

MINUTES FOR THE 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, ON JANUARY 6, 2026

Administrator Michael Restel called the meeting to order at 7PM.

OATH OF OFFICE

Melissa Morales, Municipal Clerk, read the "Statement of Determination" of the Board of County Canvassers, relative to an election held in the Township of Wantage County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain officers for said municipality on the 4th day of November 2025.

The said Board does determine that the said election:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>
Ronald Bassani	Committeeman	3 year

was duly elected to the office and for the term above set forth.

DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true, full and correct statement of the determination of the Board of Canvassers therein mentioned.

In WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand, this 19th day of November 2025.

Attest by Jeffrey M. Parrott, Sussex County Clerk, Clerk of the Board of County Canvassers.

Mrs. Morales Administered the Oath of Office to Ronald Bassani.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE YEAR 2026

Present: Ronald Bassani, Justin Dudzinski, Justin VanderGroef

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2026

Mr. Restel opened the floor for Committee nominations for the position of Mayor for 2026.

Mr. Bassani nominated Mr. VanderGroef. Mr. Dudzinski seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bassani, Dudzinski, VanderGroef Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mrs. Morales Administered the Oath of Office to Mayor VanderGroef

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT: DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2026

Mayor VanderGroef opened the floor for the Committee nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2026.

Mr. Bassani moved to name Mr. Dudzinski as Deputy Mayor for 2026. Mayor VanderGroef seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bassani, Dudzinski, VanderGroef, Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT COMPLIANCE

Mayor VanderGroef stated, "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."

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor VanderGroef invited all those in attendance to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Mayor VanderGroef made known his nominations for appointment to the various boards, agencies, and commissions of the Township, as follows:

LAND USE BOARD

Justin VanderGroef, Class I Member, for a term running through 12/31/2026

Joe Konopinski	Class II Member	Exp. 12/31/2026
Ron Bassani	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 Member #1	Exp. 12/31/2026
Keith Albinson	Alternate Member #2	Exp. 12/31/2027
Victoria Gill	Alternate Member #3	Exp. 12/31/2026
	Alternate Member #4	Exp. 12/31/2026

Mayor VanderGroef opened the floor to the Committee, for the Class III appointment to the Land Use Board, for a one-year term running through 12/31/2025.

Mayor VanderGroef nominated Mr. Bassani for the Class III appointment to the Land Use Board. Mr. Dudzinski seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bassani, Dudzinski, VanderGroef, Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mayor VanderGroef will revisit the nominations for the remaining vacancy before LUB's reorganization.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor VanderGroef offered the following nominations for Township Boards and Committees 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

Mayor VanderGroef requested the Committee to confirm the mayor's nominations as shown above.

Mr. Bassani made the Motion and was Seconded by Mr. Dudzinski

Ayes: Bassani, Dudzinski, VanderGroef Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor VanderGroef offered the following nominations for professional appointments of the Township of Wantage for 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

Mr. Bassani made the Motion and was Seconded by Mr. Dudzinski

Ayes: Bassani, Dudzinski, VanderGroef Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

MAYOR'S APOINTEMENTS

Mayor VanderGroef presented his nominations for appointment to the various positions of the 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	Voza Agency
Risk Management Consultant – Statewide Insurance Fund	Keith Mitchell, The Mitchell Agency

Mr. VanderGroef made the Motion and was Seconded by Mr. Dudzinski

Ayes: Dudzinski, VanderGroef, Bassani, Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor VanderGroef offered the following nominations for appointment of members to the 2026 Open Space Advisory Board of Wantage Township:

Mr. Ronald Bassani
Ms. Victoria Gill
Mrs. Kathy Gorman
Ms. Allison Orsi

Mr. Bassani made the Motion and was Seconded by Mr. Dudzinski

Ayes: Bassani, Dudzinski, VanderGroef, Nays: None Absent: None Abstain:

None 1

1. 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
2 nd Lieutenant:	Zachary Sprung
Secretary:	Carmella Sta Teresa

Mrs. Morales administered the Oaths of Office

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Bassani Dudzinski, VanderGroef Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #01-2026

Designate Appointment of Municipal Judge, Municipal Attorney, Bond Counsel, Municipal Auditor, Risk Manager, Prosecutor, Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender for Calendar Year 2026

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 et. seq. Allows for a municipality to award a contract without public advertising for bids and bidding thereof under certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the Township has a need for assistance during the course of this calendar year involving various professional services, and

