MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, ON
JULY 16, 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: Michael Restel, Administrator.

Absent: Melissa Morales, Township Clerk and Township Attorney Glenn Kienz.

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 Resolutions #109-2026 through #111-2026 with the removal of PO#22249 for Bassani Power Equipment in the amount of $53.96

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. Dudzinski made a motion to approve PO#22249 for Bassani Power Equipment in the amount of $53.96 and seconded by Mayor VanderGroef.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to approve Resolution #112-2026, recommendation of award of contract for Papakating Park parking lot paving and striping.

Mr. Bassani made a motion to approve Resolution #112-2026 and seconded by Mr. Dudzinski.

Mayor VanderGroef stated this is for the new parking lot at the new baseball field.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to approve Resolution #113-2026 recommendation of award of contract for proposed improvements on Holland Road.

Mayor VanderGroef stated that the funds for this project are from NJDOT Grants.

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

REPORTS

Administrator: Mr. Restel stated County Route 565 will be closed from August 10th until August 30th for drainage repair. Mr. Restel thanked all the workers who worked hard throughout the July 4th storm that hit Wantage Township hard. Mr. Restel stated this upcoming weekend is the Sussex Wantage 250th Parade and festivities at Woodbourne Park.

Attorney: No Attorney was present.

Mayor's Report: Mayor VanderGroef thanked all the first responders, utility workers and town hall employees for their dedication throughout the Jusy 4th storm. Mayor VanderGroef stated the school of conservation was saved for another year and the future remains uncertain. Mayor VanderGroef stated Wantage preliminary was approved for the Sussex County Trails grant in the amount of $25,000 and now needs Commissioner approval. Mayor VanderGroef stated Saturday July 25th is the Sussex County Miners game that will benefit the Wantage Animal Shelter. Mayor VanderGroef spoke about attending the Radio Club Meeting. Mayor VanderGroef gave an update on the new Baseball Field at Papakating Park.

Deputy Mayor Dudzinski: Mr. Dudzinski spoke about being part of the debriefs from storms that hit hard moving forward.

Committeeman Bassani: Mr. Bassani stated how proud he was to see the response to the July 4th storm that hit. Mr. Bassani stated having the open line of communication was key for it being a successful response. Mr. Bassani stated and thanked everyone for their hard work towards the 250th celebration. Mr. Bassani stated the Habitat for Humanity house is progressing well and Wantage should look at other areas for Habitat.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor VanderGroef requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Meeting on June 25, 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 introduce Ordinance #16-2026, an Ordinance Amending and Supplementing he revised general Ordinance of the Township of Wantage Chapter XIII "Zoning" Section 13 "General Regulations" by Amending Section 13-9A Planned Commercial Developments Zone and to Add Prohibitions to Amend B and 1 and adding Section 13-24.25 and 13-24.26 to Add Flex Space Commercial Industrial and Warehousing/Manufacturing as Conditional Uses.

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

Mr. Bassani stated he would like to add to the section pertaining to Route 23 to read" Lots with frontage exclusively on Route 23 may include residential units in the development".

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor VanderGroef requested to motion to introduce Ordinance #17-2026 an Ordinance appropriating the sum of $250,000 for various Road Improvements.

Mayor VanderGroef stated the monies will be used to fund the completion of Layton Road Section III & IV and cover overages on Holland Road resurfacing.

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:

Lynn Panico, Coykendall Rd: Mrs. Panico stated the recent storms are more powerful than what we have seen in years past. Mrs. Panico spoke about the Ordinance that are on the agenda. Mrs. Panico stated that when Wantage designs a road they need to look at a better drainage solution.

Mr. Panico Coykendall Road: Mr. Panico spoke about the Warehouse Section of Ordinance #16-2026. Mr. Bassani stated that the bigger Warehouses are not coming to Wantage and in the Ordinance we set a maximum allowable size. Mr. Bassani stated that the landowner has the possibility to split it into thirds. Discussion ensued. Panico spoke about data centers and the harm in them.

John Clauson Unionville Fire Department: Mr. Clauson spoke about the letter received from Wantage Township. Mr. Clauson stated Unionville recently purchased a new fire truck that will be in service shortly. Mr. Clauson stated Unionville purchased new battery-operated tools for the engine. Mr. Clauson stated Unionville Fire will be part of the upcoming parade. Mr. Clauson stated Automatic Aid is different than Mutual Aid. Mr. Clauson stated that ISO ratings can change if the changes are made. Mr. Clauson stated he would like a meeting to further discuss. 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 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Michael Restel
Administrator