

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON
MAY 13, 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. Glenn Kienz, 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 #45-2020 to #49-2021 with the removal of PO# 17786 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$274.47

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

A motion is in order to Approve PO# 17786 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$274.47.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated he sent an email earlier pertaining to Bids received on Drainage improvements on South Shore Drive.

Mr. Restel explained the drainage to be repaired is too deep for DPW to repair and needed to be bid out.

Mr. Restel requested approval to award the contract and the Mayor and Committee unanimously approved the contract award.

Mr. Restel spoke about Wantage Day and would like to get the approval for Atlantic Healthcare to land their Helicopter and do a presentation. Mayor and Committee unanimously approved.

Mr. Restel stated that he will email the committee a resolution pertaining to Sussex County Board of Elections stating the municipalities need to pay for the extra costs of the full mail in ballot in the November General Election. Discussion ensued.

Attorney's Report: Mr. Kienz spoke about the Wantage Economic Development Zone Conditional Use Ordinance. Discussion Ensued.

Committee Report: Mr. Bassani spoke about the meeting he had with Recreation Department, Nicole, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Wisse to discuss the location of the Vietnam Moving Wall.

Mr. Bassani stated he would like to have a meeting Planet Networks to discuss their broadband services.

Mr. Bassani spoke about the Tennessee Gas Pipeline meeting at the County College and Wantage should have representation there.

Mr. Bassani spoke about a piece of Legislation that is sponsored by Senator Oroho pertaining to the use of Cap Bank for the Schools. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani stated we need to start the discuss the Marijuana Bill shortly.

Committeeman Morris: Mr. Morris stated he participated in County SWAC meeting and RER will have a transfer of ownership.

Mr. Morris stated he voiced his opinion of the sale due to a lot of issues that have not been resolved.

Mr. Morris stated there are constant complaints of Odor and multiple fire calls as well.

Mr. Morris stated he would like Wantage Township to send a letter to SWAC voicing their concerns with RER and the sale/

Discussion ensued.

Mayor's report: Mayor Gaechter spoke about the gifting of obsolete Fire Equipment to less fortunate Fire Departments.

Mayor Gaechter stated Chief Snook is Present and will explain what the local fire departments are doing.

Wantage Township Fire Department Chief Snook stated Hunter Space reached out on Facebook and found a department that was looking for fire gear in Alabama.

Chief Snook explained the New Jersey Fire Standards with Fire Equipment and that it is good for only 10 years.

Chief Snook stated Mr. Space drove his pickup truck down to Alabama to deliver the equipment. Chief Snook stated the Department is currently on its 3rd 52' Enclosed trailer of old fire gear donations and thanked everyone who was involved.

Chief Snook stated a fire truck was donated and extrication equipment.

Chief Snook stated they will be collecting stuff for the troops overseas.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2021 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A motion is in order to Introduce Ordinance #06-2021 Ordinance establishing Salary and Wage ranges of Officials and Employees of the Township of Wantage.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman stated she has been in contact via email with NJ District 24 Office and Senator Oroho pertaining to the concerns with Optimum's service.

Mrs. Gorman stated there were many discrepancies pertaining to Optimums Billing dates and due Dates.

Mrs. Gorman stated on her bill there is a charge for a franchise fee and that this shouldn't be there because the town gets money from Optimum for 2% of all Gross Revenue.

Mrs. Gorman asked the question where does the money collected from the Franchise fee go.

Mr. Restel stated the money goes into the revenue section of the budget and helps offset the budget when it comes to money to be raised by taxes.

Mrs. Gorman stated that town around New Jersey are not receiving their franchise and feels Optimum will not pay Wantage Township this year. Discussion Ensued.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about the Ordinance Wantage Township adopted 2009-20 pertaining to the section that states there shall be a 3-year review of the performance of the Company. Discussion Ensued.

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 7:35PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk