

**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, NJ ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2013**

Mayor Ronald Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested the Assistant Clerk Christine Von Oesen to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Committeeman William Gaechter, and Committeeman William DeBoer. The following members were absent: None. Also present" Attorney Michael Garofalo.

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.

Mayor Bassani requested that approval for payment of Purchase Order 19985 be removed from the Bill list for separate consideration. There being no further requests for changes, the consent agenda was approved as amended, as follows.

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

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

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Raffle Application RA13-15 to Sussex Kiwanis, to hold an On Premise Merchandise Raffle on October 6, 2013 at Woodbourne Park.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Raffle Application RA13-16 to Sussex Kiwanis, to hold an On Premise 50/50 Raffle on October 6, 2013 at Woodbourne Park.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Raffle Application RA13-17 to Sussex Kiwanis, to hold an Off Premise 50/50 Raffle on December 11, 2013 at Bella Vita Restaurant, Libertyville Road.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Payment of Bills for the meeting of September 12, 2013, excluding Purchase Order 19985. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the refund of \$27,063.23 to US Bank, Block 147, Lot 6.09 for redemption of tax sale Cert. 11-47 and \$300.00 to US Bank, Block 147, Lot 6.09 for tax sale premium, Cert. 11-47, for redemption of a tax sale certificate and tax sale premium.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

**CONSENT AGENDA, Continued**

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the refund of \$50.00 to Katherine Sheppard, Block 116, Lot 6.13 for Certificate of Habitability application which was withdrawn.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the refund of \$589.76 to William Cloke, Block 117 Lot 32.01, for land use application L-06-02. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the Mayor and Administrator Clerk to submit an electronic grant application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Wantage Township, seeking a grant for the year 2014 for the remaining phases of Resurfacing Pidgeon Hill Road, Sections II and III. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to award a contract to Tilcon NY in the amount of \$170,124.56 and Denville Line Painting in the amount of \$1,325.50 for Improvements to Lake Neepaulin Roads – Section II, under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council Contract. Certification of Availability of Funds is on file in the Clerk's office. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve expanding the existing Cooperative Purchasing Commodity Resale Agreement between Sussex Wantage Schools and Wantage Township to include the right for the Board of Education to purchase Salt, Grits, Winter Storm chemicals, and public works materials in addition to the already existing agreement for use of the Township Fuel pumps, under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing council contracts, via Wantage Township's storage facility.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to Confirm Waiver of setback regulations for a septic system at 27 Boulder Hill Boulevard, a.k.a. Block 4.01 Lot 8, allowing a 5 foot setback rather than a 10 foot setback.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Renewal of Liquor License 1924-33-002-003 to Douglas J. Thomson for the 2013-14 Licensing term. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the hiring of Wayne Devantoy of 57 Beemer Church Road, as a part time seasonal Laborer for the Wantage Public Works Department at the starting salary of \$18.00 per hour, to be utilized when regular full time employees of the Department are unavailable for winter storm response assignments. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

**Approval of Separate Bill List Item**

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve payment of Purchase Order 19985 to Bassani Power Equipment, in the amount of \$482.49. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

**Administrator's Report**

The Administrator's report was postponed to the meeting of September 26, when Mr. Doherty would be back from vacation.

**Attorney's Report**

Mr. Garofalo updated the governing body on the progress of preparing a motion for an injunction against Thomas Caggiano with regard to frivolous OPRA requests. Mr. Garofalo reported that two other Sussex County municipalities have expressed a desire to join this motion.

**Attorney's Report, Continued**

Mr. Garofalo reported that all successful bidders on the sale of municipal property have been contacted and deed transfer paperwork is ongoing.

The governing body reviewed a request from a resident on Newman Road for a Bus Stop to be located. General consensus was to forward this request to the Sussex Wantage School district for their consideration.

**Township Committee Member Reports**

Mr. DeBoer requested that pavement be put down in front of the First Aid Storage Shed on the side of the First Aid Squad building,

Mayor Bassani announced that the Chinkchewunaska Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are celebrating the 226<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Constitution during America's Constitution Week, September 17-23, 2013. Mayor Bassani offered the following Proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION: CONSTITUTION WEEK**

Whereas, September 17, 2013 marks the two hundred and twenty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and  
Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize this magnificent document and the anniversary of its creation; and  
Whereas, it is fitting and proper to officially recognize the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate the occasion; and  
Whereas, public law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as constitution week;  
NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD BASSANI, Mayor of the Township of Wantage, do hereby proclaim September 17 through 23, 2013 to be CONSTITUTION WEEK In the Township of Wantage, and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787.

**Third Party Energy Options**

Mayor Bassani offered an update report on a meeting that he and the Chief Finance Officer had with representatives of Concord Energy, a coordinator of Government Energy Aggregation Programs which could provide savings to residential and commercial customers within the Township. General review and discussion of this possibility took place. No action was taken as none was called for at this time.

Mayor Bassani reported on a meeting he attended with representatives of JCP&L, in which reports and details were offered regarding JCP&L's ongoing efforts to improve their service and response efforts in times of emergency.

Mayor Bassani offered an update report on meetings with Verizon, concerning the possible placement of a cell tower on the municipal building property location. This would generate approximately \$2,000 a month in revenue for the Township. Verizon will place a crane alongside the municipal building raised to a height that would simulate the height of the cell tower, as a visual aid in understanding the proposed height of the structure. No action was taken on this matter.

Mayor Bassani reported that efforts to proceed with a natural gas service line being extended to the municipal building property have been successful and this project will be proceeding.

Mayor Bassani reported that the Sussex County League of Municipalities has requested municipalities support two issues, the first supporting that public work projects under \$100,000 not be subject to prevailing wage requirements, and the second involving distribution of cost burden for tax appeal refunds to be shared equitably with boards of education and county budgets, rather than the cost burden falling completely on a municipal budget. All members of the governing body agreed with these measures by consensus.

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Mr. Garofalo reported that Land Use Secretary Stella Salazar was successful in her efforts to obtain payment of outstanding escrow costs on a commercial property on Route 565, a.k.a. Isaac's Place, in the amount of \$920.29, and payment of taxes on the property have also been brought up to date.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Volcanic Hill Road Petition:** Tabled to next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on August 15, 2013.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer, 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.

Residents Francis Franklin, Rita Vanderbeck, Jack Hingel and Gini Keller engaged in a discussion with the three members of the governing body regarding the issues of the completion of paving for the roads in Clove Hill Manor, the status of the performance bond on the subdivision, and the course of action to be taken for completing the improvements. The members of the governing body and Mr. Garofalo confirmed and assured the residents present that representatives of the governing body are willing to meet with the Homeowners Association if an invitation is extended. Mayor Bassani stated the Township would follow up with formal steps for calling the bond if satisfactory progress is not accomplished by the next meeting.

There being no one else wishing to address the governing body, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public 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. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting adjourned.

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Christine Von Oesen, Assistant Clerk