

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 11, 2013

Mayor Ron Bassani 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 Ronald Bassani, Committeeman William DeBoer, and Committeeman William Gaechter. The following members were absent: None.

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."

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Bassani invited all persons present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested that the governing body Review the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the following Reports for Filing:

- Registrar Report for March 2013
- Construction Report for March 2013
- Tax Collector Report for March 2013
- Board of Health Report for March 2013
- Municipal Clerk Report for March 2013

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the following Applications:

- Raffle Application RA13-09 for Beemerville Fire Department Inc. to hold On Premise Merchandise raffle on May 10, 2013.
- Raffle Application RA13-10 for Beemerville Fire Department Inc. to hold On Premise 50/50 raffle on May 10, 2013.
- Raffle Application RA13-11 for Kiwanis Club Sussex to hold Off Premise 50/50 Raffle on May 18, 2013

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the payment of \$18,727.70 to US Bank for refund of Tax Sale Certificate 12-15 and \$1,300 for Tax Sale Premium on Block 33 Lot 7.04

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Renewal Application for Mechanical Amusement Game License for Pleasant Acres Campground for 2013: pinball, arcade and video games.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

PRESENTATION: SMOKE FREE PUBLIC PARKS

Mr. Doherty deferred his Administrator report in favor of a presentation requested by the Sussex-Warren Chronic Disease Coalition. Ms. Helen Homeijer, Coordinator, and Ms. Cindy Meakam of the Sussex County Center for Prevention offered a presentation on Smoke Free designations for municipal public parks.

General discussion regarding the merits and difficulties of such a proposal took place at this time, after which Mayor Bassani thanked Ms. Homeijer and Ms. Meakam for their presentation, and stated the governing body would take the matter under advisement for consideration.

Administrator's Report

At the recommendation of Mr. Doherty, Mr. DeBoer moved to hire John Dennis Sr. at the rate of \$14.25 per hour for a 30 hour work week, to replace retiring DPW employee Walt Yetter.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Doherty discussed a concern raised by a citizen regarding conditions on two property lots on Courtright Road which recently became owned by Wantage Township through tax default. The governing body requested the Zoning Officer inspect the premises and report on his findings.

General discussion took place at this time regarding the status of Soil Removal operations for Route 284 Aggregates and Bicsak Soil Removal. Mr. Doherty offered observations regarding a complaint from Mrs. Ann Smulewicz, who owns property next to the Bicsak site, and proposed a course of action for pursuing enforcement of Township requirements for soil removal. Township Attorney Michael Garofalo and the members of the governing body considered options on this topic, and then Mr. Garofalo was authorized to contact the parties of record for the purpose of achieving compliance with Township requirements.

Mr. Doherty offered an update report on actions taken to pursue the public bid process for the upcoming Reassessment project and reviewed a draft of a special newsletter to be mailed to the community offering explanation of the Reassessment process.

Attorney Report

Mr. Garofalo referenced a recent concern cited by the Administrator regarding the status and effectiveness of the shared service arrangement with Vernon Township for fire prevention services. Mr. Garofalo suggested that Mayor Bassani speak with Vernon Mayor Marotta to review Wantage concerns and see if an acceptable resolution to those concerns could be achieved. General review and discussion took place on the topic of fire prevention, the option of service from Sussex County, and the nature of concerns expressed. After due discussion and consideration, the governing body agreed to have Mayor Bassani contact Mayor Marotta as suggested by Mr. Garofalo.

Township Committee Member Reports

Mr. DeBoer reported on a citizen's concern with the parking situation at a school bus stop, at the corner of Route 519 and Decker Road. After general review and consideration, the governing body requested Mr. Doherty to contact the administration of Sussex Wantage School district and request the School Board give reconsideration to the relocation of this bus stop.

Mayor Bassani reported the Township has received correspondence regarding Tennessee Gas Company's pipeline extension project, and the public comment period for same regarding a NJDEP Permit application; reported on topics discussed at the recent Sussex County League of Municipalities Dinner meeting, including compliance with PEOSHA requirements; reported that a planned meeting with Elizabethtown Gas representatives has been postponed and rescheduled; a Sussex County Disaster Response Mini-Conference has been scheduled for June 4 in Lafayette; a Candlelight Vigil in honor of victims of violent crimes being promoted by the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office, to be held April 28.

Mayor Bassani also mentioned that the New Jersey League of Municipalities has created a model resolution to support legislation which would redistribute the burden of paying for tax appeal refunds. Currently, municipalities must bear the entire burden of the county, school and local tax appeal refunds. The members of the governing body requested Mr. Doherty to present this resolution for consideration at the next meeting.

Mayor Bassani stated there is an opening on the Recreation Commission, which is a mayoral appointment. As such, Mayor Bassani appointed Duane Armstrong to the seat of Alternate #2, for a term running through December 31, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Ordinance 2013-07

Mr. Gaechter moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2013-07, 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 \$855,800 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$813,010 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF." with a public hearing date scheduled for May 30, 2013. Mr. Gaechter explained the supplemental Debt Statement has been filed as of the date of introduction, and simultaneous with the motion for introduction of this ordinance, the motion shall also include a resolution to amend the Wantage Township Capital Budget to reflect the costs and scope of projects being undertaken by this Bond Ordinance. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. General review and discussion took place among the members of the governing body regarding the details of the proposed Ordinance. With respect to the allocation of funds for the Sussex Fire Department to purchase hose and/or turnout gear, the governing body reviewed their positions; Mr. Doherty reported that the Sussex governing body had not yet made a decision regarding whether or not they would purchase a fire vehicle this year; Mayor Bassani stated that having the allocation in the ordinance does not require the expenditure to take place, so the governing body of Wantage can revisit this purchase at the appropriate time as may be needed. There being no further discussion, Mayor Bassani requested the motion be called. Upon Roll call,
Ayes: DeBoer, Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular and Executive Session of the meeting held on March 28, 2013. 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 at this time, for any questions or comments involving the good and welfare of the community.

Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, expressed concern with the School Bus stop on Arrowhead Drive and Lakeview intersection; suggested the Township ascertain whether taxes are paid current on soil removal sites; and reported the minutes of March 14 do not appear to be posted on the Township website.

Ms. Merritt inquired regarding the minutes posted on the website for the meeting of November 15, 2012. Mr. Doherty suggested Ms. Merritt call him tomorrow to review and discuss her questions.

Ms. Merritt commented on a letter to the Editor in the New Jersey Herald written by Committeeman Bill DeBoer. In response to a question from Ms. Merritt, Mr. DeBoer stated the letter represented his personal views. Ms. Merritt expressed concern with her belief that Mr. DeBoer an elected official would chastise a citizen through a letter to the Editor.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered his memory of discussions at budget work sessions regarding purchase of equipment for Sussex Fire Department; spoke regarding an article in the New Jersey Herald regarding Reassessments and Revaluations, and offered his views on those topics; expressed concern with house break ins occurring in Wantage Township, and the level of response offered by NJ State Police; and commented regarding several letters written to local newspapers recently regarding the Lake Neepaulin Dam issue and Mr. DeBoer's Letter to the Editor.

Mayor Bassani stated he had recently met with the New Jersey State Police Barracks commander for the Sussex Station, who explained that the protocol of the NJ State Police for handling investigations of ongoing criminal activity may prevent them from discussing their actions in that regard, but that the police do respond to all reports of criminal activity and complaints reported to them.

OPEN SESSION, Continued

Mrs. Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, offered observations on the presentation made regarding Smoke Free Parks, suggesting the governing body decline to implement such a policy; offered comments regarding the Bicsak soil removal site, explaining that she does not wish the business enterprise to shut down, just to comply with all regulations and requirements so that health and property rights are protected.

Mayor Bassani observed that varying levels of dust are created when quarrying operations take place compared to soil removal / soil trucking operations take place, and observed the Township would do its best to enforce all applicable dust suppression requirements on the site.

General discussion of this topic continued.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. DeBoer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator Clerk