WHEREAS, the services being solicited are essential to the security of the community, and

WHEREAS, the contract award for these services complies with requirements set forth by N.J.S.A.19:44A-20.4 et seq., as shown on the attached Pay to Play Compliance Statement; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Township of Wantage is of the opinion that the circumstances for professional service contractual arrangements, as required by NJSA 40A:11-5(1) are satisfied in this situation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the following contracts be and they are hereby approved without the need for public advertisement of bids and bidding thereof:

Awarded to: Peter Fico, Esq.
Services: Municipal Judge
Duration: calendar year of 2024, 2025 and 2026
Amount: Salary set forth by Wantage Township

Awarded to: Glenn Kienz, Esq., of the law firm Weiner Lesniak, Parsippany, NJ
Services: Township Attorney
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule attached to contract

Awarded to: The law firm McManimon Scotland and Baumann of Roselle Park, NJ
Services: Township Bond Counsel
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule attached to contract

Awarded to: Nisivoccia LLP
Services: Township Auditor

Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule attached to contract

Awarded to: Robert S. Bohrod, Law Offices of Robert S. Bohrod
Services: Township Prosecutor
Duration: December 31, 2026
Amount: \$3,500.00 per month

Awarded to: Keith Mitchell, The Mitchell Agency of Newton, NJ
Services: Risk Management Consultant
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: Commission based on service contract with Statewide Insurance Fund

Awarded to: John Grey
Services: Public Defender
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: \$1,400.00 per month

Awarded to: Michael Justice
Services: Alternate Public Defender
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: \$200.00 per case

Awarded to: Corey Stoner, Harold Pellow & Associates
Services: Township Engineer
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: \$150.00 per hour

Awarded to: Pheonix Advisors
Services: Municipal Finance Advisors
Duration: calendar year of 2026
Amount: Varies based on service per fee schedule attached to contract

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, the Township Clerk is hereby directed to post a copy of this resolution on the bulletin board of the Township Hall, and publish a brief public notice stating the nature, duration, service and amount of the contracts herein awarded, and stating that said contract and this resolution are on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #02-2026
APPROVING TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2026**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 of the Local Budget Law, provides that, where any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the final adoption of the 2026 Budget, temporary appropriations should be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided; and

WHEREAS, the total appropriations in the 2025 Budget, less appropriations made for Capital Improvement Fund, Debt Service, and Public Assistance for the Current Fund is the sum of \$5,502,519.58.; and,

WHEREAS, 35.00% of the total appropriations in the 2025 Budget, less appropriations for Capital Improvement Fund, Debt Service, and Public Assistance in the said 2025 Current Fund Budget is the sum of \$1,925,881.86;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex that the following temporary appropriations be made and that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief Financial Officer for her records.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6th, 2026.

Melissa Morales, Municipal Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #03-2026
ESTABLISH THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF
TAXES & UTILITIES**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 permits the governing body of each municipality to fix the rate of interest to be charged for non-payment of taxes or assessments subject to any abatement or discount for the late payment of taxes as provided by law; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-67 has been amended to permit the fixing of said rate of 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of the delinquency and 18% per annum on any amount in excess of \$1,500.00, and allows an additional penalty of 6%

to be collected against a delinquency in excess of \$10,000.00 on properties that fail to pay the delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized and directed to charge 8% per annum on the first \$1,500.00 of taxes becoming delinquent after due date and 18% per annum on any amount of taxes in excess of \$1,500.00, becoming delinquent after the due date, and if the total amount due on December 31, is in excess of \$10,000.00, an additional penalty of 6% shall be charged against the delinquency.
2. There will be a ten (10) day grace period for quarterly tax payments. However, any payments not paid within the ten-day grace period will be charged interest from the due date.
3. The Tax Collector is hereby authorized to proceed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-123, "Receiver of Rents and Income from Real Property in the Municipality for Collection and Satisfaction of Delinquent Taxes", as provided by statute, for collection of delinquent taxes.
4. The Township Clerk shall provide a certified copy of this resolution to the Tax Collector, Township Attorney, and Township Auditor for the Township of Wantage.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #04-2026**

OVERPAYMENT/UNDERPAYMENT OF TAXES

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be and she is hereby authorized to cancel of record any overpayment or underpayment of taxes and/or 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.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #05-2026**

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE
TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, that for the calendar year 2026, the following shall serve as the cash management plan of the Township of Wantage.

The Chief Financial Officer is directed to use this cash management plan as the guide and is empowered to invest cash funds as bank balances will allow from time to time in order to realize a revenue.

I. IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS TO BE COVERED BY THE PLAN

The Plan is intended to cover the deposit and/or investments of the following funds and accounts of the Township of Wantage:

- Current Fund/Current Account
- Grant Fund/Current Account
- General Capital Fund/General Capital Account
- Animal Control Fund/Animal Control Account
- Other Trust Funds/Trust Other Account
- COAH Trust/COAH Trust Accounts
- Developers Escrow
- Assessment Trust Fund/Assessment Trust Account
- Open Space Fund/Open Space Account
- Payroll Account
- Flexible Spending Account
- Public Assistance Fund/Public Assistance Account

II. The following are authorized as suitable investments:

- a. Interest-bearing bank accounts in banks as authorized above for deposit of local unit funds which are GUDPA approved
- b. Certificates of deposit in GUDPA approved banking institutions
- c. Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America. This includes instruments such as treasury bills, notes, and bonds.
- d. Government money market mutual funds that comply with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.1(e).
- e. Any federal agency or instrumentality obligation authorized by Congress that matures within 397 days from the date of purchase, and has a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or external factors
- f. Bonds or other obligations of the local unit or school district of which the Township is apart.
- g. Any other obligations with maturity not exceeding 397 days, as permitted by the State Division of Investments.

- h. Local government investment pools which comply with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.1(e) and conditions set by the Division of Local Government Services.
- i. New Jersey Cash Management Fund
- j. Repurchase agreements (re pos) of fully collateralized securities which comply with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-15.1(e)
- k. New Jersey Asset & Rebate Management Program
- l. New Jersey CLASS

III. All municipal funds received by any official or employee shall be deposited within 48 hours to an interest-bearing account in the same name of the Township of Wantage. Additionally, funds can be received utilizing methods of electronic and/or automated clearing house as deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer.

- IV. The following funds shall not be required to be maintained in interest bearing accounts:
- a. Change Funds
 - b. Petty Cash Funds
 - c. Trust funds to the extent that the deposit of such funds to an interest-bearing account would require by law the payment of interest to the provider of the funds
 - d. Any grant funds required by the grant agreement not to be placed in interest bearing accounts
 - e. Any other funds or balance which, due to reasons of practicality or requirements of some regulatory authority, must be placed in non-interest-bearing accounts.

- V. No municipal funds shall be disbursed by the Chief Financial Officer prior to the approval of the Committee of the Township of Wantage except for:
- a. Debt Service Payments
 - b. Investments
 - c. Utilities
 - d. Leases and/or Contract Agreements
 - e. Tax Payments made to the County of Sussex, the Sussex Wantage Board of Education, and High Point Regional High Schools
 - f. Payroll and Payroll Turnovers to agencies
 - g. Contributions to the NJ State administered pension system
 - h. Payments deemed necessary by the Chief Financial Officer and Township Administrator

Items a-h shall be submitted to the Township of Wantage Committee for approval on the bill list resolution presented at the next township committee meeting.

VI. There are no approved security broker/dealers. In the event that a security broker/dealer should be approved during the year, the registered principal of said brokerage firm so approved shall be provided with and sign an acknowledgment that they have seen and reviewed the cash management plan.

VII. The following banks and financial institutions are hereby designated as official depositories for the Deposit of all public funds referred to in the Plan, including certificates of deposit which are not otherwise invested in Permitted Investments as provided by this Plan:

The Provident Bank

VIII. The following Township Officials are hereby designated as those authorized to sign checks and warrants for the withdrawal of funds from the official depositories of the Township of Wantage for the year 2026:

- a. Mayor Justin Vander Groef
- b. Township Administrator Michael Restel
- c. Chief Financial Officer Ashley Kannaley

IX. Electronic Disbursement/Claimant Certifications: In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:5-16 (c) and Regulatory N.J.A.C. 5:30 9.6 up to or below \$17,500 of payments to vendors do not require claimant's certification unless to satisfy the township on the integrity of the received goods or services. The following require claimant's certification:

- a. Goods and Services over \$17,500.
- b. Advanced Payments
- c. Employee reimbursements for goods or services

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, this plan shall be in effect from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 as approved by the committee of the Township of Wantage.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6th, 2026.

Melissa Morales, Municipal Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #06-2026**

DESIGNATE BANKS AS THE OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR TOWNSHIP FUND IN 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the following Banks be and they are hereby designated as depositories for the funds of the Township of Wantage for the calendar year 2026:

Provident Bank

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Finance Officer of the Township of Wantage be and she is hereby authorized to invest and reinvest the Township's Funds in the above-designated official depositories, in accordance with the statutory duties of the office of Chief Finance Officer and the Municipal Ordinances governing said duties.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #07-2026**

Establishing Schedule of Public Township Committee Meetings for 2026

WHEREAS, Section 13 of the Open Public Meetings act, approved October 21, 1975 as Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires every public body to post and maintain posted throughout the year a schedule of the meetings of said public body;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Town of Wantage, Sussex County, New Jersey that the following schedule for 2026 indicates all public meetings of the Wantage Township Committee will be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, unless otherwise indicated, Wantage Township, Committee Room, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey; and

Committee Meetings						
7:00 p.m.						
January	6	and	22	July	16	
February	12	and	26	August	13	
March	12	and	26	September	10	and 24
April	9	and	23	October	8	and 22
May	14	and	28	November	19	
June	11	and	25	***December	3	and 17

*Tuesday, January 5, 2027

*Reorganization and Regular Meeting

*** first and third Thursday in December

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #08-2026**

Designate Newspapers that will Received Notices Required by the NJ Open Public Meetings Act for 2026

WHEREAS, Section 3D (2) of the Open Public Meetings Act, approved October 21, 1975 as Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, requires every public body to designate two (2) newspapers to receive notices required to be mailed, telephoned, telegraphed or hand delivered;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage that it hereby designates the newspapers listed below as newspapers to receive notices required by the Open Public Meetings Act:

New Jersey Herald

New Jersey Sunday Herald

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #09-2026**

Designate Legal Newspaper for Calendar Year 2026

WHEREAS, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage that the newspapers listed below be designated as the official newspapers for the Township of Wantage for legal advertising during the 2026 calendar year.

New Jersey Herald

New Jersey Sunday Herald

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #10-2026**

**AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY AND THE TOWNSHIP TAX ASSESSOR TO DEFEND THE
TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE AGAINST ALL APPEALS FILED DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, that the Township Attorney Glenn Kienz, and the Township Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner, be and they are hereby officially authorized to represent the Township of Wantage for Tax Appeals filed for 2026, for the purpose of correcting the Township of Wantage Tax List including but not limited to rollback complaints, added and omitted assessment complaints, and such other appeals as are necessary to correct the assessment for the Township of Wantage,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Attorney and the Township Tax Assessor be and they are hereby designated as the agents of the Township of Wantage for the purpose of entering into and signing settlements of the foregoing matters by stipulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Attorney and the Township Tax Assessor shall be compensated for their services in the defense and representation of the Township, with respect to Tax Appeals filed for 2026, in accordance with the existing employment contract on file for the Township Attorney and Township Tax Assessor, respectively, in effect for calendar year 2026.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #11-2026**

Legal Township Holidays for 2026

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Want-age, that the following dates shall be recognized as official Township Holidays for the calendar year 2026, during which municipal offices shall be closed to the public in recognition of the said Holidays:

Thursday, January 1, 2026
Monday, January 19, 2026
Monday, February 16, 2026

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
President's Day

Friday, April 3, 2026
Monday, May 25, 2026
Friday, July 3, 2026
Monday, September 7, 2026
Monday, October 12, 2026
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Thursday, November 26, 2026
Friday, November 27, 2026
Thursday, December 24, 2026
Friday, December 25, 2026
Friday, January 1, 2027

Good Friday
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Day

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #12-2026**

APPROVE THE INSURANCE BONDS AND BLANKET BONDS FOR VARIOUS MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, approve the insurance bonds for various municipal officials and the blanket bond covering all bondable officials for the calendar year 2026.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #13-2026**

AUTHORIZE THE ADMINISTRATOR, MUNICIPAL CLERK, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT TO HAVE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING AUTHORITY

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, authorize the Administrator, Municipal Clerk, Chief Financial Officer and 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.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #14-2026**

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR SPECIFIC PAYROLL RELATED SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Township requires provision of specific payroll-related services for the officers and employees of the Township of Wantage,

