

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF WANTAGE, 7:00 P.M. ON
JULY 14, 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: 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 #73-2022 to #74-2022. With the removal of PO# 18804 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$143.45

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

A Motion is in order to approve PO# 18804 to Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$143.45

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to appointment the below to the Land Use Board:
Justin Dudzinski Class IV term running thru 12/31/2023
George Ungerzagt Alternate #1 term running through 12/31/2023
Joseph Greenaway Alternate #2 term running through 12/31/2022
Chris Darmsetter Alternate#3 term running through 12/31/2022

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 resolution appointing Temporary Land Use members to hear an application remanded to Wantage Township Land Use Board.

Mayor Bassani read into the record the names that will sit on the Temporary Land Use Board.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Discussion: Papkating Valley Rail Trail FLAP Sponsorship Approval:

Mayor Bassani stated Mr. Restel and I spoke to Michael Horne pertaining to the Trail and that the County has backed out of the Sponsorship approval.

Mayor Bassani stated he met with representees of the project to see what was going to be repaired.

Mayor Bassani stated Zero monies will be needed for Wantage Township to sponsor just maintenance of the trail part in Wantage.

Marie Springer, a volunteer with the National Wildlife Refuge, stated the rail trail is a state-level project, but because the Walkkill River refuge is federal, it was able to apply for several federal grants.

Mrs. Springer stated they started with this project because Elizabethtown Gas needed to access the railbed in order to maintain their pipelines.

Mrs. Springer stated What they did is they went ahead and did some of the bridges themselves, but the one in question is too big for them, and at that point, they have their gas line going underneath the river.

Springer stated to get federal funds to repair the bridge, the Walkkill River Wildlife Refuge needs to partner with a local government.

REPORTS

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated that he attended 3 Pre-Construction meetings for various projects.

Mr. Restel stated the mayor and himself met with the DPW Union for negotiations.

Mr. Restel stated Township calendars have been mailed out.

Mr. Restel stated the Tax Grace period has been extended to August 16th.

Mr. Restel stated construction in Wantage is exceling well.

Attorney Report: No report

Mr. Kienz stated there is no time table for the report to be available.

Mr. Morris stated there has been excellent progress on the football field and next meeting he will have a list of volunteers that have helped.

Mr. Gaechter offered no report

Mayor Ron Bassani: Mayor Bassani stated he met with the Native Plant Association to discuss their future projects at Berry Road.

Mayor Bassani stated he had a meeting with NJDEP pertaining to Black Dirt Road.

Mayor Bassani stated we are going to look into different avenues pertaining to the Pickle Ball courts.

Mayor Bassani stated the new farmer will begin on Berry Road.

Mayor Bassani stated DPW union negotiations will resume June 28th

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the June 23rd 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

ORDINANCE:

A Motion is in Order Introduce Ordinance #04-2022 Appropriating the sum of \$40,000 for ADA improvements to Wantage Township Municipal Building.

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public.

Joe Retz Libertyville Road: Mr. Retz stated this projected is a 1/3rd of the cost than what the schools did and the Advertiser is giving it bad press.

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:

Rob Smith 161 Rose Morrow Road; Mr. Smith read into record a statement pertaining to a nuisance neighbor blaring music all day and into the night.

Mr. Smith stated he has dates and times when the music is unbearable.

Mr. Smith stated he would like to town to do something about it.

Mr. Kienz stated he will along with Mr. Restel talk to the County.

Larry Nelson 81 Clove Road: Mr. Nelson would like an update on the Clove Springs gun range.

Mayor Bassani stated he has spoken to Mr. Kienz and will continue to communicate with Mr. Altiers for updates.

Mr. Nelson he would like to be at the sit down with the land owner and the town to hear and discuss different alternatives to reduce the sound.

Mayor Bassani stated with neighbors' emotions high, it would not be a good idea.

Kathy Gorman 59 Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman's stated she would like an update on the Grants Wantage Applied for.

Mayor Bassani stated we have applied for multiple grants and at the moment have not won.

Mayor Bassani stated Bruno Associates is great and updates us twice a week about new grants.

Joshua Simmons East Main Street Sussex: Mr. Simmons stated he sent a map to Mr. Restel to show the areas needed for the course.

Mayor Bassani stated he did receive it and was reviewing it.

Mr. Simmons stated he would like to setup a 5-hole disc gold course at Wantage Day.

Mayor Bassani stated great idea and talk to our Recreation Director.

Joe Retz 145 Libertyville Road: Mr. Retz stated Beemerville Auto Wreckers is being purchased by a bigger Junk Recycler.

Mr. Retz stated we need to be ahead of the game when the purchase is complete.

Mr. Retz stated with all the illegal dumping happening in Wantage we need to shut the operations down as soon as possible like other towns. Discussion ensued.

A Motion is in order to approve Resolution #75-2022 for the Mayor and Committee to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1 Pending Litigation

2. Contract Negotiations

Mr. Kienz read into record the resolution.

Mayor and Committee exited out of Executive Session at 8:01PM

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 8:02pm

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk