

**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 24, 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.

**Sussex Wantage School System Representatives - Discussion**

Mayor Gaechter introduced Sussex Wantage School Superintendent Dr. Edward Izbicki, and Sussex Wantage Board of Education President Tom Card.

The school representatives and the governing body members conducted a discussion regarding the school budget, school-municipal relations and shared services, and efforts at keeping the lines of communication open between the Board of Education and the governing body.

Mayor Gaechter requested an update on the Solar Panel project and Dr. Izbicki indicated this project would be moving forward.

Mr. Bassani inquired if any investigation had been done regarding vending machines as a potential revenue source. Dr. Izbicki explained that with new nutrition guidelines the field of vending products is smaller than it used to be, but that the school would certainly keep open all possible revenue sources.

General discussion of school population figures and trends also took place.

**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:

- Construction Department Report for April 2012
- Board of Health Report for April 2012
- Clerk's Report for April 2012
- Tax Collector Report for April 2012
- Registrar Report for April 2012

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Raffle application RA12-16 to Friends of Lake Neepaulin, for a calendar raffle on various dates in 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 Bill List for the Meeting of May 24, 2012 excluding Check #18174. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**CONSENT AGENDA, Continued**

Mr. Bassani moved to Confirm Budget Self Examination conducted by CFO Michelle La Starza, as follows:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt
; that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility,
nally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of
ducting the annual budget examination, and
WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on
ruary 11, 1997, and
WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5 the Township of Wantage
been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local
ernment Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local
ernment meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2012
get year, so now therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Wantage that in
rdance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's
ification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following
irements:
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. 40A4-45.2 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 approve change Order #1 to the contract entitled "Improvements To Newton Avenue – Phase II", reducing the contract amount by \$2,095.75 after applying various adjustments to line item materials per the recommendation of Township Engineer Harold Pellow. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
 Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter    Nays: None    Absent: None    Abstain: None

**CONSENT AGENDA, Continued**

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize refund of \$1,000.00 Tax Sale Premium to US Bank for Block 2.01, Lot 3. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize refund of \$2,381.86.00 Tax Overpayment to Earl & Dawn Seely for Block 129, Lot 1.05. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the reduction of Tax Sale Certificate 10-04 by the credit amount of \$1,239.04 created by a State Tax Court Judgment for Block 11 Lot 4. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize refund of taxes resulting from State Tax Appeals:  
a) \$31,165.50 to Zipp & Tannenbaum for 2009 State appeal on Block 20 Lot 3  
b) \$20,074.96 to Wantage Township for application of 2010 State Appeal, Block 20 Lot 3  
c) \$6,469.90 to Mel Laur Inc for 2011 State Appeal, Block 71 Lot 17.03  
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize refund of balances on various land use applications which have been completed:  
a) \$1,100.00 to Owen Valkema, on Block 4 Lot 5 for Application L-11-11  
b) \$768.86 to C&S Towing, on Block 116 Lot 1.03 for Applications LC-11-03 and L-12-07  
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize cancellation of the following tax sale premiums to fund balance  
a. \$100.00 for Block 150 Lot 19, Tax Sale Certificate 05-15, 9/13/05  
b. \$14,800.00 for Block 151 Lot 1.02, Tax Sale Certificate 04-09, 10/26/04  
c. \$23,000.00 for Block 169 Lot 19.01, Tax Sale Certificate 06-18, 10/03/06  
d. \$9,100.00 for Block 159, Lot 1.06, Tax Sale Certificate 06-16, 10/03/06  
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the request of Beemerville Fire Department to hold a 5K Walk/Run on June 10, 2012 on various public streets in the Beemerville section of Wantage Township. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Certification of Sussex County's Contribution to Wantage Township First Aid Squad. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the request of Beemerville Fire Department to hold Coin Toss on public streets of Wantage on the dates of May 26, 27 and 28, and September 1, 2, and 3. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Renewal of Trailer Park License for Rayewood RV Campground for 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to acknowledge the decision of the Wantage Fire Department to Accept the Credentialing of the Minisink Hose Company/Unionville Fire Department's Fire Police when offering a First Responder fire response within Wantage Township, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the Addendum to the Agreement with Unionville Fire Department to memorialize that said action. 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 Jacob D. Wallace for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout**

WHEREAS, Jacob D. Wallace 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, Jacob has held numerous Leadership positions in the troop, and  
 WHEREAS, Jacob has distinguished himself through on-going service to his community, and  
 WHEREAS, Jacob has actively participated in 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 Jacob D. Wallace 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.

**2012 WANTAGE MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**Public Hearing on Proposed Budget Amendment:**

Mayor Gaechter explained a proposed budget amendment for the 2012 Wantage Municipal Budget, in which Wantage Township proposes to amend its 2012 Municipal Budget to include a new line item for Health Benefit Waivers, and to remove two grant applications from the Budget as it was introduced. There is no tax impact from these proposed changes. Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public for the Public Hearing on this proposed Budget Amendment. There was no one present wishing to address the governing body on this proposed amendment.

Mayor Gaechter closed the meeting to the public and requested a motion to approve the proposed amendment.

Mr. DeBoer moved to adopt the Proposed Budget Amendment, as follows:

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 2012 be made:			
		<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
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			
NJ Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act	\$	226,500.00	\$ -
Total Section F: Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations	\$	283,431.00	\$ 55,931.00
Summary of Revenues			
3. Miscellaneous Revenues			
Total Section F: Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations	\$	282,431.00	\$ 55,931.00
Total Miscellaneous Revenues	\$	1,657,188.00	\$ 1,430,688.00
5. Subtotal General Revenues (Items 1,2,3 and 4)	\$	3,155,688.00	\$ 2,929,188.00
7. Total General Revenues	\$	6,508,565.00	\$ 6,282,065.00
A) Operations - Within "CAPS"			
Group Insurance Plan for Employees	\$	584,800.00	\$ 580,300.00
Health Benefit Waiver	\$		\$ 4,500.00
NJ Transportation Trust Fund Authority	\$	584,800.00	\$ 580,300.00
Pidgeon Hill Road	\$	166,500.00	
Walking Path Woodbourne Park	\$	60,000.00	
Total Capital Improvements Excluded from "CAPS"	\$	468,350.00	\$ 241,850.00
(H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes within "CAPS"	\$	1,727,065.00	\$ 1,500,565.00
(O) Total General Appropriations - Excluded from "CAPS"	\$	1,727,065.00	\$ 1,500,565.00
(L) Subtotal General Appropriations (Items (H-1) and (O))	\$	5,286,523.00	\$ 5,060,023.00
9. Total General Appropriations	\$	6,508,565.00	\$ 6,282,065.00
Summary of Appropriations			
C) Capital Improvements	\$	468,350.00	\$ 241,850.00
9. Total General Appropriations	\$	6,508,565.00	\$ 6,282,065.00
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 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 May 18, 2012, and that said publication contains notification of the public hearing on said amendment to be held at the Wantage Township Municipal Building on April 26, 2012 at 7:00 o'clock p.m.			

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

**FINAL ADOPTION OF 2012 WANTAGE MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the 2012 Wantage Municipal budget, as follows:

<b>Section 2 - Upon Adoption for Year 2012</b>			
(Only to be included in the Budget as Finally Adopted)			
Be it Resolved by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, that the budget here in before set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of:			
(a) \$	3,352,877.00	(item 2 below) for municipal purposes, and	
(b) \$		(item 3 below) for school purposes in Type 1 School Districts only (N.J.S. 18A:9-2) to be raised by taxation and,	
(c) \$		(item 4 below) to be added to the certificate of amount to be raised by taxation for local school purposes in	
		Type II School Districts only (N.J.S. 18A:9-3) and certification to the County Board of Taxation of	
		the following summary of general revenues and appropriations.	
(d) \$	#REF!	(Sheet 43) Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy	
<b>Summary of Revenues</b>			
<b>1. General Revenues</b>			
	Surplus Anticipated		08-100 648,500.00
	Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated		13-099 1,430,688.00
	Receipts from Delinquent Taxes		15-499 850,000.00
	<b>2. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES (Item 6(a), Sheet 1)</b>		07-190 3,352,877.00
	<b>3. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOL IN TYPE 1 SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY</b>		
	Item 6, Sheet 42	07-195	
	Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S. 40A:4-14)	07-191	
	Total Amount to be raised by Taxation for Schools in Type 1 School Districts Only		
	<b>4. To Be Added to The Certificate for Amount to be Raised by Taxation for Schools in Type II School Districts Only:</b>		
	Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S. 40A:4-14)	07-191	
	<b>5. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION MINIMUM LIBRARY LEVY</b>		
		07-192	
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	13-299	6,282,065.00
<b>Summary of Appropriations</b>			
	<b>5. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:</b>		XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX
	Within "Caps"		XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX
	(a&b) Operations Including Contingent	34-201	3,268,258.00
	(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal	34-209	291,200.00
	(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	
	Excluded from "CAPS"		XXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX
	(a) Operations - Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	34-305	313,510.00
	(c) Capital Improvements	44-999	241,850.00
	(d) Municipal Debt Service	45-999	906,605.00
	(e) Deferred Charges - Municipal	46-999	38,600.00
	(f) Judgments	37-480	
	(n) Transfer to Board of Education for Use of Local Schools (N.J.S.40:48-17.1 & 17.3)	29-405	
	(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	
	(k) For Local District School Purposes	29-410	
	(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes (Included Other Reserves if Any)	50-899	1,222,042.00
	<b>6. SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS - Type 1 School Districts only (N.J.S. 40A:4-13)</b>		07-195
	<b>Total Appropriations</b>	34-499	6,282,065.00

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

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Mr. Bassani moved to approve payment of P.O. 9353 and 9370, Check 18174 in the amount of \$230.81 to Bassani Power Equipment LLC, for various lawn mower parts. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
 Ayes: DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: Bassani

**Resignation of Tax Assessor Tom DeKorte**

Mr. Doherty requested a motion accepting, with regrets, the resignation of Thomas DeKorte from the position of Tax Assessor of Wantage, effective June 30, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer moved to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Thomas DeKorte from the position of Tax Assessor of Wantage, effective June 30, 2012.

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

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT, Continued**

**Appointment of Kristy Lockburner as Tax Assessor**

Mr. Doherty offered his recommendation for a motion appointing Kristy Lockburner the Tax Assessor of Wantage Township effective July 1, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer moved to appoint Kristy Lockburner the Tax Assessor of Wantage Township effective July 1, 2012. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion.

On the Question, Mr. Bassani asked Ms. Lockburner for a clarification regarding her preference for discussion of this matter, if it were to be in open session or closed session.

Ms. Lockburner acknowledged her preference that the discussion take place in open session.

Mr. Bassani asked Ms. Lockburner to offer commentary on the recent issue involving the Compliance Plan, to identify what she might do differently in the future.

Ms. Lockburner stated that she would make greater efforts to maintain an open line of communication with the governing body.

Mr. Bassani asked Ms. Lockburner to comment on the details of the compliance plan's impact.

Ms. Lockburner stated that she followed the direction of the individual who was the Tax Assessor at the time, being Tom DeKorte, and she believed the plan accomplished what it was intended for.

Mr. Bassani asked if the position of Tax Assessor involved the need for continuing education credits.

Ms. Lockburner confirmed that it does.

Mr. Bassani asked if his understanding was correct, that Mr. DeKorte would remain available for assistance to address any questions or provide additional support as may be needed after July 1.

Mr. DeKorte confirmed that this is true.

There being no further questions on the motion, Mayor Gaechter requested a roll call vote.

Upon roll call,

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

**Award of Contract for Paving**

Mr. Doherty presented the outcome of a competitive quotation process for paving an apron in front of the Upper DPW Garage Bays, as part of the approved capital plan for 2012.

Mayor Gaechter expressed a preference for awarding this contract to Wantage Excavating, in the amount of \$11,967.45, price and other factors considered. Mayor Gaechter cited the "Wantage Vendor First" policy of Wantage in support of this proposed course of action, and also cited that the Wantage Excavating quotation provided greater detail regarding scope of work to be performed.

Mr. Bassani moved to award this contract to Wantage Excavating, in the amount of \$11,967.45. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**Request For Executive Session**

Mr. Doherty requested an Executive Session to discuss legal strategy with the municipal attorney regarding a matter of pending litigation involving zoning/animal control on Gemmer Road, and to discuss Status of Negotiations with the Employee Unions.

**Neighbor Dispute regarding Drainage on Lott Road / Wolfpit Road**

Mr. Doherty reviewed with the governing body an issue involving concerns over drainage.

After brief consideration, the members of the governing body expressed consensus this matter was a closed issue requiring no further action or consideration.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT, Continued**

**Neighbor Concern regarding sight distance at edge of Driveway on Layton Road**

Mr. Doherty and Mr. Pellow reviewed with the governing body and issue involving sight distance.

After brief consideration, the members of the governing body expressed consensus this matter was a closed issue requiring no further action or consideration.

**Request for Use of COAH Funds:**

Mr. Doherty reviewed a proposed course of action in which the governing body would make use of existing COAH funds to assist the Turr family, being Wantage property owners/residents, with a home rehabilitation project in support of an individual with disabilities.

After general discussion, Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Mr. Doherty and Mr. Garofalo to proceed with this project. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**Potential Habitat For Humanity Project**

Mr. Doherty reviewed the status of the proposed project which would create an affordable housing unit on a property, the title to which will be accepted by the Township through In Rem Tax foreclosure. Mr. Doherty explained a proposed course of action which would sub-divide the said tract of land, thus creating a smaller, affordable-sized lot for the proposed Habitat for Humanity Project, while simultaneously relieving a property boundary encroachment problem for a neighboring property owner. After general review of the situation, the members of the governing body expressed consensus to proceed with the plan of action on this project as explained,

**Request for Relief from Tax Bill For Hardship**

Mr. Doherty explained a request made by Mary Margarum, seeking relief from late interest payment penalties on Block 42.05 Lot 8, offering details of catastrophic illness and death in the family which has exhausted her financial resources. Ms. Margarum stated her expectation of bringing this property to a sale by Mid-June, with taxes being brought current at that point, if said relief request is approved.

