

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET 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 20, 2020**

Mayor Morris called the special 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 Jon Morris, Deputy Mayor William Gaechter and Committeeman Ron Bassani. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel and Chief Financial Officer Michelle LaStarza.

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."

**BUDGET 2020**

Wantage Township Fire Chief Alex Rubin spoke about the Chiefs Operating Budget will stay the same as 2019. Chief Rubin spoke about Pump Maintenance and that it will increase the Maintenance portion of the Budget, discussion ensued.

Chief Rubin spoke about OSHA and PEOSHA Budget staying the same as 2019 \$39,500, this helps purchase gear and safety equipment.

Chief Rubin stated the fuel Budget will remain same as 2019.

Chief Rubin spoke about replacement of Engine 625 with a Tanker/Pumper, Chief Rubin stated the Shop Order sheets are in front of the Mayor Committee for review.

Chief Rubin stated the price for the Fire Engine as presented is \$693,000 and there is an option for extension of the warranty \$17,500. Discussion ensued.

Chief Rubin discussed the Proposed Fire Engine details, Chief Rubin stated the cab is smaller due to length restrictions at Coleville Fire Department. Chief Rubin stated the Engine will maintain the 2500-gallon water storage as 625. Mayor Morris asked a question pertaining to equipment on the new Fire Truck. Chief Rubin responded there is no need or an equipment list 625 is properly equipped and all equipment can be transferred to the new engine. Chief Rubin spoke about the manual deck gun that comes standard on the truck. Chief Rubin stated instead of a 35-foot extension ladder on 625 there will be a 25 foot one on the new engine, discussion ensued. Mayor Morris asked Chief Rubin if there is any trade in value in 625, Chief Rubin stated yes \$25,000. Deputy Mayor Gaechter asked Chief Rubin what year 625 is, Chief Rubin responded with 2005.

Chief Rubin explained the difference of Frankford Fire Departments New truck that cost \$400,000 and how it is different from the one Wantage is asking for. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Morris spoke about the dealership that the truck would come and it's a local dealership that has a service center. Mayor Morris stated that having the local dealership would save a lot of money on travel. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gaechter asked if 625 was on the rotation to be replaced, Chief Rubin stated yes and that with all the issues it has had its needs to be replaced.

Chief Rubin spoke about the Mini Pumper option and if purchased the Fire Department could possibly extend the lifetime on a few trucks, purchasing this truck will also help with the bubble of new trucks. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani asked Chief Rubin how many miles are approximately on 625 Chief Rubin responded with around around 20,000. Mr. Bassani stated what is wrong with the vehicle that it only last 15 years. Chief Rubin stated the Truck that was spec was a Pierce and the price was significant higher, Chief Rubin stated when the price was higher than originally anticipated the Fire Department had to go to a dealer that could build a truck for a significant lower price. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani asked Chief Rubin to look into the possibility of modification of the Colesville Firehouse to help offset the cost of a special-order fire truck. Discussion ensued.

#### Wantage First Aid:

Jeff Post President of First Aid Squad and we are not looking for any increase in their Budget. Mr. Post stated that in 2021 Wantage First Aid would like to Purchase a New Ambulance. Mayor Morris asked about the status in membership for the First Aid Squad, Mr. Post responded we are growing with 34 Members and covering every night 7 days a week. Discussion ensued.

#### Joe Konopinski Wantage Township OEM:

Mr. Konopinski spoke about his budget requests. Mr. Konopinski spoke about the antenna removal from the Vernon Tower. Mr. Konopinski spoke about the Deckertown Tower application and we are still awaiting our approval discussion ensued.

Mayor Morris opened the meeting to the public, being no one from the public present Mayor Morris closed it to the Public

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

#### Upon Roll:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L Restel Administrator/Acting Clerk