient services at St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey represents a price that far outstrips the lack of historical profit margin at this facility, and

WHEREAS, the ability to turn a profit while operating this essential, life-saving facility should rely on a progressive, modern marketing plan which will increase utilization and create new job opportunities for the High Point region, rather than to fall back on a failure-driven business closure plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage does hereby support the continued presence of In-patient services at St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage does hereby urge the New Jersey Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and Governor Chris Christie, to likewise support the continued presence of In-patient services at St. Clare's Hospital in Sussex, New Jersey.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call,

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

NEW BUSINESS

Final Adoption of Bond Ordinance

Mr. DeBoer moved to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2012-03, entitled “Ordinance 2012-03, entitled “BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$550,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$522,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF”.”.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Prior to final roll call vote, Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments with respect to this proposed Ordinance.

A member of the public spoke on behalf of the residents at 41 Holland Road, expressing concerns with the increased speed of vehicles on Holland Road when Phase I improvements were done a few years ago, and now with this Bond Ordinance providing for Phase II improvements to Holland Road, a greater concern existed regarding even more speeding situations creating a public safety concern.

Mayor Gaechter stated he would speak with Township Engineer Harold Pellow to ascertain if it is possible to design any safety features in the improvement project to address this concern.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body regarding this proposed Ordinance, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public.

On the Question, Mr. Bassani initiated a discussion regarding the manner in which the bid specifications for the Ambulance purchase had been developed; reported that he had contacted other ambulance vendors to ask why they had not submitted a bid and was told by two vendors that the bid specifications were designed to solicit a single bid response; expressed a desire to see Mr. Doherty take action which would better ensure multiple bid responses in the future. Mr. Doherty expressed reservations regarding the likelihood of success in achieving multiple bid results in emergency vehicle solicitations. Mr. Bassani offered to become actively involved in future bid specification development, to assist in this goal. The members of the governing body expressed consensus with Mr. Bassani’s position.

There being no further questions, Mayor Gaechter called for a vote on the motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-03. Upon Roll Call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve the minutes of the meetings of the Wantage governing body held on March 29, 2012. Mr. Bassani 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.

Ms. Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, expressed her belief that the value of the Youth in Government Program would be enhanced if the students remained for the entire public meeting; expressed a desire to see public meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.; expressed her pleasure with the governing body’s support of St. Clare’s; requested the governing body to support a Non-Binding Referendum question for the Homestead issue.

Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, expressed appreciation for the governing body’s support of St. Clare’s; expressed concerns with the FOLN Dam issue; expressed considerable concerns with the Compliance Plan issue.

Ms. Kathy Gorman suggested the Township could initiate a petition in favor of supporting St. Clare’s, as she read in a newspaper that Vernon Township had taken this action.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION, Continued

Mr. Warren Wisse inquired regarding plans for future commercial development in a section of the Township along Route 23. General discussion took place regarding this, with the potential for a Dunkin Donuts being mentioned.

A member of the public thanked Mr. Bassani for his efforts to obtain multiple bidders on public bid projects.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public and the governing body continued with the regular order of business.

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:

Negotiations with employee unions for collective bargaining agreements; 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.

Mr. DeBoer 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 order of business.

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.

James R. Doherty, Municipal Clerk