

**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 15, 2014**

Mayor DeBoer called the regular meeting to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Bill DeBoer, Committeeman Ron Bassani, and Committeeman Bill Gaechter. The following members were absent: None.

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."

FLAG SALUTE

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

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

At this time, students from the 8th Grade of Sussex Middle School took part in the Youth In Government program. After the program concluded, the following individuals offered their thanks and congratulations to the students: Mayor Bill DeBoer, Deputy Mayor Bill Gaechter, Committeeman Ron Bassani, Sussex Mayor Jon Rose, Sussex Councilwoman Linda Masson, and Ms. Eileen Potts, Teacher/Coordinator of the Youth in Government program.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor DeBoer requested that the governing body Review the Regular Consent Agenda.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following Reports for filing:

- Construction Department Report for April 2014
- Board of Health Report for April 2014
- Registrar of Vital Statistics Report for April 2014
- Municipal Clerk Report for April 2014
- Tax Collector Report for April 2014
- Recycling Tonnage Report for the Year 2013
- Minutes of the Tax Assessor Hearing Held on May 1, 2014

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Bill List for the meeting of May 15, 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following refunds:

\$1,437.22 to Robert G. Walsh, Block 123 Lot 3.07 for overpayment of taxes due to veteran exemption allowed and paid by bank for the second quarter in a row.

- \$1,188.06 to Alex & Irina Blekher, Block 26 Lot 2.08 for 2013 overpayment - State tax appeal.
- \$3,513.12 to Jesse Wolosky, Block 148 Lot 15 for 2013 overpayment - State tax appeal.
- \$3,489.42 to Richard Kimble, Block 140 Lot 31.02 for 2013 overpayment - State tax appeal.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Reappointment of Craig Dana to the position of Municipal Court Judge, effective May 24, 2014 through May 23, 2017.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Application for Membership in the Wantage Fire Department (Beemerville Company #2) for Christopher Barber of Frankford Township, New Jersey

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

PAGE TWO OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2014

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the refund of \$80.00 to Mary Jane Nemeth for Resale Inspection no longer occurring on Block 58 Lot 7.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to endorse approval for Coin Toss fundraiser of Wantage First Aid Squad on various dates during the year 2014 as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wantage Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey formally authorizes and endorses the application of the Wantage Township First Aid Squad to conduct a Coin Toss on various dates in 2014, at McCoy's Corner, being the intersection of County Routes 639, 565 and 628 on the dates of May 23 from 1 pm to 7 pm, May 24 from 9 am to 5 pm, May 25 from 9 am to 5 pm, and May 26 from 9 am to 3 pm, subject to all requirements imposed upon the Wantage Township First Aid Squad by the County of Sussex for such activities.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve release of the following Executive Session minutes as public records: January 17, 2013; January 31, 2013 – partial release on topics of Negotiations and CJS litigation; February 15, 2013; March 28, 2013; June 13, 2013; August 15, 2013 – partial release on topic of OPRA case; November 14, 2013 – partial release on topic of OPRA case.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve contract with SDL for installation of the GeoClient Computer Software System, involving data conversion and Enterprise Licensing for greater interdepartmental communication and public service, in the amount of \$28,250.00.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve contract with The DRS Group for digital conversion of the Township's Well and Septic Records and Construction Department files from 2009 to the present, at a price of \$10,500 for the year 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Administrator's Report

Mr. Doherty presented a proposed resolution, requested from the New Jersey League of Municipalities, condemning the actions of Terrorist Group Boko Haram.

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Known terrorist group Boko Haram abducted at least 276 female students, most of them between 15 and 18 years old, on April 14, 2014, from the Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding school located in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, All public secondary schools in Borno state were closed in March 2014 because of increasing attacks that killed hundreds of students, but the young women at the Government Girls Secondary School returned to take their final exams; and

WHEREAS, The militants burned down several buildings before they opened fire on soldiers and police who were guarding the school and forced the students into trucks, with only some students successfully escaping their captors; and

WHEREAS, Abubakar Shekau, Boko Haram's leader, claimed responsibility for the militant group's abduction and declared his plan to sell the kidnapped girls in a video recording; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of State designated Boko Haram, which loosely translates to meaning "western education is sin," as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in November 2013, recognizing the threat posed by the group's large-scale and indiscriminate attacks against women and children; and

WHEREAS, Boko Haram is philosophically opposed to the education of females, and has kidnapped women and children, forced girls to serve as cooks and sex slaves, bombed churches and mosques, and assassinated politicians and religious leaders; and

WHEREAS, The Nigerian police indicated that the number of kidnapped school girls has risen, and an exact number has not been confirmed because many of the girls are from surrounding villages and the militants burned down the school and all of its student records; and

WHEREAS, On May 5, 2014, suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped an additional eight girls, ranging in age from 12 to 15, from a northeastern village in Nigeria; and

RESOLUTION, continued

WHEREAS, The young women abducted by Boko Haram are likely to be physically and sexually abused, raped by their captors, dispersed throughout the continent, traded or sold for money, and forced to become child brides of Boko Haram fighters or prostitutes exposed to brutality and disease; and

WHEREAS, Abducted children have been forced to serve as human shields in similar hostile situations; and

WHEREAS, This mass abduction is one of the most extreme examples of students and schools being attacked by a terrorist group, with the threat of abduction effectively halting education in certain areas, including the northern region of Nigeria where thousands of school students have recently ceased attending school out of fear of abduction; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has a long and unwavering history of opposing human trafficking, and the reprehensible actions of Boko Haram necessitate a reaffirmed commitment to speaking out against all kinds of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the citizens of Wantage Township and in the public interest of supporting the greater societal good, it is imperative [0 call for the immediate and safe return of the young women abducted in Nigeria by Boko Haram; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage:

- 1) Urgently calls for the immediate and safe return of the young women abducted in Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram.
- 2) Expresses its strong support for the people of Nigeria, especially the parents and families of the young women abducted by Boko Haram;
- 3) Recognizes that every individual, regardless of gender, should have the opportunity to pursue an education without fear of discrimination or violence, and encourages the government of Nigeria to strengthen efforts to protect the ability of children to safely obtain an education;
- 4) Supports offers of United States assistance to the government of Nigeria in the search for these abducted young women, and encourages the government of Nigeria to work with the United States and other concerned governments to resolve this tragic situation and ensure the safe and swift rescue of the young women; and
- 5) Encourages the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development to continue their support of initiatives that promote and protect the human rights, safety, and welfare of women and girls in Nigeria.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. Doherty stated that Michael Garofalo has submitted his resignation from the position of Township Attorney for personal reasons, effective immediately.

Mr. Bassani moved to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Michael Garofalo from the position of Township Attorney; to name Glenn Kienz as Township Attorney for the remainder of the year 2014; and to authorize Glenn Kienz to represent the Township in Tax Appeals for the remainder of 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Attorney's Report: None

Township Committee Member Reports

Mr. Bassani reported that he attended a Hopatcong GOP Event recently and wished to inform everyone of an event that was publicized at that event, being the Armed Forces Relief Benefit scheduled for May 18 in Hopatcong. Mr. Bassani encouraged members of the public to consider attending this benefit which is being held for a very good cause.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Adoption of Ordinance 2014-10: Volcanic Hill Road

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt on final reading, Ordinance 2014-10, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE TO ASSUME JURISDICTION OF VOLCANIC HILL ROAD PURSUANT TO NJSA 40:67-1." Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion.

Prior to final roll call, Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments with respect to this proposed ordinance. There being no one present wishing to address the governing body on this topic, Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public and requested a roll call vote. Upon Roll call,

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

PAGE FOUR OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2014

Introduction of Ordinance 2014-11:

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2014-11, entitled “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION AS AUTHORIZED BY N.J.S. 40A:4-53 et. seq., FOR THE PREPARATION OF AN APPROVED TAX MAP”

Final Hearing date scheduled for June 12, 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular and Executive Sessions of the Wantage governing body meeting held on April 24, 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor DeBoer 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 the belief that the students should remain for the entire meeting as a part of the Youth in Government program; offered a reminder that Wantage Day will be held at Woodbourne Park on June 7, 2014.

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, inquired who the candidate was for the position on the Wantage governing body for the upcoming Primary Election, and was informed it was Jon Morris. Ms. Gorman offered input on her not having seen Mr. Morris at a public meeting prior to this evening; stated she was not satisfied with the results of her search for records associated with the Lake Neepaulin Dam issue.

Ken Nelson, Volcanic Hill Road, thanked the governing body for their action on Volcanic Hill Road.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, inquired regarding an article in the newspaper regarding compost material used as fertilizer at Woodbourne Park. Mr. Doherty offered clarifying details regarding that issue.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, stated that it was not a local person who spread the compost at Woodbourne Park; offered comments regarding assessments and appeals; offered historical comments regarding the Lake Neepaulin Dam issue; expressed concern with actions of the governing body regarding that topic; requested the governing body place a question on the ballot regarding ownership of the Lake if or when ownership was offered to the Township.

At this time, Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. Bassani moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting adjourned.