

**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 JUNE 14, 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.

Clerk Pro Tem: Mr. Bassani moved to name Michelle La Starza to serve as Clerk Pro Tem for this meeting, in the absence of Municipal Clerk Jim Doherty. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

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 May 2012
- Board of Health Report for May 2012
- Clerk's Report for May 2012
- Tax Collector Report for May 2012
- Registrar Report for May 2012

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Bingo Application BA12-17 to Friends of Lake Neepaulin, to conduct Bingo on various dates in July and August 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Additional Sick Leave Benefit for Claude Wagner as provided in Chapter VI of the Wantage Township Personnel Policies. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Renewal of Various Liquor Licenses in the Township of Wantage for the 2012-13 Licensing Term. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to request the Sussex County Clerk to Submit a Non-Binding Referendum to the Voters of the Township of Wantage at the General Election of November 6, 2012 concerning the Amusement Games Licensing Law. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize In Rem Tax Foreclosures on various properties within Wantage Township, as per Tax Foreclosure List certified by the Wantage Tax Collector dated June 6, 2012.

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 Change Order #2 to the contract “Improvements to Newton Avenue – Phase II”, representing a reduction of \$13,740.42 to the contract price for adjustments in line item quantities used during the project, as per the recommendation of Township Engineer Harold Pellow dated June 4, 2012 . 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 #3 to the contract “Improvements to the Newton Avenue, Newman Road, and County route 639 Intersection”, representing an increase of \$1,474.10 to the contract price for adjustments in line item quantities used during the project, as per the recommendation of Township Engineer Harold Pellow dated June 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 Project entitled “Improvements to the Newton Avenue, Newman Road and County Route 639 Intersection”, as recommended by the Township Engineer Harold Pellow in his letter dated 6/4/12. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to accept the Project entitled “Improvements to the Newton Avenue – Phase II”, as recommended by the Township Engineer Harold Pellow in his letter dated 6/4/12.

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

Mr. Bassani moved to accept the Project entitled “Drainage Improvements on Old Clove Road”, as recommended by the Township Engineer Harold Pellow in his letter dated 6/5/12.

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the use of municipal roads for the Annual “Ride Against Aids” Bicycle Ride Event from High Point to Cape May. 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 \$1,888.00 to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative representing unused escrow deposits upon completion of Land Use applications on Block 113 Lot 1, Application Number L-3-2010. 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 a tax sale premium in the amount of 9,500.00 to Royal Tax Lien Service, LLC, on Block 140 Lot 1.02. 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 “Proposed Drainage Improvements on Old Clove Road”, representing a decrease of \$2,839.23 to the contract price for adjustments in line item quantities used during the project, as per the recommendation of Township Engineer Harold Pellow dated June 5, 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

M. LaStarza requested an executive session to include Patrick Stefanelli for “A matter involving the terms and conditions of employment of current and prospective employees, and evaluation of the performance of public employees employed by the public body”.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT, continued

Perry Little Request – M. LaStarza requested the governing body to see Email report of 5/31/12, “Request for subdivision of town owned lot to sell it.” Mayor Gaechter voiced concern with the need for a subdivision and stated that he would prefer annexing the entire piece to Perry Little instead. Mr. Garofalo explained that we could not compel the Little’s to take the entire property, but certainly could attempt to make this a condition of the sale. Mr. DeBoer questioned if that would change the sale price of the property. The governing body asked that this matter be tabled for June 28, 2012. (See further discussion under Open Public Session)

Zaccaria Request – Gifting of Land

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of at a regularly scheduled meeting on June 14, 2012, as follows:

WHEREAS, Mary Zaccaria, One Grey Terrace, Woodland Park, NJ 07424 is the owner of Block 36, Lot 14.02, on the Tax Map of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Rhea Massaro has offered to convey Block 36, Lot 14.02, on the Tax Map of the Township of Wantage to the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

The Township of Wantage, in lieu of foreclosing on the property known as Block 36, Lot 14.02, on the Tax Map of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, agrees to accept a conveyance of this property in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

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

Garbarino Request – M. LaStarza asked the governing body to see letter from Mr. Garbarino, undated, “Re: 73 North Shore Drive Block 63 Lot 20.” Mr. Garofalo informed the governing body that we do not include any reference to donations made in accordance with Internal Revenue Code. That is the responsibility of a tax professional. A brief discussion took place regarding the location of the property. Mr. DeBoer requested Kristy Lockburner take a look at this property before any decision be made.

ATTORNEY REPORT: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Gaechter congratulated Morgan Ziegler, Miss Wantage 2012; Delainey Bona, Little Miss Wantage 2012; and Hunter Colin Baker, Little Mr. Wantage 2012.

Mayor Gaechter thanked all the volunteers and Recreation Commission who worked so hard to get the vendors and the helicopter that made Wantage Day such a success.

Mr. DeBoer agreed and asked Karen Merritt, Recreation Member, to pass along the governing body’s appreciation.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, 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.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION, continued

Ms. Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, reported that the Littles were present in the audience for any questions regarding the subdivision request covered under the Administrator's Report. Mr. Garolfalo asked the Littles if they would be willing to accept the entire parcel rather than just a portion. Mr. & Mrs. Little explained that they want to put up a garage and would agree that if allowed to do so, they would take the restriction that no other building can be done on the property. Mr. DeBoer directed the Littles to see the building department regarding the required setbacks for the garage. Mr. Garolfalo further explained that they would need a new legal description to take that block and lot and make it part of their existing block and lot so the garage would not be on a different property than their home. Mayor Gaechter informed the Littles that we would follow up with them regarding this matter.

Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered comments regarding the consent agenda which were answered by Mayor Gaechter. Mr. Gettler offered comments regarding an OPRA response from Mr. Doherty and Government Records Council determination on his OPRA Complaint, expressed concerns regarding the issue of the compliance plan; and offered comments regarding the Lake Neepaulin Dam issue.

Mr. Tom Jable 142 North Shore Drive, expressed concern regarding Mr. Rocco Russo's comments at the May 24, 2012 meeting regarding bacteria levels in Lake Neepaulin. Mr. Jable stated that if bacteria levels exceed 200 the beaches must be closed to the public. The Lake Neepaulin beaches have never been closed to the public and the most recent reading came in at 10. Mr. Jable feels Lake Neepaulin is one of the cleanest lakes in the State. Mr. Bassani asked Mr. Jable to deliver the latest test results he offered during his discussion.

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. DeBoer 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:

A matter involving the terms and conditions of employment of current and prospective employees, and evaluation of the performance of public employees employed by the public body.

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. Bassani 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.