

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON
APRIL 28, 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, Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: Attorney Glenn Kienz and Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel. Deputy Mayor Jon Morris 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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #36-2022 to #44-2022 with the removal of PO# 18547 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the Amount of \$11.92 and PO# 18603 to Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$734.52

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A Motion is in order to Approve PO# 18577 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the Amount of \$11.92 and PO# 18603 to Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$734.52 was moved to next meeting.

RESOLUTION #45-2022: Resolution entering into a Professional Service Contract with Max Spann R.E., & Auction Company for Auction Services on Township owned Properties.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Resolution 46-2022 Authorizing the public display of fireworks at Wantage Day October 8, 2022 with a rain date of October 9, 2022.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Resolution #47-2022 A Resolution of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey Authorizing agreement with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with Tennessee Pipeline along with Attorney Glenn Kienz to negotiate a deal to help and aid Wantage Township and Wantage Emergency Management.

Mayor Bassani stated Tennessee Gas agrees to pay Wantage Township as a good neighbor \$100,000 and \$5,000 to Emergency Management for the purchase of gas leak detection equipment.

Committeeman Gaechter stated this is the first time he seeing the resolution and stated this is Federally regulated and Wantage has no say in the project.

Mr. Gaechter stated when he was Mayor in 2021 Wantage passed a resolution opposing the project.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Resolution #48-2022: Appointments to Land Use Board Special Hearing.

Mayor Bassani stated Honorable Minkowitz has ruled and remanded a 2021 Land Use application be reheard in front of a new Wantage Township Land Use board and this resolution appoints the new members.

Mayor Bassani read into record the proposed names.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated fireworks will be returning to Wantage Day with a \$500 increase.

Mr. Restel stated wantage received bid for the front walkway project and Mr., Pellow is reviewing the bids.

Mr. Restel stated May 2nd bulky waste tickets are on sale for \$45 with a max of 500 pounds.

Mr. Restel stated at his last visit of the Wantage Animal Shelter he was pleased with all the upgrades.

Mr. Restel stated May 21st will be the Wantage Township Plant Exchange at the Pavilion in Woodbourne.

Mr. Restel stated he had multiple meetings Mayor Bassani

Attorney's Report: Mr. Kienz offered no report

Mr. Gaechter offered no report

Mayor Bassani stated he attended the Easter Egg Hunt and it was well attended.

Mayor Bassani stated he spoke to crowd and Thanked Wantage Recreation, Kiwanis and Carly Lockburner who dressed as the Easter Bunny for their hard work.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with Planner Jessica Caldwell to discuss upgrades to the Master plan.

Mayor Bassani stated that he met with Habitat for Humanity to discuss affordable living housing.

Mayor Bassani stated Wantage will be looking into grants through NJDEP for Lake Management and Dredging.

Mayor Bassani stated our Grant Manager will be attending a Webinar of the Program.

Mayor Bassani stated he attended a presentation at Sussex Skydive intended for our first responders.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with the Attorney and Owner of MNL farms to discuss the noise issues and how to be a good neighbor.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with the new DPW union and went over the extensive new contract.

Mayor Bassani stated on April 23rd he threw out the first pitch for the Sussex Wantage Little League.

Mayor Bassani he will be meeting with a company pertaining to top Pickleball courts at Woodbourne Park.

Mayor Bassani stated he will be meeting with Nathaniel Sadjek pertaining to future tree planting at Berry Road and Woodbourne Park.

Mayor Bassani stated Harold Pellow sent over a proposal to put in a parking lot at Berry Road.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the March 24th Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting was pushed to the May 12th Meeting

ORDINANCE:

A motion is in order to Adopt Ordinance #02-2022 an Ordinance repealing Ordinance 04-2022 and authorizing and directing that an easement on a portion of certain real property located in tax lot 11 block 143 set forth on the official tax map of the Township of Wantage shall be acquired by purchase and gift.

Mr. Restel stated when the Title search was performed there was a silver of property that was State Farmland Preserved and an easement was needed to gain access for the K turn

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public.

No one from the public spoke.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A motion is in order to Introduce Ordinance #03-2022 Appropriating the sum of \$4,000 for Emergency Management Improvements.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Rich Gannon 22 Black Dirt Road: Mr. Gannon presented the Mayor and Committee paperwork for an issue with NJDEP.

Mr. Gannon explained the situation and the need for it to be resolved. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Bassani stated we will review the papers and get back to you.

Dave Franek landowner next to Tri State Topsoil: Mr. Franek stated he would like to know when Tri State will be shut down.

Mr. Franek stated Tri State should not be operating without proper approvals.

Mr. Franek stated he would like to know what the next steps are. Discussion ensued.

Marisuz Zadrogah Landowner next to Tri State Topsoil: Mr. Zadrogah stated Tri state operation should be suspended and not be open.

Mr. Zadrogah stated when will the operation cease. Discussion Ensued.

Joe Retz Libertyville Road: Mr. Retz stated it was good to see Tennessee Pipeline pay \$100,000 on top of the \$300,000 in taxes to Wantage.

Mr. Retz spoke about the Dirty Dirt issue on Rutgers.

Mr. Retz stated there were a few flaws in the Ordinance and recommended that Wantage review the Ordinance.

Mr. Retz stated he would like to see Wantage Township have the legal right to enter onto the property and obtain all testing needed.

Mr. Retz stated does Wantage Township review all dump tickets at each of the topsoil places in Wantage. Discussion Ensued.

John Nuss 29 Beemer Road: Mr. Nuss stated Wantage should include a dirty dirt blurb when the tax bills are sent out.

Mr. Nuss asked for an update on the Mulch place on Rose Morrow. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Nuss stated our Code Enforcer had done a great job and Wantage should look into the possibility of extra help.

Emil Conforth Route 565: Mr. Conforth stated there are 4 Compost Topsoil places located in Wantage.

Mr. Conforth presented to the Committee a detailed report from Cornell university.

Mr. Conforth asked why a lot of D variances are approved in Wantage.

Mr. Conforth stated the noise is out of control with tail gates slamming and diesel trucks near his house.

Kathy Gorman Fernwood Road: Mrs. Gorman stated she would like to see Volunteers get background checks in the near future. Discussion Ensued.

Mike Dillon 88 Sherman Ridge Road: Mr. Dillion stated he is the President of High Point Youth Football and Cheer and would like to know if it OK to start with the field Expansion.

Mayor Bassani stated you can start ASAP.

Mr. Dillon stated all equipment and labor has been donated by Petilo Construction.

Mr. Dillon stated once the fields dry up High Point Football will start working on the fields.

Mr. Dillon presented the Mayor and Committee a cost breakdown of the project and would like, if possible, the Township to help money wise. Discussion Ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to adjourn

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:55pm

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk