

**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 23, 2014**

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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, Committeemen Bassani, Gaechter (present as of 9:20 a.m.). The following member was absent: None. 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 held discussion with Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner regarding review of 2013 activities and planned actions for 2014. Ms. Lockburner supported the proposal for digitizing the Tax Maps and the proposal for implementing the SDL Municipal Management Software programs. General review and discussion took place, including the status of the Reassessment program. The members of the governing body expressed their thanks and appreciation for Ms. Lockburner's efforts and accomplishments over the past several years.

The members of the governing body then held discussion with Tax Collector Melissa Caton regarding review of 2013 activities and planned actions for 2014. General review and discussion took place.

Discussion turned to the proposed capital budget for 2014. Mr. Doherty reviewed the various proposed projects for purchase of equipment and vehicles, and road repair projects envisioned for the year. Mr. Doherty indicated that Mr. Pellow, Township Engineer, could offer additional details and data on these points when he attends the meeting of the governing body scheduled for January 30.

Ms. La Starza offered a brief overview of revenues received for 2013, stating that final audited figures should be available in the next several weeks, which will then allow for calculation of the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes. Together with the conclusion of the Reassessment program to establish a new Total Valuation figure for Wantage, the proposed new tax rate should be ready for consideration within the next three weeks.

Mr. Bassani expressed a desire to review potential grant funding sources which might be available within the State for various projects. General review and consideration of this suggestion took place.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, inquired whether Wantage Township had undertaken a credit check on FOLN, and had requested three years of tax returns from FOLN, before co-signing the Dam Improvement loan; expressed the opinion that individuals seeking appointment to the municipality's boards should attend other meetings; and expressed disappointment that the Township did not send her a courtesy letter indicating that her interest in being appointed to the Land Use Board had been considered.

As there was no one else 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. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting to be adjourned.