Upon review of the request, the members of the governing body expressed compassion and understanding for Ms. Margarum's circumstances, but believed it was not a viable option for them to offer permanent tax relief, given that so very many other taxpayers of Wantage are undergoing similar circumstances of hardship and difficulty paying taxes on their properties.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following action to provide temporary relief for Ms. Margarum:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 grants the Township Committee the authority to set the interest rate to be applied to nonpayment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has the legal authority to temporarily suspend the application of interest for good cause shown; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that the owner of Block 42.05, Lot 8, has the subject property for sale with a closing scheduled for June 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage as follows:

1. The accumulation of interest for any property tax payment now past due, including payment received on May 24, 2012, shall be suspended through July 1, 2012. All taxes and interest presently due and owing shall not be forgiven or waived.

2. The Municipal Clerk is authorized to provide a copy of this Resolution to the owner of Block 42.05, Lot 8.

3. A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**Laser 1 Request For Referendum Question**

General review and consideration was given to the request by Laser ! that a ballot referendum question be placed on the November Election which, if approved, would allow the Amusement Games Licensing Law to become effective within the borders of Wantage Township.

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**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT, Continued**

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the attorney to prepare a resolution which will place such a referendum question on the ballot of the November 2012 Election.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**Drainage Problem on Ryan Road**

After brief review and consideration of this on-going issue, the members of the governing body chose to leave the matter tabled for the time being.

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Gaechter named Owen Valkema to the open seat Alternate #3 on the Land Use Board, for a term running through 12/31/13.

Mr. DeBoer offered congratulations to Kristy Lockburner for her promotion.

Mr. Bassani initiated a discussion regarding the problem of un-mowed lawns on properties under foreclosure. Various options and possible courses of action were reviewed for consideration.

Mr. Doherty was requested to review the staffing and workload of the DPW to ascertain if they might be in a position to mow lawns in such situations, with a lien being placed on the properties.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Award of Contract: Ambulance**

Mr. DeBoer moved to award the contract for purchase of an Ambulance to First Priority Emergency Vehicles in the amount of \$160,000.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the meeting held on April 26, 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Township Engineer Harold Pellow offered an update report to the governing body on the status of various public works and improvement projects taking place within the Township including Layton Road drainage, Old Clove Road drainage, Newton Avenue/Newman Road Improvement Project, Holland Road repaving, Lake Neepaulin Roads repaving Phase I, Layton Road Guide Rail project, and review of the County Wastewater Management Plan maps.

Mr. DeBoer inquired regarding the status of the improvements for Clove Hill Manor that were promised by Mr. Maione. Mr. Pellow agreed to follow up on that question with Mr. Maione.

Mr. Bassani inquired regarding efforts to maintain dust control on Route 23 from the Quarry sites. Mr. Pellow offered a review and update on on-going efforts in that regard.

**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, reported on an act of Vandalism which has occurred at Woodbourne Park, involving the Veterans Memorial; ad reminded all present that Wantage Day would be held on June 9, 2012.

**OPEN SESSION, Continued**

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize a reward in the amount of \$1,000 to any individual who provides information on the identity of the party or parties responsible for the vandalism at Woodbourne Park, which leads to an arrest and conviction of the guilty party. Mayor Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, expressed concerns regarding the issue of the compliance plan; offered comments regarding the Lake Neepaulin Dam issue; offered comments on Tax Appeals; offered comments regarding OPRA response from Mr. Doherty and Government Records Council determination on his OPRA Complaint; informed of his having filed another complaint with the Government Records Council; and submitted an OPRA request.

Mr. Rocco Russo, South Shore Drive, expressed concern regarding bacteria levels in Lake Neepaulin, and expressed displeasure with Friends of Lake Neepaulin signs that exist within the Lake Neepaulin area. Mr. Doherty explained that when Mr. Russo last raised his concern with these signs two years ago, the Zoning Officer at the time reviewed the concern and determined that these signs are Pre-existing, Non-conforming uses which are not in violation of zoning laws. Mr. Doherty suggested to Mr. Russo that any resident who disagrees with a determination of the Zoning Officer may appeal the decision to the Land Use Board.

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; attorney-client privilege to discuss legal strategy involving potential litigation of a zoning/animal control issue on Gemmer Road.

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.

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Mr. Doherty to present the counter-offer of settlement to the White collar union as discussed in closed session, and authorizing the Mayor to sign the said agreement if the counter-offer is accepted. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter    Nays: None    Absent: None    Abstain: None

**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.