

**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 4:30 P.M. ON
FEBRUARY 10,2022**

Mayor Bassani called the Budget meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ron Bassani, Deputy Mayor Jon Morris. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel and Chief Financial Officer Ashley Wilson. Committeeman William Gaechter was absent.

Mayor Bassani 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 2022

Mr. Harold Pellow Wantage Township Engineer handed the Mayor and Committee a copy of the 2022 requested improvements to Wantage Township.

Mr. Pellow stated in the Spring construction will start on South Shore Drainage.

Mr. Pellow stated we need to start looking at a 5-year pavement plan in Lake Neepaulin.

Mr. Pellow stated there is about 13 miles of paved roads and first was done in 1980's.

Mr. Pellow stated roads in Wantage is very expensive to pave due to the high crowns.

Mr. Pellow stated the easiest way to move forward is to just mill and pave instead reclamation.

Mr. Pellow stated there are over 60 miles of paved roads and another 60 miles of Oil and Stone.

Mr. Pellow stated the planning and design stage is in process to redo the front walkway into the Municipal Building.

Mr. Pellow stated the Southfield spillway repair design and permit has been sent to NJDEP and are awaiting approval.

Mr. Pellow thanked the Mayor and Committee for their time.

Bob Wagner Wantage Township DPW Supervisor presented the 2022 Budget.

Mr. Wagner stated the need for 2 Mason Dumps.

Mr. Wagner stated the roads that are on the list provided for Oil and Stone.

Mr. Wagner stated to remove Goodrich from the list.

Mr. Wagner stated a new bucket truck will be needed in near future.

Mr. Wagner stated the Township needs to start saving for a new sweeper.

Mr. Wagner stated a new lawn mower for the park is needed.

Mr. Wagner stated the DPW building need some repairs on one of the piers because its sinking.

Mr. Wagner stated we need a flat trailer with a Tilt for the asphalt roller.

Michael Garrison DPW Mechanic: Mr. Garrison requested a tire mount machine and balancer.

Mr. Garrison requested a Vehicle Lift around 18,000 pounds.

Mr. Warren Wisse President of Wantage Township recreation presented their 2022 Recreation Budget.

Mr. Wisse stated the Porto John budget increased by \$200.

Mr. Wisse stated to keep the \$14,000 in the Budget for Field Maintenance.

Mr. Restel stated he is awaiting quotes.

Mr. Wisse stated Recreation added more money to Advertising and the Fishing contest.

Mr. Wisse stated the 5k increased due to the timing referee.

Mayor Bassani stated we should look into the 5k as a dedication to a specific cause.

Mr. Wisse stated we increased Wantage Day to allow more carnival rides and advertisement.

Mr. Wisse presented the 2022 Maintenance of Parks Budget.

Mr. Wisse stated monies are budgeted for a variety of items for Woodbourne Park

Mr. Wisse stated the Recreation Committee would like to see repairs to the Walking Path at Woodbourne and more parking spaces.

Mr. Wisse stated we would like to see Disc Golf and Pickle ball courts added to Woodbourne and Berry Road properties.

Mr. Wisse stated fitness stations around the walking path at Woodbourne would be beneficial to the majority of the walkers.

Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Wisse Thanked the Mayor and Committee for their time.

Wantage Township Emergency Manager Joe Konopinski: Mr. Konopinski stated his budget request is up 20%.

Mr. Konopinski stated the OEM conference is cancelled and can delete that item from the list.

Mr. Konopinski requested \$6,000 for a high Band Radio Equipment repeater.

Mr. Konopinski stated he received a quote from Sussex Rural for a generator at the Deckertown Tower site and it was \$35,000.

Mr. Konopinski stated he is reviewing alternative generators.

Mr. Konopinski stated AT&T will not allow Wantage to hook into their Generator.

Mayor Bassani stated that needs to be reviewed for future cell tower installations. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Konopinski requested a Portable Sign Board to be used by all departments within the Township.

Mr. Konopinski stated Hamburg has been receiving Grant Money to post Covid related messages.

Stan Gardner and Jeff Post Wantage Township EMS: Mr. Gardner stated the EMS budget will stay flat.

Mr. Gardner requested that the Township pay for the EMS fuel bills.

Mr. Gardner stated the need for a New Remounted Ambulance.

Mr. Gardner stated we have 3 ambulances that are from 2000, 2004 and 2012.

Mr. Gardner stated the earlier year Ambulances are starting to need more expensive repairs.

Mr. Gardner and Mr. Post thanked the Mayor and Committee.

Mark Snook Wantage Township Fire Department Chief and Justin Vandergroef Beemerville Fire Department Deputy Chief presented their 2022 Fire Department Budget.

Chief Snook stated the Chiefs OE increase is due to adding 4 SIM cards to the tablets located in the Chiefs Cars.

Chief Snook stated in the near future these SIMS cards will be in all Fire Vehicles.

Chief Snook stated the OSHA/PEOSHA will stay the same to keep up with all mandates.

Chief Snook is requesting to reinstate the \$10,000 hose replacement line item.

Chief Snook stated the fuel budget will increase due to prices and increase amount of calls over the past 5 years.

Chief Snook Chief Snook stated the stipend received from the Township does need to increase.

Chief Snook stated he spoke to Mayor Bassani about a Mini Pumper. Discussion Ensued.

Chief Snook asked for an increase to the maintenance budget due to various pump related issues.

Chief Snook thanked the Mayor and Committee.

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public.

Joshua Simmons Sussex Borough spoke about the design of the Disc Golf course he would like to implement at Berry Road.

Mayor Bassani stated he saw the design and would like to see Woodbourne Park integrated with the design. Discussion Ensued

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk

