

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 4:00 P.M. ON March 1, 2018

Mayor Gaechter 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: Committeeman Ronald Bassani, Committeeman Jonathan Morris, and Mayor William Gaechter. Also present: Administrator/ Clerk Debra Millikin and Michelle LaStarza Chief Financial Officer.

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

BUDGET 2018

Mayor Gaechter stated let's begin the final review of the 2018 Budget. Mrs. Millikin stated the schedule for budget introduction is that this has to be introduced by March 12th or no later than March 22nd. Mrs. Millikin also indicated that regarding the porta john cost for a regular \$95.00 and for a handicap it is \$125.00. Mayor Gaechter advised Mr. Bassani that the Dog Park is requesting some money towards cost. Mr. Bassani stated he was under the impression are the park is autonomous from the Township. Mayor Gaechter stated that yes the park is self-funding. Mayor Gaechter stated after the request was made he thought maybe do the porta john. The options are do nothing, provide the porta johns, provide a contribution, or do the plowing, porta john and lawn maintenance. Mrs. Millikin advised that the Township does cover the liability policy for the dog park. Discussion ensued and it was determined to provide one porta john to the dog park for 2018.

Mrs. Millikin went over a brief overview of the reason for why surplus is being increased. This is to cover the deferred compensation cost. The budget is still flat at this time based on the proposed budget. There was a deficit in the general revenue under ABC because there was an extra transfer last year. General Revenues the only item is the Township is adding in the funding for Sherman Ridge. Discussion ensued on the general revenues.

Discussion regarding the amount for the acquisition of parcels through open space. The total amount is showed because the Township has to fund the total amount before the Township received the grant back. Delinquent taxes has gone down this year. Mrs. Millikin stated collection rate was about 98%.

Mrs. Millikin stated the next is capital. Nothing has changed with this proposal. The major issue is making sure not to go over \$1,000,000 that the Township should not go over \$100,000 in debt each year. The Township does pay off debt every 10 years. The capital budget projects a 5-year capital expense plan. Discussion ensued regarding the capital budget for 2018. Mr. Bassani stated the First Aid Squad and the Fire Department needs to provide their profit and lost/financial statement. Mrs. Millikin will follow up on this matter.

Mayor. Gaechter questioned why the operational budget is increasing. Mrs. Millikin questioned the \$270,000 for this year. Mrs. LaStarza indicated this is increase in insurance and salary and raise.

Mrs. Millikin began discussing on the Salary and Wage cost for 2018. Mrs. Millikin advised that DPW there is a request in the budget for a new full-time along with an additional employee going to start in July. Mrs. Millikin's goal is to get a new hire to assist John Card. The other half year full time employee is based on status of Dave Stewart. The Committee agreed to focus on someone to assist John Card. Also built in to streets and roads is a snow stipend for Bob Wagner. Based on current hourly rate it would be about \$6,500 for all comp-time he currently has. Discussion ensued regarding comp-time and it was determined to pay out his comp-time as a one-time stipend.

Next under building and grounds I am proposing an increase for John Card and also Mark Little. It was agreed to give John Card the requested amount and Mark Little to get \$3,000 this year and \$2,000 for next year.

Final item requested is per the court with Branchville coming on board the need to potentially move a part-time deputy court administrator to full-time. The Committee agreed to place this in the budget starting July 1st or when it is determined Branchville comes on board with the Township.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

Mayor Gaechter asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Bassani Second by Mr. Morris

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Millikin, Municipal Clerk