

**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 7:00 P.M. ON
March 28, 2019**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 and Mrs. Jeanne McBride.

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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #49-2019 through Resolution #50-2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #49-2019

APPROVAL FOR WANTAGE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT COIN
TOSS ON VARIOUS DATES IN 2019

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wantage Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey formally recommends and authorizes the Wantage Township Fire Department to conduct a Coin Toss on various dates in 2019, being at the intersection of Route 23 and Clark Road on the dates of May 24th from 9am to 6 pm, May 25th from 9 am to 6 pm, May 26th from 9 am to 6 pm, May 27th from 9 am to 6 pm, July 3rd from 9 am to 6 pm, July 4th from 9 am to 6 pm, July 5th from 9 am to 6 pm, July 6th from 9 am to 6 pm, July 7th from 9 am to 6 pm, August 30th from 9 am to 6 pm, August 31st 9 am to 6 pm, September 1st from 9 am to 6 pm, September 2nd from 9 am to 6 pm, October 26th from 9 am to 6 pm and October 27th 9 am to 6 pm, subject to all requirements imposed upon the Wantage Township Fire Department by the State of New Jersey for such activities.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #50-2019

AUTHORIZING REFUND FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE
FOR BLOCK 44.03, LOT 9

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for redemption of a tax sale certificate 2018-008,

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

\$7,790.05 to US Bank Cust For Actlien Holding, Block 44.03, Lot 9, 15 Courtland Drive, for tax sale certificate 2018-008.

REPORTS

Clerk/Administrator – Mrs. Millikin stated the introduction of the budget is scheduled for April 11th. Adoption would be May 9th.

Mrs. Millikin stated the closing of the Berry Road is slated for Tuesday, April 2nd. The property owner is working on moving items out of the barn and house. Mr. Karp is setting up a price to be established in escrow for items not removed before the closing.

Mrs. Millikin advised that Gary Gruber from Football had e-mailed her today to inquire about the Committee's thoughts regarding the football field expansion and cost associated with this. She also advised that baseball has reached out that they would be in attendance tonight to discuss the fields at Lott Road. Mrs. Millikin stated there was nothing budgeted in capital for this project this year. Mrs. Millikin suggested the potential to utilize Open Space Money. Mayor Bassani stated need to look into grants. Mrs. Millikin reached out to Green Acres but has not heard back on this matter. Mayor Bassani requested that Mr. Kienz be prepared to discuss at the next Township Committee Meeting regarding the utilization of Open Space Funds. Mayor Bassani stated just completed the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Mrs. Millikin advised that Jeanne McBride will be working with me over the next week to start taking over with my departure.

Mrs. Millikin stated finally tonight is my last meeting with the Township. She is extremely grateful for the opportunity the three of you have provided to her in becoming the Administrator and Township Clerk for Wantage. Wantage has always held a special place in my heart since my grandparents lived here on their two-hundred-acre farm for forty plus years. She has appreciated the guidance over the past two and half years and will truly miss working with the Committee on a daily basis. Mayor Bassani stated he knows he speaks for the Committee that they are very sad to see Mrs. Millikin go and wish her the best.

Attorney – None

Mayor/Committee

Committeeman Morris – stated he wishes Mrs. Millikin good luck and will be very missed. She did a great job for the Township.

Committeeman Gaechter – stated going to miss Mrs. Millikin and please stay in touch.
Mayor Bassani – none

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

2nd Reading & Public Hearing

Mayor Bassani stated a motion is in order to adopt on final reading Ordinance #2019-03
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO
ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019 (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45,14)

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public. No public coming forward this
portion of the meeting was closed.

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

ORDINANCE 2019-03

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A
CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019
(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 2.5%
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 2019 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 \$37,488.65 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 2019 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 \$37,488.65, and that the CY 2019 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Bassani stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Special Meeting March 7, 2019, Special Executive Session March 7, 2019, Regular Meeting March 14, 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public.

Mrs. Kathy Gorman – Fernwood Road, stated she had dna testing and got the matching information and a Mauro last name of Garofalo was one her matches. She stated that she feels open space funds should be used for maintenance of fields. She reached out to Green Acres today and one of the purposes is maintenance of the fields. This is a Township decision. Discussion ensued. Mayor Bassani stated that this is why the ordinance was amended to be passive and active recreation. He is requesting Mr. Kienz be able to discuss at the next meeting. Her other item is the tree is still in Lake Neepaulin and can this be removed.

Mr. Matt Vanderbush – Sussex Wantage Little League stated he is here tonight to discuss the Lott Road fields are the only one's baseball utilizes. He is looking for some improvement to these fields with their volunteers helping with this work. He would like to discuss with the Committee on these fields. This year there has been an increase in the membership for baseball this year. Mrs. Millikin advised that they send over the information to her regarding their request and then will work with the Township Engineer regarding cost. Discussion ensued on this and the issue of Field 2 still being in disrepair for the past 4 years. Mr. Vanderbush stated that this field needs to be done before the end of the spring season. The Committee indicated they will review the use of the Open Space Money.

Mr. Wisse – Valley View, the Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on April 7th at Woodbourne Park. Mets trip is April 28th. May 19th is the Salute to Veterans.

Mrs. McBride reminded the Committee that the Rabies Clinic is April 12th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Millikin, Municipal Clerk