WHEREAS, R&L Services 44 Main Street PO Box 548, Township of Bloomsbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey has been awarded the Specific Payroll Related Services for the Township of Wantage.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex that it hereby awards the contract for Wantage Township Payroll Services to R&L Services.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey at a meeting held on January 6, 2026

Melissa Morales, RMC
Township Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #15-2026**

Resolution Regarding Publication of Legal Notices After March 1, 2026

WHEREAS, pursuant to recent amendments to New Jersey law, public entities may continue to publish required legal notices in qualifying newspapers until **March 1, 2026**; and

WHEREAS, effective **March 1, 2026**, public entities will no longer be required to publish such notices in newspapers, and may instead post them on their official websites or on the centralized statewide public notice website to be established by the New Jersey Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, the governing body seeks to ensure compliance with the new statutory requirements and maintain transparency for the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that beginning **March 1, 2026**, all required legal notices of the Township of Wantage shall be posted in accordance with the new law, including:

1. Publication on the Township of Wantage official website in a clearly designated “Public Notices” section; and
2. Submission to the centralized statewide public notice website, once operational; and
3. Optional supplemental publication in local newspapers for additional public outreach.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk is authorized to take all necessary steps to implement this policy and ensure timely posting of all required notices.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION # 16-2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR COMPLIANCE WITH 2026 PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DESIGNATING THE TOWNSHIP’S OFFICIAL WEBPAGE FOR LEGAL NOTICES.

WHEREAS, beginning January 1, 2026 and continuing through December 31, 2026, local governments within the State are required to publish public notices no less than twice per month; and

WHEREAS, each public notice must include (i) a hyperlink to the local government’s official webpage for legal/public notices, and (ii) a statement that the complete text of each legal notice of the local government may be obtained or viewed on the local government’s official website, together with the direct hyperlink to that webpage; and

WHEREAS, each public notice must also include a hyperlink to the Secretary of State’s public notice webpage, which the Secretary of State is required to establish no later than March 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the new law further provides that, until the Secretary of State’s public notice webpage becomes available, a local government shall be deemed compliant so long as each published notice includes the link to the local government’s official legal/public notice webpage;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. Designation of Official Legal/Public Notice Webpage.

The Township hereby designates the following webpage as its official location for posting all Township legal/public notices (the “Official Notices Page”):

<https://www.wantagetwp.com/PublicNotices/>

2. Required Twice-Monthly Publication.

The Township Clerk is directed to arrange for the publication of a public notice **no fewer than two times per month** from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, and to maintain documentation including publication dates, publisher information, and proofs of publication.

3. Mandatory Notice Language.

Each published public notice shall include the following text or substantially similar language, with active hyperlinks:

Beginning in 2026, the complete text of all legal notices for the Township of Wantage may be viewed on the town’s website <https://www.wantagetwp.com/PublicNotices/> and on the NJ Secretary of State’s legal notices webpage <https://nj.gov/state/statewide-legal-notices-list.shtml>.

4. Interim Compliance.

Until the Secretary of State’s public notice webpage is established, the Township shall be deemed compliant so long as each published notice includes the Official Notices Page link.

5. Maintenance of Website and Records.

The Township Administrator, IT staff, and Township Clerk shall ensure that the Official Notices Page remains publicly accessible, current, and functional, and that all legal notices posted to the page are maintained in accordance with applicable records retention laws.

6. Administrative Adjustments.

The Township Clerk is authorized to make non-substantive formatting revisions, hyperlink display adjustments, and related modifications as needed to ensure clarity, accuracy, and compliance with publication outlet requirements.

7. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk is authorized to take all necessary steps to implement this policy and ensure timely posting of all required notices.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on January 6, 2026.

Melissa Morales, RMC
Wantage Township Clerk

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Mayor VanderGroef read into record his gratitude towards the dignitaries, DPW, staff and Administrator as well as his anticipated accomplishments for 2026.

Mayor VanderGroef congratulated Mr. Bassani for his re-election.

Mayor VanderGroef discussed the roads and field project for 2026.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committeeman Mr. Bassani piggyback off of Mr. VanderGroef.

Deputy Mayor Dudzinski piggyback off of Mr. VanderGroef.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor VanderGroef asked for a motion to adjourn from the Reorganization Meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

All in Favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Morales
Township Clerk