

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON  
MAY 27, 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 #50-2020 to #54-2021.

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

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated Wantage Township applied to receive a seedling from the trees that survived the September 11<sup>th</sup> Terrorist attacks.

Mr. Restel spoke about the numerous phone calls town hall has been receiving pertaining to the Ash trees and the Emerald Ash Bores that are killing the trees.

Mr. Restel stated 3 trees within our jurisdiction will be cut down this week.

Mr. Restel stated Mrs. Rebecca Hansen reached out and would like to donate a tree to be planted at Woodbourne Park in memory of Hank Tino a war veteran who was helpful with a lot of people who lived in Wantage overcome Addiction.

Mr. Restel stated Wantage Chief Financial Officer Ashley will be attending the June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting to discuss a possible Bond Ordinance for various projects and equipment in town.

Mr. Restel wished everyone a Happy and Safe Memorial and to remember what Memorial Day is truly about.

Attorney's Report: Mr. Karp offered no report.

Deputy Mayor Ron Bassani: Mr. Bassani stated he would like to look into expanding the High Point Shared Service Fertilize Contract to have them fertilize the entire park instead of just the ball fields.

Mr. Bassani stated he attended the Plant Exchange at Woodbourne Park and it was a success and thanked the Recreation Department for setting it up.

Mr. Bassani stated between 20-30 people attended the plant exchange.

Mr. Bassani stated that himself and Mr. Restel met with Robert Boyle Planet Networks CEO to discuss various topics including getting Mr. Boyles company into Wantage.

Mr. Bassani stated Mr. Boyle is looking for property in Wantage to have a Storage Yard and smaller property to put a network storage hub on. Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Bassani offered his biggest wishes to Ursula Leo and her family during these rough times.

Mr. Bassani stated Dave Brady will be the temporary Land Use Attorney until further notice.

Committeeman Jon Morris: Mr. Morris spoke about the new Marijuana Laws and would like to possibly have Mr. D'Aries attend a meeting to speak.

Mayor William Gaechter Report: Mayor Gaechter spoke about the Lafayette Township Ordinance that was in front of the committee.

Mayor Gaechter requested that the Committee review and if any questions to reach out to the Attorneys.

Mayor Gaechter requested at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting have a draft Ordinance ready. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Gaechter stated he met with Judge Gavan and Mr. Restel and discussed the State of the Court.

Mayor Gaechter Municipal Courts will remain Virtual until Further Notice and the resumption of in person will be told by the Superior Court. Discussion Ensued.

Mayor Gaechter stated he attended the Sussex Wantage Chamber of Commerce meeting at Friendly's and explained how business are having hard time getting employees to work due to the extra benefits of unemployment checks.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the May 13, 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 Adopt Ordinance #06-2021 Ordinance establishing Salary and Wage ranges of Officials and Employees of the Township of Wantage.

Mayor Gaechter Opened the meeting to the Public.

No one from the Public Spoke.

Mr. Restel stated this Ordinance is to set Salary Ranges for employees and State will be requiring this in the coming years.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A motion is in Order to Introduce Ordinance #07-2021 Appropriating the Sum of \$45,000 for South Shore Drainage Improvements.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A Motion is in Order to Introduce Ordinance #07-2021 Appropriating the sum of \$50,000 for Various Roadway Improvements.

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: Mrs. Gorman asked what was going on at the Lake Neepaulin beach and when it will be completed and the tarp removed

Mr. Restel stated the dirt needed to settle and DPW will be there to seed tomorrow.

Mr. Restel stated the tarp is called silt fence and is required when working near water.

Mrs. Gorman stated she would like to benches around Woodbourne Park and Berry Road walking path.

Mr. Bassani sated this would be a great project for a Boy Scout moving to the rank of Eagle Scout.

Joe Konopinski Wantage Township OEM: Mr. Konopinski thanked Ford Motor company for their generous donations of Air Filtration Fans.

Mr. Konopinski stated Wantage received 96 and will be distributing to the Schools, First Responders and Townhall.

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 7:33PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk