

**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 6:00 P.M. ON  
FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Deputy Mayor Jonathan Morris and Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Debra Millikin.

Mayor Bassani 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 Bassani requested the representatives from the Wantage Fire Department to come up for discussion regarding their 2019 budget request.

Representing the Wantage Fire Department were Chief Alex Rubin, Deputy Chief Mark Snook and Deputy Chief Steve Merck. Mrs. Millikin advised the Committee had a revised budget in front of them based on an error in the amount for the thermal camera that Sussex Fire Department requested. Mayor Bassani began under Operating and Expenses. He questioned why Aid to Fire Adjoining Municipalities went up. Chief Rubin explained that this was requested a couple years ago and believe it had been approved to provide Unionville an additional \$2,000 a year. Chief Rubin also indicated that the Township does pay the workman's comp for coming into New Jersey. Discussion ensued.

Chief Rubin moved to capital with the request for \$5,000 for equipment and \$5,000 for hose replacement. Chief Rubin discussed the Fire Truck needs which is replacement for 625 and the mini pumper. The Wantage Fire Department feels there might be a better option regarding the mini pumper. Chief Rubin indicated that the need for replacement of 625 is due to numerous issues. John Card has been handling this truck quite frequently and this year there is a big issue with the electrical system. Chief Rubin also described issues with the doors. He indicated it has the most mileage. Mr. Morris questioned how many miles are on the truck? Chief Rubin indicated there are 5,000 miles.

Chief Rubin indicated that the Fire Chief from Sussex was suppose to be present but did not make it. Sussex Fire Department request for the thermal camera is \$10,000. Chief Rubin indicated that Deputy Chief Snook was able to find a thermal camera for \$2,720 which will serve their purpose and most likely Beemerville and Colesville will purchase a thermal camera each as well. This camera meets NFPA Standards. Chief Rubin indicated he had advised the Chief of Sussex Fire Department that he did not support the purchase of the \$10,000 camera and that he was going to recommend the purchase of this camera. The Committee thanked the Fire Department for coming this evening.

Mayor Bassani asked the representatives from the Wantage First Aid Squad to come forward. Representing the Wantage First Aid Squad was Jeff Post, President and Chris Little, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. Mrs. Millikin advised the aid to First Aid Squad remained the same for

2019. Mr. Post advised that they are provide quotes for a new ambulance. Mrs. Millikin indicated this is not reflected in the 2019 Capital. Mr. Post providing various quotes for the remount of taking box off and also a quote for a new ambulance. He indicated that the ambulances are aging. The remount would be Ambulance 104, which is \$124,000 and to do a new ambulance is \$170,200. Discussion ensued on remounting of an ambulance. Currently Ambulance 104 is a 2001 and has 85,864 miles. Ambulance 102 is the 4X4 is a 2004 with 33,661 miles. Ambulance 103 is a 2010 with 61,191 miles. Mr. Post indicated that with the remount or the new ambulance the Township will have the ability to do a trade in with the ambulance.

Mayor Bassani requested a brief update regarding the First Aid Squad status. Mr. Post advised they are still having an issue and still utilizing Atlantic during the day. Mr. Post advised there is some growth. The membership is up to 25 members. The First Aid Squad is making night calls. Discussion ensued on this matter. Mr. Post indicated the relationship with Atlantic has been great. Sussex Ambulance has been down in membership so Atlantic is also covering them as well. On average there about 1 to 3 calls a night. Total calls for 2018 is 800 dispatched. Wantage First Aid Squad responded to 561 calls. The Committee thanked Wantage First Aid Squad for their time.

Mayor Bassani next opened the meeting to the public.

Mrs. Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road – she is requesting that taxes be where there were in 1829.

There being no other public this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to adjourn the special meeting. Mr. Morris made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra J. Millikin

Municipal Clerk