

**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
APRIL 9, 2020**

Mayor Morris 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 Morris and Committeeman Ronald Bassani. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel and Mr. Glenn Kienz, Esq VIA Call in. Deputy Mayor William Gaechter was Absent.

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."

A motion is in order to Reappointment of Michael L Restel to a One Year Term as Acting Municipal Clerk.

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve Resolution #37-2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

PO# 16949 was pushed to May 14th Meeting.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #37-2020

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 2019 and 2020 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.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage at a meeting held on April 9, 2020 in the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey.

Michael L Restel Acting Clerk/Administrator

Introduction of 2020 Budget:

A motion is in order to introduce the 2020 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$6,406,046.00 at a flat tax rate of .303, the 2020 Open Space budget in the amount of \$60,472 at a flat tax rate of .005 and the 2020 Sewer Allocation budget in the amount of \$118,648. Public hearing on the Budget will be May 14th.

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

REPORTS:

Administrator/Clerk:

Mr. Restel thanked all the First Responders, Nurses and Doctors who are working on the front lines battling COVID-19.

Mr. Restel explained this year the Division of Local Government Services will not be able to certify County and Municipal Budgets until the September, Mr. Restel stated the need for approval to have the estimated tax rate of 1.05, the 12-year average is 103.75, this is below the average. Mr. Restel stated if the rate is higher or lower adjustments will be made in November Tax Bills. Mayor Morris and Mr. Bassani approve the estimated tax rate.

Attorney Report:

Mr. Kienz stated to everyone to be safe and follow all the guidelines pertaining to social distancing.

Mr. Kienz stated that Mr. Restel and Mr. Kienz will be working a Land Use Board Resolution, discussion ensued.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Morris thanked the First Responders and everyone who is on the front lines helping with COVID-19.

Mayor Morris stated there were 390 total positive cases in Sussex County and 21 Deaths.

Mayor Morris stated Woodbourne Park is open and maintain proper social distancing.

Mayor Morris stated that Wantage is updating its website and Facebook daily with all updates received pertaining to COVID-19.

Mayor Morris spoke about looking into a company to recoup monies spent during the COVID-19 emergency, discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani asked Mr. Restel to look into what other towns are doing and who they are engaged with. Discussion ensued

Committeeman Bassani:

Mr. Bassani thanks the First Responders and all who are helping on the front lines with COVID-19

Approval of Minutes

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2020 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ORDINANCE:

A Motion is in order to Introduce Ordinance #03-2020 FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman asked if Ursula Leo was the Land Use Board Attorney, Mayor Morris responded with Yes, Mrs. Leo was appointed January 1st.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about a Grant Writer if Wantage was looking into it, Mayor Morris stated we are looking into it.

Charlene Kimble Sherman Ridge: Mrs. Kimble asked if there was an update for the Berry Road Property, discussion ensued.

Mrs. Kimble stated that she has been noticing ATV's at the Berry Road Property and to keep an eye out.

Karen Merit Alpine Road: Mrs. Merit recommended looking at Thomas Davis as a grant writer, Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Merit spoke about the Franchise Fee and the Proposed sale of Service Electric Cable to Altice One, Discussion Ensued.

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

Upon Roll:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:30PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk