

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON  
MARCH 25, 2021**

Mayor Gaechter 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 William Gaechter, Deputy Mayor Ron Bassani and Committeeman Jonathan Morris. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel, and Mr. Louis Karp, Esq.

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."

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Gaechter requested a motion to approve Resolution #41-2021- #42-2021

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

**BUDGET**

A Motion is in Order to Introduce the 2021 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$6,314,864 with the local tax rate of .308, a 2021 open space tax rate of .005 and a total sewer allocation budget of \$126,342. Public Hearing on the Budget scheduled for April 22.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

**REPORTS**

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated himself and Wantage OEM Joe Konopinski are working on FEMA reimbursement for Tropical Storm Isis.

Mr. Restel paving on Route 23 will begin weather permitting March 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Restel stated originally the Company was to start on top of High Point Mountain but plans have changed and will be starting in front of Central School Road.

Mr. Restel stated starting with the June Primary election all election will be in person.

Mr. Restel thanked Joe Konopinski for reaching out to Ford Motor Company for Masks.

Mr. Restel thanked Ford Motor Company for their 1,000-mask donation.

Mr. Restel spoke about the Farmland Preservation that was discussed at the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Restel stated there will be no tax impact and the agreement pertains to giving up the Developmental Rights. Mr. Restel asked for approval.

Mr. Morris made the Motion and was Seconded by Mr. Bassani. All in Favor

Mr. Bassani Offered no Report

Mr. Morris offered his sympathy to the young man's family who lost his life in a tragic accident and was proud to live in this community because of all the support from everyone towards the family.

Mayors Report: Mayor Gaechter offered his sympathy to the young man's family for their tragic loss.

Mayor Gaechter spoke about High Points proposed 2% tax increase and his displeasure

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2021 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

#### **ORDINANCE**

A motion is in order to Adopt Ordinance #05-2021 an Ordinance Amending Chapter 14A Stormwater Management of the Township of Wantage.

Mayor Gaechter opened the meeting to the public.

No one from the Public spoke.

Mr. Restel stated Green Infrastructure methods are management practices that address stormwater runoff through soils and reuse.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

## **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:**

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mr. Gorman spoke about an article in the Advertiser news pertaining to Sussex Wantage dropping their School Budget.

Mrs. Gorman stated she was on the Conference with New Jersey Commissioner of Board of Public Utilities and Representatives of Municipalities and Residents Statewide.

Mrs. Gorman stated the Horrible internet service is not just an isolated section it is sitewide.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about Planet Networks and if they received BPU Approval before coming into Wantage Township.

Mr. Restel stated in 2020 Wantage Township passed a resolution allowing Planet Networks access to the Right of Ways and they did receive approvals from the BPU.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about the property behind the pool area where ATV's and dumping has occurred. Mr. Gorman requested the town put up signs.

Susan Weiss Sherman Ridge Road: Mr. Weiss Thanked the Committee for passing a Resolution Opposing the expansion of the Tennessee Pipeline Gas Chamber.

Mrs. Wiess stated she was disappointed that the Town went back to in person meetings instead of Hybrid.

Walter Drag 8 Linquenda Drive: Mr. Drag asked if was ok to shoot on your own property. Mr. Morris stated Yes as long you not with in 450 feet of a dwelling.

Jon Konyak Realtor 1154 Route 23: Mr. Konyak spoke about 1154 Route 23 Gas Station and the amount of taxes that are owed to the municipality.

Mr. Konyak stated he has a serious buyer that would like to close shortly. Discussion ensued

Mr. Konyak stated he is looking for a letter form the Wantage accepting the settlement to lower the taxes. Discussion Ensued.

Dave Tarrots: Mr. Tarrots stated he is one of the lien holders on the property and wanted to know if himself and the other lien holder can work out a deal. Discussion ensued.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion is in order to approve Resolution #43-2021 for the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to Discuss Legal Matters.

Attorney Louis Karp read into record the Executive Session Statement.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Upon Roll:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:55PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk