

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON  
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

Mayor Bassani 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 Ron Bassani, Deputy Mayor Jon Morris Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: Attorney Glenn Kienz and Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel.

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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #24-2022 and #28-2022 with the removal of PO# 18506 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the Amount of \$158.98

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A Motion is in order to Approve PO# 18506 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the Amount of \$158.98.

A Motion was made by Mr. Gaechter and seconded by Mr. Morris

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

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated attended multiple meeting with Mr. Bassani pertaining to various items.

Mr. Restel stated due to the winter weather approaching there will be no parking overnight on township roads.

Mr. Restel spoke about the Illegal Dumping situation.

Attorney's Report: Mr. Kienz stated Wantage Township is the wrong town to mess with when it comes to illegal dumping.

Deputy Mayor Jon Morris stated he met with high point Youth Football pertaining to the expansion of their football field.

Mr. Morris stated lots of ideas were tossed around and would like to see if it would be possible to use the barn at Berry Road as storage for all youth sports.

Committeeman Bill Gaechter: Mr. Gaechter asked if Wantage has committed a number to Youth Football for the expansion of the field.

Mayor Bassani no number has bet set but Wantage would be helping in some sort of capacity. Discussion Ensued.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Bassani stated himself and Mr. Restel met with Father Johns to go over multiple areas of Animal Control.

Mayor Bassani stated he signed a Letter of Endorsement to Walkkill Wildlife for Grant that could possibly help with plantings at Berry Road Property.

Mayor Bassani stated himself and Mr. Kienz will be meeting with Tennessee Pipeline March to discuss the Expansion Project.

Mayor Bassani stated he would like to set up a meeting with Township Engineer Harold Pellow to discuss the Jogging Path at Berry Road.

Mayor Bassani stated Mr. Restel and I met with the Prosecutor and Judge to talk about the Wantage Joint Municipal Court.

Mayor Bassani stated himself and Mr. Restel met with land Use members and staff to discuss items pertaining to Zoning and Code Enforcement.

Mayor Bassani stated the meeting went well and changes are coming to certain Ordinances. Discussion ensued.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the February 10 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting and Budget Meeting

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

#### OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathy Gorman: Mrs. Gorman asked for an explanation pertaining to the Resolution about Cafeteria 125 Plan.

Mr. Restel stated this plan is a Federal Statue that allows employee health benefit contributions to be pre-taxed.

Mr. Restel stated this will save the Township money on the Social Security Tax.

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman stated there is a broken backboard at Lake Neepaulin Basketball court.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about nothing being done at the Beach area of Lake Neepaulin and some work has started but has not been completed.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about the article in the Advertiser pertaining to Wantage Animal Shelter and the talks with father Johns.

William LaSalle 123 Rose Morrow Road: Mr. LaSalle stated his displeasure with the Town and the paving on Wantage School Road.

Mr. LaSalle stated its was milled and paved in 2018 and the road is falling apart.

Mr. LaSalle provided pictures to the Mayor and Committee

Marcus Luce 29 Judge Beach Road: Mr. Luce spoke about the Jogging Path at the Berry Road Property.

Mr. Luce stated he sent a letter of support to the Mayor and Committee pertaining to the expansion of his hemp farm.

Mr. Luce stated he would like the Mayor, Committee and Mr. Restel to come to his farm for a tour and explain the hemp process.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A Motion is order to adopt Resolution # 29-2022 for the Mayor and Committee to enter into executive session to discuss the following matters:

- (1) Contracts

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

Upon Roll:

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

#### 2022 BUDGET:

A Motion is in order to Introduce the 2022 Municipal Budget in the amount of \$6,710,460.22 with a local tax rate of .310, a 2022 open space tax rate of .005, and a total sewer allocation budget of \$126,000.

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

Upon Roll:

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

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to adjourn

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

Upon Roll:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk