

**AGENDA FOR THE RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
888 STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 23,
WANTAGE, NJ, AT 7:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 6, 2026**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Clerk will call the meeting to order.

2. OATH OF OFFICE

- a. Clerk will read the "Statement of Determination" of the Board of County Canvassers, for the Election held on November 4, 2025.
- b. Clerk will administer the Oath of Office to Committeeman-elect Ronald Bassani a three-year term as Committee Member of the Township of Wantage.

3. ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2026

4. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2026

Clerk will open the floor for Committee nominations to the position of Mayor for 2026.

The newly selected Mayor for 2026 shall assume the Mayor's seat, at this time.

Mayor's Oath of Office

5. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT COMPLIANCE

The Mayor will state, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk".

6. FLAG SALUTE

The Mayor will invite all persons present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

7. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2025

The Mayor will open the floor for Committee nominations to the position of Deputy Mayor for 2026.

8. BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

a. LAND USE BOARD

The Mayor shall announce appointments to the Land Use Board, as follows:

XXXXXXX, Class I member, for a term running thru 12/31/26

(Class I member must be either the Mayor or a Mayor's Designee)

Joe Konopinski	Class II Member	Exp. 12/31/2026
	Class III Member	Exp. 12/31/2026
	Class IV Member	Exp. 12/31/2029
Larry Bono	Class IV Member	Exp. 12/31/2027
	Class IV Member	Exp. 12/31/2029
Michael Walther	Class IV Member	Exp. 12/31/2027
Chris Darmstatter	Class IV Member	Exp. 12/31/2027
George Unverzagt	Alternate #1	Exp. 12/31/2026
Keith Albinson	Alternate #2	Exp. 12/31/2027
Victoria Gill	Alternate #3	Exp. 12/31/2026
	Alternate #4	Exp. 12/31/2026
	Chairperson	Exp. 12/31/2028

The Mayor shall open the floor to the Committee, for the Class III appointment to the Land Use Board, for a one-year term running through 12/31/26. Committee members shall choose a Class III appointment from among themselves.

b. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Mayor shall make known nominations for appointment to the various boards, agencies and commissions of the Township, as follows:

BOARD OF HEALTH

Ezra Holley	Exp 12/31/2028
Harriet Anderson	Exp 12/31/2029
Paul Ranzan	Exp 12/31/2027
Peter Lindsay	Exp 12/31/2030
Karen Jackson	Exp 12/31/2026

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2026

Emergency Management Coordinator	Joseph Konopinski	Exp 12/31/26
Deputy Coordinator #1	Thomas Madsen	Exp 12/31/26
F.A.S. Alternate	Stan Gardner	Exp 12/31/26
Damage Assessment	Joseph Butto	Exp 12/31/26
Fire Chief, EMC member	Hunter Space	Exp 12/31/26
Communications, EMC Member	William Gebhard	Exp 12/31/26
DPW Supt., EMC Member	Mark Little	Exp 12/31/26
Sanitarian, EMC Member	Elaine Detweiler	Exp 12/31/26
Finance/Resource Mgt., EMC	Ashley Kannaley	Exp 12/31/26

Resource Management	Charles Rokosny	Exp 12/31/26
Mayor, EMC Member	Justine VanderGroef	Exp 12/31/26
Public Information Officer	Mike Restel	Exp 12/31/26
Evacuation	Leroy Little	Exp 12/31/26
Operations, EMC Member	Joseph Konopinski Jr	Exp 12/31/26
Operations, EMC Member	Alex Rubin	Exp 12/31/26
Media	New Jersey Herald	Exp 12/31/26

The Committee shall take action to confirm the Mayor's nominations, as shown above.

10. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

11. The Mayor shall offer nominations for professional appointments of the Township in 2026, as follows:

Township Judge	Peter Fico, Esq.	Exp 12/31/26
Township Attorney	Glenn Kienz	Exp 12/31/26
Township Bond Counsel	McManimon, Scotland & Baumann, LLC	Exp 12/31/26
Township Auditor	Nisivoccia LLP	Exp 12/31/26
Township Prosecutor	Robert S. Bohrod	Exp 12/31/26
Township Engineer	Corey Stoner, Harold Pellow & Associates	Exp 12/31/26
Public Defender	John Grey	Exp 12/31/26
Alternate Public Defender	Michael Justice	Exp 12/31/26
Municipal Finance Advisors	Phoenix Advisors	Exp 12/31/26

b. A motion is in order for the Committee to confirm the Mayor's nominations.

11. MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

a. At this time, The Mayor will present nominations for appointment to the various positions of Township Government for the year 2026, as follows:

Subdivision Approval Certification Officer	Melissa Morales
Recycling Coordinator	SCMUA
Assessment Search Officer	Melissa Morales
Qualified Purchasing Agent	Michael L Restel
Municipal Affordable Housing Liaison	Michael L Restel
Public Agency Compliance Officer for Affirmative Action	Michael L Restel
Municipal Chief Finance Officer: – 4 year apt thru 12/31/27	Ashley Kannaley
PERS/PFRS Certifying Agent	Ashley Kannaley
Tax Search Officer	Melissa Caton
Tax Assessor- 4 Year apt thru 12/31/28	Kristy Lockburner
Tax Collector- 4 Year apt thru 12/31/27	Melissa Caton
Principal Public Works Manager	Mark Little
Animal Control Officer	Melanie Monastra
Emergency 911 Coordinator	Joseph Konopinski
Risk Management Consultant – Health Benefits	Vozza Agency
Risk Management Consultant – Statewide Insurance Fund	Keith Mitchell, The Mitchell Agency

- b. A motion is in order for the Committee to confirm the Mayor's nominations.

12. OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- a. At this time, The Mayor will present nominations for appointment of members to the 2026 Open Space Advisory Committee of Wantage Township:

Mr. Ronald Bassani
Ms. Victoria Gill
Mr. Justin Dudzinski
Ms. Allison Orsi

- b. A motion is in order for the Committee to confirm the Mayor's nominations.

13. RECREATION COMMITTEE

- a. At this time, The Mayor will present nominations for appointment of members to the 2026 Recreation Committee of Wantage Township:

Warren Wisse	regular member	12/31/26
Darryl Wuhrl	regular member	12/31/26
Susan Weiss	regular member	12/31/28
Gary Margiotta	regular member	12/31/28
Heather Hill	regular member	12/31/27
Daniel Cullinane	alternate member	12/31/27
Donna-Sherie Gotland	alternate member	12/31/26

- b. A motion is in order for the Committee to confirm the Mayor's nominations.

14. RECOGNITION OF LINE OFFICERS

**2026 Officers
Wantage Township First Aid Squad**

President:	Bill DeBoer
Vice President:	Stan Gardner
Chief:	Andrew Smetana
Captain:	Michael Sprung
1st Lieutenant:	James Watson
2nd Lieutenant:	Zachary Sprung
Secretary:	Carmella Sta Teresa

Clerk will Administer Oath of Office

15. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

16. The Mayor will request that the Committee REVIEW THE CONSENT AGENDA. If any member of the Committee wishes an item on the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately, a motion to this effect shall be so made, at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE MAYOR & COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON JANUARY 6, 2026

ALL MATTERS LISTED BELOW ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ROUTINE IN NATURE AND WILL BE ENACTED BY ONE MOTION. THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF THE ITEMS. IF ANY DISCUSSION IS DESIRED, THAT PARTICULAR ITEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND WILL BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

I. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #01-2026 A motion is in order to adopt a Professional Services resolution for various professional services.

II. TEMPORARY BUDGET

Resolution #02-2026 A motion is in order to adopt the 2026 local temporary budget for the Township of Wantage, as per the attached resolution.

III. RATES OF INTEREST

Resolution #03-2026 A motion is in order to establish the rate of interest to be charged for non-payment of taxes and utilities, on or after the date when they would become delinquent, as per the attached resolution.

IV. OVERPAYMENT/UNDERPAYMENT OF TAXES

Resolution #04-2026 A motion is in order to authorize the Tax Collector to cancel of record any overpayment or underpayment of taxes and utilities in the amount of \$10.00 or less for the calendar year 2026, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A 40A: 5-17.1.

V. CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Resolution #05-2026 A motion is in order to adopt the Cash Management Plan of the Township of Wantage for 2026.

VI. OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES

Resolution #06-2026 A motion is in order to designate banks as the Official Depositories for Township funds in 2026.

VII. MEETING DATES

Resolution #07-2026 A motion is in order to establish the regular meeting of the Mayor and Committee for calendar year 2026, as per the attached resolution.

VIII. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT COMPLIANCE

Resolution #08-2026 A motion is in order to approve a resolution of compliance with the Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act for 2026, as per the attached text of resolution.

IX. OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS

Resolution #09-2026 A motion is in order to designate the New Jersey Herald or the New Jersey Sunday Herald as official newspapers of the Township of Wantage for the year 2026.

X. DEFENSE AGAINST TAX APPEALS

Resolution #10-2026 A motion is in order to authorize the Township Attorney and the Township Tax Assessor to defend the Township of Wantage against all tax appeals filed during calendar year 2026.

XI. ESTABLISHING LEGAL HOLIDAYS

Resolution #11-2026 A motion is in order to establish the Legal Holidays to be observed within the Township of Wantage for calendar year 2026.

XII. ACCEPTING INSURANCE BONDS

Resolution #12-2026 A motion is in order to approve the Insurance Bonds for various municipal officials and the Blanket Bond covering all Bondable officials for calendar year 2026.

XIII. AUTHORIZING PURCHASING AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR, CLERK, CFO

Resolution #13-2026 A motion is in order authorizing the Administrator, Clerk, CFO as the Qualified Purchasing Agent, to have discretionary spending authority of up to \$17,500 on any given purchase or project during calendar year 2026, with any proposed expenditure above this amount being brought to the governing body for authorization prior to the issuance of a purchase order.

XIV. AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SPECIFIC PAYROLL RELATED SERVICES

Resolution #14-2026 A motion is in order to award a contract for specific payroll related services.

XV. REGARDING PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES AFTER MARCH 1, 2026

Resolution #15-2026 A motion is in order to approve a resolution regarding publication of legal notices after March 1, 2026.

XVI. ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH 2026 PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DESIGNATING THE TOWNSHIP'S OFFICIAL WEBPAGE FOR LEGAL NOTICES

Resolution #16-2026. A motion is in order to approve a resolution establishing procedures for compliance with 2026 public notice publication requirements and designating the Township's official webpage for legal notices.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

The Mayor will address the Committee and the public with remarks concerning priorities and goals for the Township of Wantage in 2026.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

The Mayor will invite each member of the Committee to offer remarks concerning 2026 Committee goals and priorities.

ADJOURNMENT