

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015.**

Mayor Gaechter called the meeting to order, and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor William Gaechter, Committeeman Ronald Bassani, Committeeman Jon Morris. Also present were Attorney Louis Karp, and Deputy Clerk Christine Von Oesen.

Mayor Gaechter 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 advertised and posted and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Gaechter invited all those present to join in the Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Gaechter requested that the governing body review the Consent Agenda.

Resolutions:

1. Authorizing Payment of Bills for the meeting of September 24, 2015, excluding P.O. 12822 to Bassani Power a& Equipment in the amount of \$391.22.
2. Authorizing the refund of \$16,064.04 to US Bank for Block 56 Lot 7 for tax sale certificate 12-14; and \$18,700 to US Back for Block 56 for & for tax sale premium certificate 12-14.
3. Authorizing the refund to Indian Ridge Farms for Block 40 Lot 1.01 for D-2015-01, for a completed driveway application.
4. Authorizing cancellation of taxes for 2014 and 2015 on Block 148 Lot 25 as follows: 2014 taxes \$745.92; 2015 taxes \$766.34, correcting assessment of property based on Reassessment.
5. Authorizing cancellation of taxes reflecting change in property tax status to tax exempt, as follows:
 - 2014 Taxes
 - Block 69.01 Lot 40 in the amount of \$396.93.
 - Block 69.02 Lott 55 in the amount of \$557.18.
 - 2015 Taxes
 - Block 69.01 Lot 40 in the amount of \$714.56.
 - Block 69.02 Lot 55 in the amount of \$849.19.
6. Approving submission of a grant application and authorizing the Mayor and Administrator Clerk to execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Pidgeon Hill Road - Sections IV Improvement Project.
7. Confirming by reference that the provisions of CFR44.13.36 and 2 CFR 200.138 are included within the Wantage Township Procurement Policy (mandatory wording to ensure compliance with eligibility for FEMA Grant applications).

After review of the consent agenda, Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to approve all items on the consent agenda other than that applicable to P.O. 12822 to Bassani Power & Equipment, in the amount of \$391.22, as noted in Consent Agenda Item #1.

Motion by Mr. Bassani, Second by Mr. Morris. Upon Roll Call:

AYES: Bassani, Morris, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to approve P.O. 12822 to Bassani Power & Equipment in the amount of \$391.22.

Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mayor Gaechter.

Ayes: Morris, Gaechter No Vote: Bassani

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None

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COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MR. BASSANI: None

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MR. MORRIS: Mr. Morris advised that there has been progress with the Fire Truck specs.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT – MAYOR GAECHTER: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Gaechter advised that due to an error in the New Jersey Herald advertisement, no action will be taken on Ordinance 2015-10 this evening. The governing body authorizes that the Final Reading of Ordinance 2015-10 will be re-advertised and rescheduled to be heard on the October 8, 2015 Meeting of the Wantage Township Committee.

Mayor Gaechter advised that there were no minutes available at this meeting to approve.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathy Gorman inquired about signs in Lake Neepaulin. She does not feel that the signs are appropriate.

Mayor Gaechter offered that he had spoken with Attorney Glenn Kienz who suggested that Ms. Gorman file a complaint with Zoning Official Patrick Stefanelli, as she did previously, and if the outcome is not to her approval, she may appeal the matter to the Land Use Board.

Discussion took place between Ms. Gorman and Mayor Gaechter regarding this option.

Ms. Gorman indicated that she had attended the Land Use Board meeting. She offered her views on development in Wantage Township.

Ms. Gorman offered her views with respect to the Friends of Lake Neepaulin bylaws.

Ms. Gorman expressed concern that a realtor company is referencing Lake Neepaulin property as part of a lake community, and adds that the lake needs to be stocked and improvements should be made to the lake area.

Rocco Russo stated that a potential Lake Neepaulin buyer thought that she had to be a dues paying Lake Neepaulin member. He requests the Township let potential home buyers know that there are no dues in Lake Neepaulin and that Lake Neepaulin is not a lake community.

General discussion continued between Ms. Gorman and the Mayor regarding her option to request the Zoning Officer to investigate her belief that a zoning violation is involved with the signs of her concern.

With respect to Ms. Gorman's request that the Township re-post the Turnover Agreement for Lake Neepaulin on the Township Website, Mayor Gaechter asked if Ms. Gorman would find it acceptable, in lieu of the turnover notice, to publish two sentences on the website indicating that Lake Neepaulin is not a lake community and that there are no dues.

Ms. Gorman stated that she would prefer the Lake Neepaulin agreement to be placed on the website.

Warren Wisse announced that the 8th Annual Veterans Memorial Car, Truck and Bike Show will be held on October 4, 2015 at the Woodbourne Veterans Memorial Park.

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Ann Smulewicz expressed unhappiness with the Township Committee, and agreed with Ms. Gorman's comments regarding development. Mrs. Smulewicz expressed a desire to have an Economic Development Commission, and expressed concern with the number of meetings of the Township Committee during the past 9 months.

Mayor Gaechter expressed disagreement with Ms. Smulewicz's comments, adding that he attends 4-5 meetings a month.

Ann Smulewicz expressed a desire to have more reports on the activities of the governing body.

Rocco Russo expressed concern regarding the condition of the brook that feeds into Lake Neepaulin.

Cathy Gorman, Warren Wisse, and the members of the governing body discussed this concern, with general agreement being offered that it is a matter for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection to address.

Mayor Gaechter stated that he would talk to Engineer Harold Pellow on the matter.

Mr. Russo expressed concern with a tree leaning at 109 South Shore Drive, which he would like it taken down. Committeeman Bassani suggested that Mr. Russo call the Sussex Rural Electric Co-op to take it down.

Ann Smulewicz offered views regarding the Freeholders, and about computer hacking. General discussion took place regarding this concern. Committeeman Morris stated that fire stations have been receiving grants for generators because of this threat.

Mrs. Smulewicz expressed support for solar roofs and solar generator technology, and offered views of this topic as it was handled by the Freeholders. Committeeman Bassani stated that the solar energy problem at the Freeholder level was that the taxpayers were not protected by the agreement that was made with the contractor.

Warren Wisse stated his belief that the newly installed speed bumps in Lake Neepaulin beach area were small.

Kathy Gorman asked about the ShopRite development progress.

Mayor Gaechter stated that until the attorneys submit their site plan to Sussex and Wantage, they prefer to not entertain public discussion.

There was some discussion among the audience members and Mayor Gaechter about the company that would be taking over the A&P, including beliefs that it could be either Acme or Albertsons.

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to close the meeting to the public.

Motion made by Mr. Bassani, Second my Mr. Morris.

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

Mayor Gaechter requested a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani, Second by Mr. Morris

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Assistant Municipal Clerk