

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF WANTAGE, ON  
MARCH 12, 2026**

Mayor VanderGroef 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: Committeeman Ron Bassani, Deputy Mayor Justin Dudzinski, Mayor Justin VanderGroef. Also present: Melissa Morales, Township Clerk and Michael Restel, Administrator.

Absent: Attorney Louis Karp

Mayor VanderGroef 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 VanderGroef requested a motion to approve Resolution #61-2026 through #64-2026 with the removal of PO #21959 for C&E Tires in the amount of \$72.00

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve PO #21959 for C&E Tires in the amount of \$72.00 and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve Resolution #65-2026 Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef read into record the Child Abuse Proclamation

2026 BUDGET

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to Introduce of the 2026 Wantage Township Municipal Budget.

Mr. Bassani made a motion to Introduce of the 2026 Wantage Township Municipal Budget and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Budget adoption is scheduled for April 9, 2026.

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to add Resolution #66-2026, a resolution authorizing the public display of fireworks at Wantage Township Woodbourne Park on July 18, 2026.

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve Resolution #66-2026 and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Upon Roll Call:

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

## REPORTS

Administrator: Mr. Restel visited the Habitat of Humanity house on Wednesday; it's a work in progress. Mr. Restel stated he attended the JCP&L meeting on 3/11, one of the discussions was about the rate increases, which is due to the infrastructure. Mr. Restel attended the Gottheimer meeting on Monday 3/12. Mr. Restel stated regarding the 2026 Budget, we are under state review which occurs every 3 years. Mr. Restel held a brief discussion regarding the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Sussex Borough parade.

Mayor's Report: Mayor VanderGroef stated the Budget meeting was on 3/5 and thanked Mrs. Kannaley and Mr. Restel, for all their work on it.

Committeeman Bassani: Mr. Bassani offered no report.

Deputy Mayor Dudzinski: Mr. Dudzinski asked Mr. Restel if he can get Vernon's short-term rental ordinance to review and move forward with short-term rentals in Wantage. Mr. Dudzinski asked what the overpayment of taxes resolution on the consent agenda are.

## APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Meeting on February 26, 2026

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Budget Meeting on March 5, 2026.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

ORDINANCE;

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #05-2026 an Ordinance of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey repealing and replacing Chapter 27 Affordable Housing of the revised general ordinances of the Township to repealing section 13-5.10 growth share ordinance to comply with the New Jersey Fair Housing Act and affordable housing obligations and repealing Chapter 27 affordable housing and adopting new Chapter 27 affordable housing.

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

Mayor VanderGroef opened the meeting to the public. There was no public comment.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #06-2026 an ordinance amending the revised general ordinances of the Township of Wantage, Chapter 13, Zoning, adding §13-24.24 Mandatory Set-Aside.

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

Mayor VanderGroef opened the meeting to the public. There was no public comment.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #07-2026 an Ordinance amending the revised general ordinances of the Township of Wantage, Chapter 13, Zoning, §13-4B, §13-4C and §13-4D.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mr. Dudzinski, as revised.

Mayor VanderGroef opened the meeting to the public. There was no public comment.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to adopt Ordinance #08-2026 an Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$25,000.00 for improvements to the Township Building.

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

Mayor VanderGroef opened the meeting to the public. There was no public comment.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef made a motion to introduce Ordinance #09-2026 an Ordinance amending the revised general ordinances of the Township of Wantage, Chapter 13, Zoning, §13-4D.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Connor Yaworsky, Haggerty Rd., just wanted to say "hi".

Dave Silverthorn, Frankford Township, wanted to introduce himself as the newly elected County Commissioner for the Board of County Commissioners.

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Rd., held a discussion regarding APRA (abandoned properties rehabilitation act) and asked for Wantage to consider an Ordinance.

Anthony Intili, Pigeon Hill Rd., Mr. Intili stated he is the Sussex Wantage little league field manager and a general contractor. Mr. Intili stated he is willing to donate his time along with a well contractor to install a well at Papakating Park. Mr. Intili is requesting some support from the Township with power and fuel. Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Bassani made a Motion and was seconded by Mr. Dudzinski  
All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Melissa Morales  
Township Clerk