

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON
MAY 26, 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 Jonathan Morris Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: 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."

DISCUSSION: Mayor Bassani stated Wantage will look into the Farming on the Berry Road Property.

Mr. Morris stated he had a meeting with the current farmers to go over the future plans.

Mr. Morris stated the farmer wants to plant corn on the field closet to Sherman Ridge and plant hay near the walking path and corner filed near the intersection of Berry Road and Sherman Ridge.

Mr. Gaechter stated he is strongly against corn.

Mr. Gaechter stated his proposal would be a 3-year lease for hay and revert back to original deal after 3 years.

Mayor Bassani stated the corner field near the Berry Road and Sherman Ridge intersection will be a parking area.

Mr. Morris stated he will contact the farmer and propose the 3-year contract

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public.

Kathy Gorman Fernwood Rd: Mrs. Gorman stated she strongly against farming at the Berry Road property.

Mrs. Gorman stated no one should be making money off a Township owned property and its not fair to the tax payers.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #52-2022 to #55-2022 with the removal of PO# 18674 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the Amount of \$751.91

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A Motion is in order to Approve PO# 18674 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the Amount of \$751.91

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated the Miss Wantage contest will be June 4th and there are 18 Little Misses, 4 Little Mr. and 4 Miss Wantage applications.

Mr. Restel stated he had multiple meetings with the mayor including Disc golf and DPW union negotiations.

Mr. Morris offered no report.

Mr. Gaechter offered no report.

Mayor Ron Bassani: Mayor Bassani stated the DPW Union Meeting was held but nothing pertaining to money was discussed.

Mayor Bassani stated he attended the plant exchange and it was the best turnout ever.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with the Pickleball people again and the quotes that came in are around \$150,000 with the fence.

Mayor Bassani stated he was supposed to meet with football but it was cancelled.

Mayor Bassani stated MNL Farms dumping soil removal needs to be completed by June 3, 2022.

Mayor Bassani stated NJDEP is overseeing the project.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with the Disc Golf people and explained the course will be in the woods patch near Sherman Ridge and will not obstruct the future plans of Berry Road.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Larry Nelson 81 Clove Road: Mr. Nelson would like to know an update on the Noise issue at the Clove Springs Gun Range.

Mayor Bassani stated the Attorneys for Wantage and Gun Range have been in contact and that there will be a follow up meeting.

Mr. Nelson stated the owner said the same thing to Mr. Paladino about getting an Engineer involved.

Mr. Nelson stated it's a bad quality of life issue as stated in the Ordinance.

Mr. Nelson stated the Noise from the Guns are breaking the Noise Ordinance Law and wants it shut down.

Mayor Bassani stated there is no legal reason to shut it down.

Ray Schank 57 Walnut: Mr. Schank stated the farmer behind him does a great job rotating crop and the town should reach out to him.

Emil Conforth Route 565: Mr. Conforth spoke about the Lead issue that most likely taking place at the Gun range.

Mr. Conforth stated to reach out the WARN DEP number to get a case number started.

Dave Franek Route 565: Mr. Franek stated he would like to know why Tri State Topsoil still has not been shut down.

Mayor Bassani stated we have no authority to shut it down and the court order does not state it needs to be shut down.

Mr. Franek stated that he has worked with Sussex County DEP and they are very responsive. Discussion Ensued

William LaSalla 123 Rose Morrow Road: Mr. LaSalla stated about the grading issue on Wantage School Road.

Mr. LaSalla stated this committee was very quick to act on shutting down the Bird issue but the Gun Range. Discussion Ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to adjourn

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:45pm

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk