

**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 9, 2014**

Mayor DeBoer 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 DeBoer, Committeeman Bassani. The following member was absent: Committeeman Gaechter.

Also present: CFO Michelle La Starza

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

Mayor DeBoer 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 2014 with Chief Jon Morris, Assistant Chief Larry Bono and Assistant chief Justin VanderGroef of the Wantage Fire Department, and Chief Rick VanderPloeg and Assistant Chief Jake Little of the Sussex Fire Department.

Discussion included immediate year needs such as replacing an existing Wantage fire vehicle, replacing hose for the Wantage Fire Department, and replacing SCBA equipment for the Wantage Fire Department through a fully funded capital ordinance. A request from Sussex Fire Department for consideration of financial assistance with the purchase of equipment and appurtenances for their fire vehicles also took place.

General discussion turned to possible long range changes to departmental structure; the possibility of billing private citizens for emergency services through insurance, and the possibility of the Township accepting title to an existing vehicle currently owned by Beemerville Fire Department. The discussion of future possible joint grant applications between the two Fire Departments was also discussed.

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 2014 as was offered in 2013.

Discussion turned to the animal control budget. General review and discussion took place with Animal Control Officer John Abate for the staffing needs of the upcoming year, and a review of the municipal clients currently being served by Wantage under shared service arrangements.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

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

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

Mayor DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting to be adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk