

**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
August 10, 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 Mr. Glenn Kienz, Esq.

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 Resolution 90-2017 through Resolution 94-2017, Resolution 97-2017, and Resolution 98-2017. July monthly reports for: Board of Health, Clerk Report, Driveway, Housing Report, Property Maintenance Report, Registrar Report, Tax Collector Report, and Zoning Report.

Motion made by Mr. Bassani, and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #90-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF TAXES ON BLOCK 147 LOT 3.01 QUALIFIER
QFARM

WHEREAS, Block 147 Lot 3.01 Qualifier QFARM was purchased by United States of America on February 21, 2017,

WHEREAS, taxable property acquired by the Federal Government is exempt immediately upon acquisition as per N.J.S.A.54:4-3.3.

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has changed the property class to 15C (Exempt Property) and will remove the QFARM Qualifier for the tax year 2018.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the cancellation of taxes for the remainder of 2017 as follows:

Block 147 Lot 3.01 QFARM in the amount of \$418.50.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #91-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION ON
BLOCK 53.02 LOT 4

WHEREAS, The Department of Veteran Affairs determined that Robert J. Stumpf at 5 Fairchild Lane, Block 53.02 Lot 4 had a service connected disability that was totally disabling effective December 1, 2016,

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 July 27, 2017.

WHEREAS, as per N.J.S.A.54: 4-3.30et seq, Mr. Stumpf is entitled to a tax exemption on his property located at 5 Fairchild Lane from May 3, 2017, the date he purchased and began residing in the home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is authorized to cancel taxes billed from May 4, 2017 to December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$3,884.43.
2. This property will be marked as exempt in the 2018 tax list.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #92-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT WITH TILCON NEW YORK FOR MILLING AND PAVING OF
VARIOUS ROADS 2017

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage will be milling and paving Morgan Drive, Marc Drive, Northfield Drive, Southfield Drive, and Eastfield Drive in the Township for 2017;

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage is a member of the Morris County Coop and Tilcon New York Inc., was awarded contract #5 for the paving contract under Morris County Coop for 2017;

WHEREAS, the total cost for milling and paving of Marc Drive, Morgan Drive, Southfield Drive, Northfield Drive, and Eastfield Drive is \$529,004.95;

WHEREAS, Harold E. Pellow, the Township Engineer and the Qualified Purchasing Agent recommend award of the contract for milling and paving under Morris County Coop contract #5;

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has provided a certification of funds based on the attached certification;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex that it hereby awards the milling and paving contra to Tilcon New York, Inc., Parsippany, New Jersey in the amount of \$529,004.95 for Marc Drive, Morgan Drive, Southfield Drive, Northfield Drive and Eastfield Drive.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #93-2017

Resolution Renewing Liquor License for 2017 - 2018 Licensing Term

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, does hereby approve the renewal of the liquor licenses named below for the licensing term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018:

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES:

<u>License #</u>	<u>Licensee & Location:</u>	<u>Trading As:</u>
1924-33-005-009	MARCVIC, LLC 87 Route 23 North	Wantage Pub & Grill

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #94-2017

RESOLUTION APPROVING BILLS AND VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage in the County of Sussex that payment is hereby approved for all vouchers that have been properly authenticated and presented for payment, representing expenditures for which appropriations were duly made in 2016 and 2017 Budgets adopted by this local Governing Body, including any emergency appropriations, and where unexpended balances exist in said appropriation accounts for the payment of such vouchers.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #97-2017

AUTHORIZING REFUND

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for a lien redemption with premium.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

\$7,767.98 to US Bank for Block 156 Lot 19.02 for tax sale certificate 16-22
\$9,200.00 to US Bank for Block 156 Lot 19.02 for tax sale premium

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #98-201

AUTHORIZING REFUND

WHEREAS, the Land Use Secretary has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for completed applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

- \$ 1,426.69 to Beazer Homes, Block 125 Lot 4.01 for L-10-14
- \$ 1,000.00 to Wilshire Enterprises, Block 21 Lot 43 for LC-14-03
- \$ 500.00 to Jeff Parrott, Block 42 Lot 30 for LC15-03
- \$ 97.27 to Capital Growth, Block 14 Lot 15.01 for LC-15-10
- \$ 500.00 to Buchalter, Inc, Block 14 Lot 15.01 for LC-15-02
- \$ 500.00 to Douglas Thomson, Block 27 Lot 3 for LC-16-01
- \$ 593.75 to Elizabeth Doherty, Block 41 Lot 2.01 for E-07-03
- \$ 3,045.32 to Bicsak Brothers, Block 11 Lot 5 for L-15-05
- \$ 4,862.52 to Verizon Communications for Z-04-1998, L-43-2002, E-2002-13

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A Motion is in Order to approve PO# 14502 for Bassani Power Equipment, LLC for \$212.63.

Motion made by Mr. Gaechter and seconded by Mayor Morris.

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

A Motion is in Order to approve Resolution #95-2017 Authorizing Award of Contract to C&V Paving Contractors, Inc., for Havens Road Section II.

Motion made by Mr. Gaechter and seconded by Mr. Bassani

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #95-2017

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO C&V PAVING CONTRACTORS INC., FOR HAVENS ROAD SECTION II

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage is received bids on July 25, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. for Improvements to Haven Road Section II;

WHEREAS, C&V Paving Contractors Inc., were the only bidder for the project in the amount of \$205,640.10;

WHEREAS, after review by the Township Engineer Harold E. Pellow in a letter dated August 3, 2017 he recommends award of the contract for Havens Road Section II to C&V Paving Contractors, Inc.,

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has provided a certification of funds based on the attached certification;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, that it hereby awards the Havens Road Section II Project to C&V Paving Contractors Inc., Swartswood, New Jersey in the amount of \$205,640.10.

A Motion is in Order to approve Resolution #96-2017 Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Purchase of Real Property known and designated as Tax Block 132, Lot 1.01 on the Tax and Assessment map of the Township of Wantage and located at 41 Berry Road in the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey.

Motion made by Mr. Gaechter and seconded by Mr. Bassani

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #96-2017

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE
OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 132,
LOT 1.01 ON THE TAX AND ASSESSMENT MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
WANTAGE AND LOCATED AT 41 BERRY ROAD IN THE TOWNSHIP OF
WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et. seq., a municipality may acquire any real property for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Committee (the "Open Space Committee") of the Township of Wantage (the "Township") has identified property at 41 Berry Road, Township of Wantage, being known and designated as Block 132, Lot 1.01 (the "Property") on the Tax and Assessment Map of the Township of Wantage as being suitable for acquisition by the Township; and

WHEREAS, the real property consists of approximately 55.67 acres more or less in area; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that the Property is desirable for public use; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Committee has recommended that the purchase price for the Property should be Six Hundred Thousand (\$600,000.00) Dollars and the Township Committee accepts the recommendation of the Open Space Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage, with the assistance of the Open Space Committee has secured a grant from the Green Acres Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("Green Acres") in the amount of \$277,500.00 to acquire the Property (the "Grant"); and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Committee and the Township Committee are desirous of paying the balance of the purchase price from the Open Space Trust Fund of the Township; and

WHEREAS, a proposed Contract for Sale of Real Estate (the "Contract"), a copy of which is attached has been prepared and submitted to the Seller of the Property for consideration; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the Township will execute a Contract for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate in substantially the form attached in connection therewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Township accept the funding from the Green Acres Program described in the Recitals and the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, Sussex County authorizes the Mayor and such other Township officials as are necessary and required to execute a Funding Agreement with the Green Acres Program of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for the Grant and a Contract for Purchase and Sale of Real Estate, both in form approved by the Municipal Attorney, to purchase the Property upon the terms set forth in the Recitals and to receive the Grant from the Green Acres Program in order to implement the terms and to execute such other documents as may be necessary to acquire the Property and to receive the Grant.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

REPORTS

Administrator – stated Jacqueline Espinoza from JCP&L is here tonight to provide an update on some items. Mrs. Espinoza stated the first item is on August 25th the SCLOM will be having a networking bocce event at Mohawk House which is being sponsored by the owner Steve Scro. RSVP to the secretary of SCLOM. Sunday, September 17th is Sussex County Day and would like to have Wantage attend. The final item is the Emerald Ash Borer which is attacking Ash trees and these are occurring in Northern New Jersey and JCP&L is looking at the Ash Trees along the power grid. Mayor Morris questioned how is the infestation being treated? Mrs. Espinoza stated by cutting the tree down. There is no known spray.

Mrs. Millikin stated she wanted to thank Chief Justin Vander Groef and former Chief Larry Bono for their assistance in the fair display for the Township of Wantage. The theme was history so it was decided to place the 30-year anniversary of the Wantage Fire Department.

Mrs. Millikin provided an update to Mr. Bassani's request from the last meeting regarding the flag pole installation. The price from Tri-State Flag Pole for the poles and installation is a total cost of \$2,480 and this will be completed prior to the end of September.

Mrs. Millikin provided an update regarding Tilcon of New York. Tilcon will begin tomorrow, August 11th on Morgan Drive and Marc Drive. Then move to Southfield Drive, Northfield Drive and Eastfield Drive. Paving will begin the week of August 21st weather permitting. These details will be on the Township website and Facebook page. Mrs. Millikin indicated she did place Tilcon on notice that any damage to any curbs in these developments will not be tolerated and they will be responsible to replace any curb damaged.

Mrs. Millikin received two quotes regarding the preliminary assessment for 41 Berry Road. Quotes were received from Ecolscience at \$3,000 and Excel Environmental \$4,245. She advised she would like to get a PO issued on this to the lower price vendor to begin the preliminary assessment as required by Green Acres.

Final item Mrs. Millikin advised that the Township's Generator is having an issue with the transfer switch. This has been an ongoing issue for some time. This has been causing a lot of issues with the server that was just replaced. The transfer switch is over 17 years old. Sussex Rural Electric has provided a quote to complete the work. Cost is \$16,920. Only issue is if this completed on a weekend cost will be prevailing wage which will be a higher cost. Michelle will be preparing a fully funded ordinance for the next meeting in order to get this work completed. John Card has indicated this needs to be completed. Mr. Bassani questioned if this would be a new unit. Mrs. Millikin indicated this would provide a brand new transfer unit not a new generator. The Committee asked that Mrs. Millikin get the cost for the weekend work.

Mrs. Millikin indicated that Austin Yanish began work in DPW at the end of July and is working out well. Tomorrow she will be at a civil service seminar. If you need her please call her on her cell or e-mail her.

Attorney Report - none

Mayor's Report – Mayor advised that Mrs. Millikin and I met with Mr. Maione and his son. The meeting went well and discussed future Route 23 development, his future plans for his property, and the water issue in this area. Mayor Morris is optimistic about the future.

This afternoon Congressman Gottheimer was at the Colesville Fire Department because of the AFG grant the Township received. Congressman Gottheimer requested the meet and great at the Fire Department and also there were Fire Chief Justin Vander Groef, Deputy Chief Alex Rubin, Deputy Chief Mark Snook, Debi Millikin, and Larry Bono who was instrumental with the Township applying for the grant. Congressman Gottheimer got a tour of the trucks and even placed fire gear and a SCBA Pack to get an understanding of what the fireman wear going into a fire.

Mayor Morris stated the Pavilion is progressing very well. Next week Morton should be completed with the building, next the concrete and electric. Great structure and asset to Woodbourne Park.

Mayor Morris advised this Saturday he will have the honor of presenting Christopher Dely with a proclamation at his Eagle Scout award. Mayor Morris read the following proclamation into the record.

Office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, CHRISTOPHER ALBERT DELY has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, which represents an accomplishment of high regard within the Wantage Community, and

WHEREAS, as a member of Boy Scout Troop 153, Christopher has held numerous Leadership positions in the troop, including Patrol Leader, Den Chief, Assistant

Senior Patrol Leader and the Senior Patrol Leader. Christopher was elected into the Order of the Arrow, Woapalanne Lodge #43. He is currently a Brotherhood member and has helped on

numerous Fellowship (Ordeal) Weekends. He enjoys the fellowship of other OA members and the service they give. He participated in both local Conclaves and the national NOAC., and

WHEREAS, Christopher has distinguished himself by earning 23 merit badges during his Boy Scout career, as well as through community service, including his Eagle Scout Project for which he refurbished the basketball court at the Lake Neepaulin park putting in two basketball backboards and poles as well as sealing coating the court. Christopher has volunteered many hours to his church's missions and other Boy Scouts events, including collecting gently used and Church of the Good Shepherd helping to once again make it a pretty and restful place for people to visit their loved ones.

WHEREAS, Christopher is very active in his school and community. He has been a member of High Point Regional High School's soccer and lacrosse teams and was co-president of the Outdoor Recreational Club. Christopher plans on attending college at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, majoring in Environmental Science & Policies

WHEREAS, such a fine record of accomplishment is worthy of praise and recognition,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jonathan Morris, Mayor of the Township of Wantage, hereby offer my congratulations to CHRISTOPHER ALBERT DELY for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mayor Morris then advised that last night there was a First Aid Squad and Fire Department call by Simmons Lakes and two of the volunteers were assaulted at the incident last evening. This is something that is upsetting because these are volunteers. If you pray, please pray for the Township Volunteers. Also, there have been numerous brake ins around the Township so be vigilant and lock your doors.

Committee Member Report – Mr. Gaechter stated he wanted to elaborate on the break in issue. These are occurring in the afternoon. The person is ring the door bell and if no one answers they are braking into the home. Mayor Morris indicated the State Police are aware of it. Lock your doors and be a good neighbor. Mr. Bassani stated there is an item called the ring which is a video tape and also alerts your phone.

Committee Member Report – Mr. Bassani attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for Ethan Billings and he is apparently one of the youngest to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. A great ceremony.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2nd Reading & Public Hearing

A motion is in order to adopt on final reading Ordinance #2017-11 ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$23,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS ROADS.

Motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter

Mayor Morris opened this portion of the meeting to the public.

Mr. Joseph Retz questioned why so much for the road work. Mrs. Millikin explained to allow for the ability to complete the remainder of the patching required on the roadways.

No one else coming forward this portion was closed.

Upon Roll Call:

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

WANTAGE TOWNSHIP
ORDINANCE # 2017-11

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$23,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS ROADS

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

SECTION 1: The sum of Twenty-Three Thousand dollars (\$23,000.00) presently located in the General Capital Fund is hereby appropriated for Improvement to Various Roads from the Reserve for Various Roads, General Capital Fund:

Improvement to Various Road:	\$23,000.00
------------------------------	-------------

SECTION 2: In connection with the amount authorized in Section 1 hereof, the Township makes the following determinations:

- 1) The purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not a Current Expense and is a purchase the Township of Wantage may lawfully make as a capital purchase.
- 2) The period of usefulness of the purpose described in Section 1 hereof is not in the limitation of said Local Bond law and according to the aggregate reasonable life thereof is five (5) years or longer.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance be and the same hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

SECTION 4: This ordinance becomes effective immediately upon publication after adoption.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2017, Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Morris opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Bill DeBoer, 14 Beemer Road, stated he was not at the incident last night, but sometimes when a head injury is involved in an accident the patient can be combative.

Mr. Howard Rose, Newman Road, questioned where the burglaries have been occurring. Mayor Morris indicated Central School Road, and Lake Neepaulin. Mr. Rose wondered where in Lake Neepaulin since he is close to this area. Mayor Morris stated all he new was Lake Neepaulin. Mayor Morris stated he did not want to create a panic and just be vigilant.

Mrs. Karen Merrit, Alpine Road, stated the Township should contact the State Police to have this in the paper and on the Township website. She indicated she only knew from facebook. It would be beneficial to have people know what to look for with regards to these break ins. Mrs. Merrit main question was regarding the 2008 Open Space Plan and if the Committee had a chance to review the parcels. Mayor Morris stated he has not had a chance to review the report. Mrs. Merrit indicated she would follow up with this at another meeting. She questioned the two parcels that she questioned in her e-mail. Mr. Gaechter stated that since the plan was completed the zoning in the Township has changed and these properties had 1-acre zoning. Mr. Gaechter stated based on the plan from 2008 zoning has changed since the plan was first completed. Mayor Morris will review the report. Mrs. Merrit indicated she is looking at recreation properties.

Mr. John Nuss, Beemer Road, requested that the Township utilize the e-mail system to get the burglary message out to residents. Mr. Nuss questioned a soil ordinance being established by the Township. Mayor Morris indicated the Land Use Sub-committee is working on this matter. Mr. Nuss also questioned an update regarding RER and the nasty odor. Mayor Morris stated last he spoke was the petition was submitted by Senator Oroho, and Assemblyman Space. Mrs. Millikin stated that NJDEP has acknowledge receipt of the petition. Mrs. Millikin also advised that she is working with Mrs. Brees as well from the County to file and OPRA request to obtain information related to RER. Mr. Gaechter stated that he realizes that depending on the wind it can affect the businesses in Sussex may want to advise them of the matter.

Mr. Joseph Retz, 145 Libertyville Road, I read in the paper the other day the Township is going to spend \$600,000 on the Berry Road parcel, which is more than the appraised value. Mayor Morris indicated the Township will be paying the \$600,000. The property owner originally wanted one million for the property and the Township negotiated. Mayor Morris stated that the State appraised the parcel at \$555,000 and indicated that state will provide ½ of that cost in the amount of \$277,500. Mr. Retz that is too high of a price for that parcel. Mr. Gaechter questioned Mr. Retz what he thought the parcel was worth. He said maybe \$300,000. Mr. Gaechter questioned what is the house value? Mr. Retz stated it does not matter. Mr. Retz stated the Township should have done a remediation study on the project before the Township goes into contract. Mayor Morris stated the Township just passed a resolution to proceed with the purchase, which means the Township can do the environmental study. Mr. Gaechter question Mr. Retz on what he thinks the parcel is worth with the house and land. Mr. Retz stated between \$3,000 to \$5,000 an acre. Mr. Gaechter stated he review comparables around the county that have sold within the past 2 to 3 years. Stillwater parcel sold with comparable acres for \$5,467.00 per acre and this parcel was preserved. A parcel in Wantage was sold with

58.75 acres at \$5,957 per acre which was a private sale. A parcel in Lafayette with 73 acres at \$6,395 per acre purchased by Lafayette Township for open space. Frankford a parcel of 48.49 acres was sold for \$6,969.00 per acre for open space through NJDEP. Wantage another parcel of 35.46 acres was sold for \$7,830 an acre to NJDEP for open space. Based on these five sales the average amount per acre was \$6,513.00. Mr. Gaechter continued if you look at the Berry Road parcel minus the house it totals 54.67 acres and is assessed at \$356,066.00. Revaluation in 2013 the barn, house and 1 acre of property were reassessed at \$398,880. Then the following year the Wantage ratio went down by 1.081 taking the value of the barn, house, and 1 acre to \$288,202. Based on the value of \$356,066.00 plus the house, barn, and 1 acre at \$288,202 total value is \$644,268.00. Mr. Retz stated you need to remove Stillwater, Lafayette, and Frankford out. Mr. Gaechter stated he utilized comparables. Mr. Retz stated he will bring his comparables. Mr. Gaechter stated he did his research and it is a high number but look at the comparables. The property could be worth more to the Township because of the location to Woodbourne Park. Mr. Gaechter stated this is a negotiation between the Township and property owner and that the Township is looking at this for the future.

Mrs. Kathy Gorman, stated that the Township has paid to the NJ Herald in 2016 \$3,935.11, and to date in 2017 \$2,308.24 for a total cost of \$6,243.35 of taxpayers money. The Township receives articles like the one in Wednesday's paper and this is an outrage. Mrs. Gorman stated that she has been sending e-mails to the Committee about future uses for the use of open space. She lived in Wykoff prior to moving to Wantage and Wykoff has the James A. McFaul Environmental Center which is comprised of 81 acres for open space use including wetlands. This Berry Road parcel is something that can be utilized for the future of Wantage. This house on Berry Road can be utilized as a senior center, environmental center or other similar uses. No reason to have all this animosity towards this open space purchase.

Mrs. Anne Smulewiz, 108 Route 23, she wanted to go back to an earlier part of the meeting about burglaries. She said there was a personnel safety show on tv and purchase wasp spray to utilize that for the eyes to provide an opportunity to run away and harm the person breaking in. Mrs. Smulewiz stated she feels Mr. Obernauer's articles are extremely professional. She indicated she does not want the Township to abuse the taxpayer money. Mrs. Smulewiz stated that a Mr. Quinn indicated that he was not reached out to by the Township. Mayor Morris stated that Mr. Quinn's property was looked at by the Open Space Committee. Mr. Gaechter stated that the property is on the market for \$4 million.

Mrs. Smulewiz questioned the membership on the Open Space Committee. Mayor Morris stated the members are Ron Bassani, Tom Davis, Victoria Gill, Patrick Stefanelli, and Justin Dudzinski. Mrs. Smulewiz questioned when the Open Space Committee was appointed. Mrs. Millikin indicated this is a yearly appointment so the appointments are good till December 31, 2017. Mrs. Smulewiz wants to know why the other two members have not been speaking out on this property. She questioned why the membership changed from 8 members to 5 members. She stated based on what she is hearing and reading she feels there are other ways to utilize this money for other purposes. Mr. Gaechter stated that the Township did get a grant and it is a 50% grant but the Township is only paying for half of the price. He indicated that the Committee feels this is a great opportunity and the Committee keeps getting negative feedback.

Mr. Howard Rose, Newman Road, years ago he was on the recreation commission and at that time looking at the Sherman Ridge Road parcel and the Township was against the purchase due to the gas main on the parcel. He also questioned about property maintenance and wanted to make a formal request about 3 parcels on County Route 628 between Newman Road and McCoy's Corner. These 3 parcels are not maintained. Mrs. Millikin indicated that the three parcels on 628 are on the list for Property Maintenance. Also on Newman Road there is a property across from the pond there is garbage and is not maintained. Mrs. Millikin requested Mr. Rose to e-mail this information to her and she will forward over to the property maintenance department.

Mr. John Nuss, Beemer Road, was concerned with the utilization of the house at 41 Berry Road.

Ms. Alison Orisi, 41 Lowe Road, she questioned how the process moves on the Berry Road property. Mayor Morris indicated that the Township now has the ability to begin the process of doing the environmental, house inspection and complete the purchase first. Mayor Morris indicated then a plan would be developed for the site. Mr. Bassani stated the intent is to take as much feedback from the Recreation Committee and residents of Wantage.

Mr. Warren Wiese stated on November 18th the Elks Club will be having Uncle Floyd at a comedy show.

There being no other member of the public wanting to comment public comment was closed.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Millikin, Acting Municipal Clerk