

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 9, 2013

Mayor Ronald 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 and Committeeman William Gaechter. The following members were absent: Committeeman William DeBoer.

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.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Mayor Bassani congratulated the members of the 8th Grade Class of Sussex-Wantage School system, who conducted the Youth in Government program at Wantage Town Hall and Sussex Borough Hall today, and who participated in the Mock Public Meeting which took place just prior to this evening's official public meeting.

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

Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the Mayor to sign Contract with USGovBid for providing On Line Auction Services for Wantage Township in the year 2013.

Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize On Line Auction of Surplus Items to take place from June 17 through June 21, 2013, via USGovBid. Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize renewal of soil certification permit for Space Farms Realty for the year 2013. Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve a corrective Quit claim Deed for Block 59, Lots 9 and 10 to verify and ratify actions previously taken by Wantage Township conveying said property in the year 2001, per recommendation of Township Attorney.

Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the refund of

\$617.05 to US Bank, Block 151 Lot 23 for Tax Sale Certificate 12-36

\$741.76 to Edward Krok, Block 59 Lots 35 and 36 for tax overpayment

\$50,252.30 to US Bank, Block 40 Lot 1.03 for Tax Sale Certificate 12-17

\$15,100.00 to US Bank, Block 40 Lot 1.03 for Tax Sale Premium

Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

CONSENT AGENDA, Continued

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize refund of \$805.00 to Hitesh Patel, Block 20, Lot 2 for Land Use Application L-12-04. Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** DeBoer **Abstain:** None

Administrator's Report

Holland Road Section II

At the recommendation of Township Engineer Harold Pellow, Mr. Doherty recommended a contract be awarded regarding the Holland Road Section II project.

Mr. Gaechter moved to award a contract to Wantage Excavating in the amount of \$12,600 for the rental of roller and grader with Operator for the Holland Road Section II project.

Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Early Voting Bill in State Legislature

Mr. Doherty reported that the Township just recently received notification that Governor Chris Christie has vetoed the proposed Early Voting Bill.

Peddler Permit Request

Mr. Doherty brought a request to the attention of the governing body from Jane Stillings of Wantage, for approval of her Peddler Permit application.

General review and discussion took place regarding the subject of Peddlers in Wantage Township.

Mr. Gaechter moved to grant conditional approval for a 2013 Peddler Permit to Jane Stillings, subject to food handling permit approval by the County Health Department.

Mayor Bassani Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Reassessment Program

Mr. Doherty reported that the contract with Certified Valuations Inc., has been signed and returned to the Township. Mr. Doherty inquired if the governing body desired to hold a public information session with the Assessor and representatives of CVI, and the governing body expressed consensus for this to take place. Mr. Doherty reported that he would mail a special newsletter to the public, informing of the date of this public information session as well as providing general overview information about the Reassessment program.

NJDOT Grant

Mr. Doherty reported that the New Jersey Department of Transportation has awarded a Grant to Wantage Township in the amount of \$130,000 for Improvements to Pidgeon Hill road. While less than the original amount requested, Wantage Township CFO Michelle La Starza reports there are sufficient balances in other road improvement projects to make up the difference, so we will be able to proceed in 2013 with this project.

Vehicle Insurance Question regarding Claim

Mr. Doherty reported on a matter of concern raised by residents who had their vehicle damaged when it was parked on the side of a public road during a snow storm. Mr. Doherty reported the citizens are not inclined to submit their bill for repair through their own vehicle insurance policy, desiring the Township to pay for the bill. Mr. Doherty reported the Township's insurance company has explained the extent of exposure and responsibility in this matter is for the Township to reimburse the citizens the cost of their out of pocket deductible costs under their own insurance policy. Mr. Doherty also pointed out that the Township has adopted an ordinance specifically prohibiting the parking of vehicles along public streets during a snow storm, for the very purpose of preventing a situation such as this. After review and consideration, the members of the governing body expressed consensus that, absent any compelling extenuating circumstances, they could not justify requiring the taxpayers of Wantage to pay for this bill, and directed Mr. Doherty to allow the matter to proceed through regular insurance procedures.

Attorney's Report

Mr. Garofalo reported on the Governor's veto of the Early Voting Bill.

Engineer's Report

Township Engineer Harold Pellow offered an overview of the various street improvement projects being undertaken this year, as well as status update report on the various soil removal operations which still require a 201 operating license.

Mr. Pellow suggested that a meeting be set up with various Wantage officials and representatives of the Bicsak soil Removal Operation, to review and discuss the status of their application.

Mayor Bassani inquired if Mr. Pellow had any input on the status of the improvement to the Berry Road Bridge. Mr. Pellow reported that these are county projects over which he has no jurisdiction, and that he understands it may take several years before the county has the money to address this bridge.

Mayor Bassani inquired if Mr. Pellow had any involvement in the various Route 23 improvement projects being undertaken. Mr. Pellow replied that he did not, these being projects of the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Township Committee Member Reports

Mayor Bassani reported on his attendance at the most-recent Sussex county League of Municipalities dinner meeting, in which to topic of county-wide Emergency 911 Dispatch was discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment to 2013 Wantage Municipal Budget

Mr. Gaechter moved as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|----|--------------|----|--------------|
| | WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised, and | | | | | | | | |
| | WHEREAS, it is necessary 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 2013 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 | | | | | | | | |
| | N.J. Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act | | | | | \$ | 178,000.00 | \$ | |
| | Total F: Special Items of General Revenue with Prior Written Consent of | | | | | | | | |
| | Director of Local Government Services - Public and Private Revenues | | | | | \$ | 228,909.00 | \$ | 50,909.00 |
| | Anticipated With Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government | | | | | | | | |
| | Services - Public and Private Revenues Offset with Appropriations | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | | | | | \$ | 228,909.00 | \$ | 50,909.00 |
| 5. | Subtotal General Revenues (Items 1.2.3, and 4) | | | | | \$ | 3,308,475.00 | \$ | 3,130,475.00 |
| 7. | Total General Revenues | | | | | \$ | 6,627,294.00 | \$ | 6,449,294.00 |
| C) | Capital Improvements - Excluded from "CAPS" | | | | | | | | |
| | Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues: | | | | | | | | |
| | New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act | | | | | \$ | 178,000.00 | \$ | |
| | Total Capital Improvements Excluded from "CAPS" | | | | | \$ | 430,000.00 | \$ | 252,000.00 |
| | (H-2) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded From "CAPS" | | | | | \$ | 1,862,053.00 | \$ | 1,684,053.00 |
| | (O) Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded From "CAPS" | | | | | \$ | 1,862,053.00 | \$ | 1,684,053.00 |
| | (L) Subtotal General Appropriations (Items (H-1) and (O)) | | | | | \$ | 5,416,697.00 | \$ | 5,238,697.00 |
| 9. | Total General Appropriations | | | | | \$ | 6,627,294.00 | \$ | 6,449,294.00 |

Mayor Bassani seconded the motion.

Prior to roll call, Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments regarding this proposed amendment. There being no one present wishing to speak at this time, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public and requested a roll call vote. Upon Roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani **Nays:** None **Absent:** DeBoer **Abstain:** None

OLD BUSINESS, Continued

Budget Self Examination Resolution

Mr. Gaechter moved as follows:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A-4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5 the Township of Wantage has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2013 budget year, so now therefore
BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Township of Wantage that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

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.

Mayor Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Adoption of 2013 Municipal Budget

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the 2013 Wantage Municipal Budget.

Mayor Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on March 28, 2013. Mayor Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: Deboer 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.

Claire Wolpert, Fernwood Road, reported that the Fire Department drafted water from Lake Neepaulin to fight a recent fire.

Open Session, continued

Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, inquired regarding details about the Zummo Soil Removal operation. Mr. Pellow and Mayor Bassani responded to the questions.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, inquired regarding details about the Bicsak Soil Removal operation. Mr. Pellow and Mayor Bassani responded to the questions.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered observations about Reassessments and an amendment to the Farmland Assessment Act. Mr. Gettler also reported that he has taken exception to comments made by Michael Garofalo at a recent meeting of the Sussex County Board of Taxation.

General discussion took place at this time with respect to the Farmland Assessment Act.

Ms. Smulewicz stated she would send Mayor Bassani a link for the Act.

Jon Morris, Armstrong Road, suggested that community members and sports organizations do not, generally, support peddlers and vendors as much as they support food sale efforts which are run as fund raising opportunities for local sports groups. Mr. Morris stated that discussion has been taking place regarding the possibility of locating a concession stand at Woodbourne Park, and expressed a suggestion that donations could be sought from all sports organizations using the Park as a means of getting the funds necessary.

Karen Merritt stated that this has been only discussed conceptually at the Recreation Commission level, and inquired if Mr. Doherty had further input on the status of the matter.

Mr. Doherty agreed that as far as he knew, it was only something in the discussion stage at the Recreation Commission, but as of now, there has been no decision whether or not to move forward with such a project. Mr. Doherty offered several suggestions that the Recreation Commission and sports organizations might consider as they review the feasibility of this concept.

Elizabeth Shevlin, Pine ridge Road, spoke with respect to firefighting capabilities at Lake Neepaulin, with two standpipes available to draught water by the Fire Department. Ms. Shevlin also spoke with respect to the Lake being an integral part of the watershed, supporting the value of the lake. Ms. Shevlin requested an interpretation of the Safe Dam Act. Mr. Garofalo declined to comment on this matter.

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. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani Nays: None Absent: DeBoer Abstain: None

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator Clerk