

**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 NOVEMBER 29, 2012**

Mayor William 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. Bassani moved to approve filing the Engineer's Report for the year 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 License RL12-32, to High Point Regional High School Booster Club to conduct Off Premise 50/50 Raffle on 3/1/2013
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Payment of Bills for the Meeting of November 29, 2012
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to confirm action taken at the meeting of November 15, 2012, agreeing to provide defense for Township Prosecutor William Haggerty in a lawsuit filed by John P. DiNoia, as per the Township Indemnification Ordinance.
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the refund of \$73.00 to Up and Above contractors for cancelled Building Permit BP12-620. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the reduction of Certificate of Tax Sale 11-34 by the credit amount of \$1,221.60 created by New Jersey State Tax Court determination for Block 87 Lot 36. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the reduction of Certificate of Tax Sale 11-35 by the credit amount of \$1,221.60 created by New Jersey State Tax Court determination for Block 92 Lot 4.
Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the reduction of Certificate of Tax Sale 11-37 by the credit amount of \$1,221.60 created by New Jersey State Tax Court determination for Block 100 Lot 25. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mayor Gaechter requested Mr. Doherty give the Administrator's report.

Newsletters: Mr. Doherty invited the members of the governing body to consider the manner of distribution for future Newsletters, suggesting the possibility of distributing the Newsletter as, primarily, an on line publication, while allowing any resident to contact town hall and request continued hard copy be mailed. Mr. DeBoer expressed an interest in reviewing this option. Mr. Bassani expressed an interest in retaining hard cop distribution with increasing the scope of information and material offered. Mayor Gaechter requested additional time to give further consideration to the concept before further action is considered.

Third Party Administrator for Marketing COAH Units: Mr. Doherty requested consideration of a shared service agreement with the County of Sussex to provide 3rd party Administrator services for marketing COAH units. General review and consideration of this proposal took place.

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into a shared service agreement with the county of Sussex Division of Planning, to provide Third Party Administrator for Marketing COAH Units. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Request for Carry Over of Vacation Days: Mr. Doherty reported that DPW Supervisor Bob Wagner was unable to utilize 9 vacation days this year due to a disability leave; with a domino effect, Assistant Supervisor Mark Little was not able to utilize 11 vacation days as he was called upon for extra duty in Bob's absence. Both employees seek approval of the governing body to carry over unused vacation days into the next calendar year, which is an allowable situation under NJ Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve the request, subject to the employees taking as much of the unused vacation days as possible between now and the end of 2012 (weather permitting), and that all carried over vacation days from 2012 be used by June 30, 2013, so the employees are not in a position where they would need to come back and make the same request next year (barring further extenuating circumstances). Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Retrofit DPW Vehicles for Salt Brine Spreaders: Mr. Doherty requested authorization to retrofit 4 DPW vehicles.

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the retrofit of 4 DPW vehicles for the capability of spreading Salt Brine in snow events, for a combined total cost of \$8,800, payable to Reed Systems. Mr. Bassani 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 a matter of negotiations involving a member of the Public Works Department.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Mr. Garofalo distributed copies of a proposed Developer Agreement for the Solar Farm project.

The members of the governing body expressed a desire to review the proposed agreement prior to taking action. The Administrator Clerk was requested to place this on the next agenda for action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

General discussion took place regarding a suggestion by Mr. DeBoer that the governing body request the Nigh Point Regional High School Board of Education and the Sussex Wantage Regional School Board of Education conduct a search for a joint, combined Superintendent since both school districts are in need of a new Superintendent. After general review and consideration, the Administrator Clerk was directed to send this request to the Boards of Education for their consideration.

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General discussion turned to the issue of JCP&L Service territory and BPU response to the Township's request for the right to switch service territories to Sussex Rural Electric, if residents so chose. The governing body acknowledged the efforts of Senator Steve Oroho to obtain a response from the Board of Public Utilities, as a letter from the BPU is expected to be received in the next several days.

At the suggestion of Mr. Bassani, the governing body authorized the Administrator Clerk to send a letter to JCP&L requesting detailed information that would show the amount of money spent, and what equipment improvements have been accomplished, within the Wantage Township/Sussex Borough area over the past several years, and to provide details of proposed expenditures and equipment upgrades planned for the next several years.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Final Adoption of Ordinance 2012-06

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2012-06, entitled "AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2012 and 2013." Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Public comments: Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, expressed his belief that the position of Administrator Clerk does not exist, and suggested reducing the salary of the position.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body on this proposed Ordinance, Mayor Gaechter requested a roll call vote.

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2012-08

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2012-08, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN LANDS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE TO BE SOLD AT PRIVATE SALE IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(b)(5)". Final hearing date set for December 13, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Introduction of Ordinance 2012-09

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2012-09, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC AUCTION SALE OF REAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13, ET SEQ."

Final hearing date set for December 13, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the Regular and Executive session minutes of November 15, 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 for any questions or comments affecting the good and welfare of the community.

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Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, stated that several people had reported to him they were unaware that the meeting of November 8 had been rescheduled; offered details and observations regarding a meeting he attended in Stillwater; expressed concern regarding his belief that signs have been posted on Township property in Lake Neepaulin; offered his views and opinions on the issue of the Lake Neepaulin Dam; and expressed dissatisfaction with the wording of the minutes for October 25, 2012.

Ms. Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, reminded the public that the Recreation Commission is sponsoring a Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Wantage School tomorrow evening.

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 returned to 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 Negotiations with an employee of the Public Works Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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 session, Mr. Bassani moved to return to regular open session and continue with the regular order of business. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the Administrator to present a proposed Retirement Incentive Packet to the DPW employee discussed in executive session, under the terms presented and proposed by Mr. Doherty, with the understanding that upon acceptance of this offer, Mr. Doherty will report at the next meeting with full disclosure of the employee's identity and the terms and conditions of the retirement incentive offer being made.

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. DeBoer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator Clerk