

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR 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 7 P.M. ON
March 9, 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, and Committeeman Ronald Bassani. Committeeman Gaechter was excused. Also present: Administrator/Acting Clerk Debra Millikin and Mr. Louis Karp, Township Attorney.

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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items Resolution 44-2017 through Resolution 45-2017. Motion made by Mr. Bassani, and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #44-2017

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AS FINAL AND COMPLETE MILLIING PAVING AND LINE STRIPING OF
PIDGEON HILL ROAD – SEC. IV

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage awarded a contract for milling, paving, and striping of Pidgeon Hill Rod – Sec. IV to Tilcon of New York and Denville Line Striping on June 23, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer, Harold E. Pellow, of Harold E. Pellow & Associates, recommends in his letter dated February 21, 2017, that the project be accepted as final and complete for the milling, paving and line striping of Pidgeon Hill Road – Section IV; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex that it hereby accepts the milling, paving and line striping of Pidgeon Hill Road – Sec. IV as final and complete.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #45-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION ON
BLOCK 37 LOT 1.02

WHEREAS, The Department of Veteran Affairs determined that Vincent Ricciardi at 56 Armstrong Rd, Block 133 Lot 9.02 had a service connected disability that was totally disabling effective March 3, 1998,

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has received a Claim for property tax exemption on dwelling house of Disabled Veteran, which was approved by the Tax Assessor on January 4, 2017.

WHEREAS, as per N.J.S.A.54: 4-3.30et seq, Mr. Ricciardi is entitled to a tax exemption on his property located at 56 Armstrong Rd from January 1, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is authorized to cancel taxes billed for the 1st and 2nd Qtr 2017 in the amount of \$414.47.
2. The future billing of 2017 taxes will also be cancelled at time of billing.
3. This property will be marked as exempt in the 2017 tax list.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

REPORTS

Clerk – None

Administrator – Mrs. Millikin advised that she had met with the Friends of Wantage Animal Shelter and have asked if the Township would consider allowing them to utilize the Township parking lot on a weekend in the Spring. My only concern is that there will be no employees here on the weekend and the accessibility to the facility. Mayor Morris questioned what type of event? Mrs. Millikin advised the it is a flea market. Mr. Bassani recommended them holding this in the park. Mrs. Millikin advised she would look into the use of the park.

Mrs. Millikin advised that quotes will be out tomorrow for the field maintenance at the various park locations. These proposals are due back to my attention on March 21st.

Mrs. Millikin advised of some upcoming events that the Township has been invited too. The first is the Sussex County Meals on Wheels program will be hosting an event on March 22nd at 8:30 a.m. for the Catholic Family & Community Services event. They have requested a representative from Wantage attend this annual event. It is at 8:30 a.m. Mayor requested the information for the event.

Another invitation was received from Senator Oroho and Assemblyman Space regarding their yearling meeting with the Township participation at the Sparta Municipal Building on April 24th at 10:00 a.m. Committee will get back to me on who would like to attend.

Mrs. Millikin also advised the Township received an invitation to the 1 year press conference for the Sussex County Clear Program being held at the Newton Municipal Building on March 29th at 11:00 a.m. Mrs. Millikin advised she would attend on the Township's behalf.

Next Mrs. Millikin advised that the Fire Department is requesting the Township look into a Knox Box Ordinance. The ordinance would be establishing a Knox box ordinance for commercial properties in Wantage. She provided a copy of the proposed ordinance. The discussion for this will be under new business with the Fire Department on April 13th. Mr. Bassani questioned Chief Vander Groef a reason on why this is needed. Mr. Vander Groef stated it gives the ability to get access into a commercial building without having to wait for a key holder. More would be discussed on the 13th of April.

Mrs. Millikin final item is the new slide has been installed at Woodbourne Park. The slide can be utilized starting on Monday after the concrete has cured.

Attorney Report – Mr. Karp had two items. He brought the Committee up to date regarding the Breen matter. He also advised that 25 Summit Drive the Township should do an environmental assessment regarding the property if the Township is so inclined to take the parcel over.

Mayor Morris stated he had some very good meeting this week. Yesterday he had a great meeting with a Resident and also attended the Strategic Planning Meeting with the School Board last night along with Mr. Bassani. High Point High School Superintendent was there along with Mayor Little of Sussex Borough. Also, have had some discussions with NJDEP some good some not so good related to some issues with the NJDEP. Mayor Morris indicated he did not see anyone present who was concerned about this issue but wanted to make sure it is know the Township is still working on this.

Committee Member Report – Mr. Bassani – none

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bassani asked Mrs. Millikin to look into the flag pole matter since the ordinance was in place.

NEW BUSINESS

2nd Reading & Public Hearing

A Motion is in Order to adopt on final reading Ordinance #2017-4 AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Mr. Bassani made a motion and was seconded by Mayor Morris. M

Mayor Morris opened the hearing to the public. Mrs. Ann Smulewicz, 59 Route 23, Wantage, stated please elaborate on this ordinance is there a need or a purpose for this. Mrs. Millikin indicated this is done on a yearly basis. Mr. Bassani stated the Township will not use the CAP, however, it allows us to utilize the money if needed. Allows the Township to have money on an emergency basis. Mrs. Millikin explained it is normally 2% for the cap but allows the Township to go up to 3.5%. No other member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

ORDINANCE 2017-4
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2017
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage in the County of Sussex finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2017 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$119,028 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2017 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Wantage shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$119,028, and that the CY 2017 municipal budget for the Township of Wantage be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Introduction of Ordinance

A Motion is in order to approve on first reading Ordinance #2017-5 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2017.

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ORDINANCE # 2017-5

ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2017

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.40A:9-165, the Township of Wantage shall pay its municipal officers and employees for services rendered as shown below. Figures shown represent annual salary, unless otherwise indicated.

DEPARTMENT & POSITION

Township Committee Ronald Bassani	6,000	Annual
Township Committee William Gaechter	6,000	Annual
Township Committee Jonathan Morris	6,000	Annual
Administrator Debra Millikin	71,500	Annual
Acting Clerk Debra Millikin	38,500	Annual
Acting Clerk Debra Millikin (Contractual Increase)	5,000	Annual
Deputy Township Clerk Christine Von Oesen	54,049	Annual
Clerk Typist Administration Nancy Van Horn	27,140	Annual
Chief Finance Officer Michelle LaStarza	71,842	Annual
Michelle LaStarza Shared Service C.F.O. Salary	15,810	Annual
Debra Millikin Shared Service QPA Stipend	250	Annual
Nancy Van Horn Shared Service Finance Stipend	1,000	Annual
Clerk Typist Arlene DeLaOsa	28,800	Annual
Arlene DeLaOsa Shared Service Finance Stipend	250	Annual
IT Technician Melissa Caton	3,121	Annual
Tax Collector/Tax Search Officer Melissa Caton	59,019	Annual
Melissa Caton Shared Service Tax Stipend	3,500	Annual
Clerk Typist Nancy Van Horn Tax Collection	13,981	Annual
Nancy Van Horn Shared Service Tax Stipend	500	Annual
Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner	55,141	Annual

Kristy Lockburner Shared Service Assessor Stipend	2,000	Annual
Clerk Typist Assessment Nicole Dunn	26,960	Annual
Nicole Dunn Share Service Assessor Stipend	500	Annual
Land Use Secretary Jeanne McBride	14,400	Annual
Zoning Officer (Part Time) Patrick Stefanelli	17,629	Annual
Zoning Secretary Jeanne McBride	14,400	Annual
Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Konopinski	4,516	Annual
Joseph Konopinski, EMMA Grant	4,700	Annual
Michelle LaStarza, EMMA Grant	2,350	Annual
Claude Wagner, EMMA Grant	2,350	Annual
Board of Health Secretary Jeanne McBride	7,200	Annual
Registrar of Vital Statistics Christine Von Oesen	4,026	Annual
Recreation Secretary Arlene DeLaOsa	7,200	Annual
Constable John Abate	2,995	Annual
Judge of the Municipal Court Glenn Gavan	37,454	Annual
Court Administrator Tania Ell	52,341	Annual
Violations Clerk/Cashier (Part Time) Lauren McIntosh	12.75	Per Hour
Assistant Violations Clerk (Part Time) Shirley Rumore	11.04	Per Hour
Court Keyboarding Clerk (Part Time) Jo Ann Klippel	10.20	Per Hour
Court Attendant Dennis Negele	5,139	Annual
Dennis Negele Shared Service Court Stipend	1,800	Annual
Court Attendant Amy Heater	3,939	Annual
Amy Heater Shared Service Court Stipend	1,730	Annual
Animal Control Officer, John Abate	22.24	Per Hour
Deputy Animal Control Officer Claude Wagner	3,183	Annual
Deputy Animal Control Officer Amy Heater	1,787	Annual
Poundkeeper (Part Time) Mike Flood	15.13	Per Hour
Poundkeeper (Part Time) Melanie Monastra	15.13	Per Hour
DPW Supervisor Claude Wagner	69,848	Annual
Building Maintenance John Card	2,081	Annual
Assistant DPW Supervisor Mark Little	24.62	Per Hour
Mechanic John Card	23.95	Per Hour
Road Repairer 2 Richard Fairweather	23.81	Per Hour
Heavy Equipment Operator David Stewart	23.46	Per Hour
Laborer Larry Caton	20.29	Per Hour
Laborer Melvyn Sliker	20.29	Per Hour
Custodian Amy Heater	17.92	Per Hour
Laborer Timothy O'Brien	15.48	Per Hour
Laborer Brian Hundley	15.48	Per Hour
Laborer Dana Welch	15.48	Per Hour
Laborer (Part Time) Seasonal John Dennis	15.61	Per Hour
Laborer (Part Time) Seasonal Michael Flood	15.61	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Darrell Caton	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) William Crum	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Chantz DeGroat	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Michael Flood	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Russell Rome	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Jeffrey Krohn	18.00	Per Hour
Backup Snow Plow Operator (Part Time) Kyle Kuperus	18.00	Per Hour

Section 2. All former ordinances or parts thereof conflicting or inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect after publication and passage according to law.

Introduction of Budget

A Motion is in Order to Introduce the 2017 Wantage Township Municipal Budget in the amount of \$6,056,837.00, which results in a flat tax rate of .294. Public Hearing shall be scheduled for April 13, 2017

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Approval of Minutes

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Mayor and Committee Special Meeting, and February 23, 2017 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris

Upon Roll Call:

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

Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a complex and ongoing problem in our society, affecting many children; and,

WHEREAS, every child is entitled to be loved, cared for, nurtured, feel secure and be free from verbal, sexual, emotional and physical abuse, and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect not only directly harm children, but also increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems, and risky behavior; and

WHEREAS the effects of child abuse are felt by communities as a whole, and need to be addressed by the community; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships among families, social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Township of Wantage does proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith

groups, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

Jonathan Morris, Mayor

Dated: March 9, 2017

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Maryellen Glanville, 48 New York Avenue, Wantage stated she has been a resident for the past 11 years. She is questioning the presence of Atlantic Ambulance in Wantage. Reason for moving to Wantage is location to the hospital and emergency services. She stated as a taxpayer is concerned with Atlantic Ambulance due to the fact that her insurance may not cover the cost and wanted to know the reason for why Atlantic is in Wantage. Also, wanted to know if a tax break would be given since the Wantage First Aid is no longer making calls. Mayor Morris indicated Wantage is still good. Unfortunately, there has been a membership turn over at the First Aid. Sussex First Aid Squad was backing the Township, but unfortunately had an equipment issue and the Township had obtained an additional backup for the squad. Mayor Morris stated that there still is a Wantage First Aid Squad and that membership is increasing, however, the Township agreed to bring Atlantic Ambulance on because of the need for a back-up. Atlantic Ambulance is the second call and does accept your insurance, however, if you do not have insurance they will work with you if needed. Mayor Morris indicated this is the Township's back-up. Lately the Wantage First Aid Squad has been responding to the majority of calls and Atlantic Ambulance has only been on standby. The Wantage First Aid Squad is going through some tough times but they are working on covering calls.

Mr. Bill DeBoer, Beemer Road, Wantage, he questioned when the bridge by the Double S will be under construction. Mr. Bassani indicated it will be a big project. Mayor Morris indicated it is going to be a 2-year project because of the river. Mrs. Millikin advised she would reach out to her NJDOT contact on this project.

Mr. Warren Wisse, stated he is member of the Recreation Commission and indicated that the Mets Trip has one ticket left.

There being no other member of the public wanting to speak Mayor Morris closed the public session.

Mayor Morris asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani. Second by Mayor Morris.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk