

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 888 STATE ROUTE 23, WANTAGE,
NJ, HELD AT 4:30 P.M. ON
March 2, 2017**

Mayor Morris called the meeting to order, and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Jonathan Morris, Committeeman Ronald Bassani and Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: Administrator/Acting Clerk Debra Millikin and Michelle LaStarza Chief Financial Officer. Committeeman Gaechter was excused.

Mayor Morris stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Morris invited all those in attendance to join in the Salute of the Flag.

BUDGET 2017

Mayor Morris stated the Committee is here to discuss the 2017 Budget. Mrs. Millikin advised she had some good news regarding the budget this evening. The RUT is the reason why the budget will not stay flat for 2017. The RUT this year is an increase of \$75,205.00. This was decreased slightly since the Township cannot collect for the open space tax this year. The increase in the reserve is \$75,205 which equates to an increase of \$16.82 to the average tax payer. By reducing the total budget \$85,479.00 from 2016, the increase was brought down to \$5.78. If you remember the budget proposal on January 24th was \$12.64 increase. Another \$11,000 was utilized of fund balance still leaving a remaining balance of \$400,000. Mrs. LaStarza stated the very first line is revenue is your surplus being utilized. Mrs. Millikin stated that last year the Committee used \$500,000 of surplus. Discussion ensued on the budget.

Mr. Bassani questioned the property maintenance code and where is this in the budget. Mrs. LaStarza stated it is not anticipated revenue until we know what amount will be brought in this cannot be anticipated. Mr. Bassani questioned if the revenue for property maintenance can be utilized to offset this \$5.78. Mrs. LaStarza stated if anticipated as \$80,000 could possibly be utilized. Discussion ensued on this matter. Mrs. LaStarza stated this can be done. Mrs. LaStarza stated that the revenues has been updated to show all ACO agreements being executed as well. It was determined to take the extra \$25,000 out of surplus. This will mean that there will be the budget will be flat.

Mrs. Millikin advised that stated various roads Lower Unionville Road has been removed. Morgan Drive, Marc Drive and Eastfield Drive were added which increased total to \$837,500. Also included in the capital is the resting of the field 5&6 and irrigation has been placed into the budget for Woodbourne Park. Also placed in the budget was an additional \$5,000 for the Fire Department as equipment upgrades. This takes place the increase of the stipend.

Mrs. Millikin indicated what has been eliminated from the Capital is Shale Hill and the radios. The Fire Department met with Vernon Township and are going to place the radio antenna on their Lake Panorama Site. The cost would be covered under the old capital

for the high band conversion. Which is about \$12,000 in the account. The radios required for this conversion can be purchased through old capital based on the trucks. The \$33,000 for this is being covered under the truck budget and will be broken between Beemerville and Colesville. Mrs. LaStarza and Mrs. Millikin were able to come up with additional old money under capital to cover only \$4,500 Sussex as oppose to \$10,000 requested for the radios. Discussion ensued regarding the various capital items.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

Mrs. Millikin would like to introduce the budget on March 9th with a zero percent increase. Public Hearing for April 13th. Salary ordinance will be introduced on March 9th.

Mayor Morris asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mr. Gaechter

Ayes: Bassani & Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk