

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 888 STATE
HIGHWAY 23, WANTAGE, N.J. ON JANUARY 10, 2013**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Bassani, Committeemen Gaechter, DeBoer. The following member was absent: None.

Also present: CFO Michelle La Starza

Mayor Bassani led those present in the Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Bassani 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."

BUDGET

The members of the governing body reviewed Fire Department budget requests for 2013.

Chief Jon Morris, Assistant Chief Larry Bono and Assistant chief Justin VanderGroef of the Wantage Fire Department reviewed requests involving equipment requests, hose replacement, status of grant applications, and current year needs. A request was also made to adjust the Township's policy for payment of cost share on repairs to fire vehicles, and the requirement that the fire department purchase its fuel for the use of fire vehicles.

General discussion continued on Wantage Fire Department needs. The members of the governing body expressed a preference for considering the replacement of 8 units of Self-contained Breathing Apparatus rather than to fund the entire 17 packs at this time; and requested Mr. Doherty to determine if the County of Sussex has a grant writer that might be available for use by Wantage in the form of a shared service arrangement. Discussion also included replacing the old generators at the Firehouses, and the value of these Firehouses as potential shelters for the public in the event of a large scale emergency within the community.

Discussion turned to the needs of the Sussex Fire Department, with Sussex Fire Chief Rick VanderPloeg and Assistant Chief Jake Little. Items included the need for replacing a fire vehicle which is being given consideration by the Sussex governing body, as well as the need to replace PEOSHA Turnout Gear, and hose replacement.

Mayor Bassani inquired if definitive rules were in place to govern the chain of command and jurisdictional interaction during fire responses, to maximize efficiency of response. Sussex Fire Chief Rick VanderPloeg and Wantage Fire chief Jon Morris confirmed that this was a major item of conversation and resolution in the signed Shared Service Agreement among the departments and the Township.

Mayor Bassani inquired if internal budget monitoring and control measures existing in each department. The respective chiefs responded in the affirmative.

General discussion of the above topics continued among all parties present. The governing body reserved action on these items pending further consideration.

As to the Ambulance Squad contribution, Mr. DeBoer reported that the Wantage First Aid Squad has indicated their willingness to accept the same sum of \$30,000 in 2013 as was offered in 2012.

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Resolutions Impacting Budget Management

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the following:

- a) Authorizing payment of bills for January 2013
- b) Confirming authorization to pay the bill list of March 2012
- c) Approving the award of bid for renewal of \$3,040,324 Bond anticipation Note dated 1/10/13 and maturing 1/10/14 to the low bidder, T.D. Securities at net interest rate of .939% per recommendation of CFO Michelle La Starza

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, inquired regarding the details of the public notice for this meeting; Mr. Doherty responded. Mr. Gettler stated that Unionville Fire Department is also a first response fire company within Wantage Township. Mr. Gettler asked why a 5-year view on budgets was not being presented during the budget work session; Mr. Doherty stated that this 5-year view will be presented when the governing body presents its budget to the public. Mr. Gettler commented on the snow removal budget. Mr. Gettler pointed out a mistake in the date cited for Thanksgiving in the Township's holiday schedule. Mayor Bassani thanked Mr. Gettler for pointing this out. Mr. Gettler questioned the Township's handling of public notices for the upcoming sale of land; Mr. Doherty responded.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, offered general comments regarding the budget preparation process.

As there was no one else from the public who wished to address the Committee, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public.

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting to be adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk