

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 888 STATE ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, NJ, HELD AT 3:30 P.M. ON February 20, 2018

Mayor Gaechter called the meeting to order, and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Committeeman Jonathan Morris, and Mayor William Gaechter. Committeeman Ronald Bassani was excused. Also present: Administrator/ Clerk Debra Millikin and Michelle LaStarza Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Gaechter 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."

Mayor Gaechter invited all those in attendance to join in the Salute of the Flag.

BUDGET 2017

Mayor Gaechter stated the first group to speak with the Township Committee is Harold Pellow, Township Engineer, Bob Wagner, DPW Supervisor, Mark Little, DPW Assistant Supervisor, and John Card, Mechanic. Mrs. Millikin started off indicating that the Township received notice today that the Township got NJDOT Trust Grant Funding in the amount of \$185,000 for Sherman Ridge Road. Mr. Pellow began discussing the proposed Road Projects for 2018. He rides the roads first and then discusses with the DPW and the Administrator on the proposed projects for this year. The roads are: Spreen Road from the end of the paved area to the Lafayette Border, Lewisburg Road from Spreen Rad north to the second top of the hill, Dales Crossing and two side streets, Mt. View Drive and Liberty Street, North Shore Road Lake Neepaulin, Wantage School Road from Route 23 to Rose Morrow Road, and Newman Road – DOT Grant funding along with additional funds from the Township. Mr. Morris questioned the status of Lower Unionville Road. Mr. Pellow stated there are three more sections to complete. There is also a drainage issue he is reviewing for the DPW on Lower Unionville Road. Discussion ensued on the various Road Projects. Mr. Pellow advised he is currently working on the baseball field at Woodbourne Park, as well as on a drainage issue on New York Avenue and North Shore Road. Mrs. Millikin also stated that this year the dam cost will only be \$3,000 for the Operation and Maintenance Manual. Mr. Pellow also stated fields 5 & 6 will be completed. Mr. Card asked what information Mr. Pellow needs for the irrigation. Mr. Pellow stated he just needs to get the flow. Discussion ensued on this matter.

Mr. Wagner discussed the proposed roads for oil and stone for 2018: Pond School Road, Medaugh Road, 3 sides of Quarry Road, Glen Road, Old Route 284, Judge Beach Road, Morre Road and Courtright. These roads are subject to change but would like to do at least 10 miles of roads with Oil and Stone. Mr. Morris questioned how many miles 10.3 minus Pond School. Mr. Wagner stated Pond School Road is in need or oil and stone. Mr. Wagner indicated 10 miles of oil and stone is about \$200,000. The additional money in capital goes towards pipes, and QP. Other capital request are the new truck, the garage doors on the metal shed, pick-up truck, and refurbishment on Truck 3. Mrs. Millikin indicated that the animal control truck is being pushed to 2019. She wants to make sure that it is designed correctly with the need for Animal Control. Mr. Wagner indicated the

upgrade of Truck 13 with hook lift system, enclosed chipper box and a container body. Discussion ensued on the hook lift system.

Mrs. Millikin stated with the O&E for roads: Streets and Road \$20,000, Road Equipment Repair and Maintenance of \$79,800 this increase is because of the pump testing for Fire Trucks, Safety Equipment \$6,000, Snow Removal \$170,000, and Gasoline/Diesel Fuel \$65,000. Mr. Card discussed the issue regarding Road Equipment Repair and Maintenance and provided a history of the fire truck maintenance. Mr. Card stated that quotes were received from 1st Priority in the amount \$26,000. Mrs. Millikin indicated she spoke with 1st Priority regarding the quotes and asked for a better estimate on these trucks as well as the Fire Chief. Discussion ensued on the Fire Truck Maintenance. Mayor Gaechter stated a sub-committee should be established with the Fire Truck Maintenance: Mrs. Millikin, Mr. Morris, Mr. Card, and the Fire Chiefs.

Mr. Wagner stated he would like to hire two more guys. One to take Dave Stewarts spot, and the other to be an apprentice for John Card.

Mrs. Millikin asked Judge Gavan and Donna Chernov to come up to discuss their budget with the Court. Mrs. Millikin stated she wanted to make sure Mrs. Chernov meet all the Committee and this is her first time doing a court budget. Mrs. Millikin indicated that the reason for the decrease from \$57,000 is due to AOC rules requiring separate line items for Prosecutor and Public Defender. The budget now for Municipal Court is now \$8,500. A new line has been created for Public Defender of \$12,000. A new line has been created for Municipal Court Prosecutor \$41,500. The Judge's salary falls under the Township Salary and Wage. Mrs. Chernov stated one of the cost increases is for interpreter. An interpreter runs about \$200. Judge Gavan indicated that Court has utilized language line which worked well. Mrs. Chernov also placed in education for her 45 contact hours. Any person who were to come to court that is certified would require the education component. Discussion ensued regarding the Court budget. Mrs. Chernov stated there is a need for a full-time person in the Court Office. Judge Gavan also indicated that Mrs. Chernov has utilized her past boss to help with the reconciliation of the accounts. Judge agreed there is a need for the second full-time person and need to address and fix back log of the court. Judge Gavan stated he was advised of a concern from Committeeman Bassani regarding eliminating the night session. The day court sessions have been working very well. The elimination of night court was established based on AOC guidelines. Discussion on the time payment process was discussed.

Mrs. Millikin introduced Stu Baker & Ed Henhoffer who are here to make a request on behalf of the Dog Park. Mrs. Millikin indicated currently the Township covers the insurance for the Dog Park. Mr. Baker stated things are working very well and on a good spring weekend could have 1,000 visitors. Mr. Baker stated there is an issue with the fence and would like the Township to help out with some items. Mr. Baker stated he would like the Township Committee to take on the maintenance of the snow plowing, mowing, and the port-a-john. Mr. Baker stated when the park first began the Township would not provide money towards these items. Mayor Gaechter stated he read on the website the history and it indicated that the dog park would have to raise funds on their own due to tax payer scrutiny. Mayor Gaechter stated tax payer scrutiny is still the same today. Discussion ensued. Mayor Gaechter questioned about the payment of a user fee for the

park. Mayor Gaechter stated a decision will not be made tonight, but once a decision is made Mrs. Millikin will contact Mr. Baker.

Mrs. Millikin moved on to the Fire Budget. Present from the Fire Department were Chief Justin Vander Groef, Assistant Chief Alex Rubin, and Assistant Chief Mark Snook. Mrs. Millikin moved to O&E for the Fire Department. Mrs. Millikin began regarding Fire Department line item that is known as the "Chief" budget is remaining at \$26,200. The Aid to Fire Company which is Beemerville and Colesville at \$90,000. The Aid to Volunteer Fire for adjoining municipalities is remaining the same as \$57,000. Mrs. Millikin advised that the OSHA & PEOSHA Gear Fire Department have been combined \$39,500. Mr. Morris questioned if this is going to be an issue for the Township if the two lines are combined. Chief Vander Groef stated it falls under PEOSHA. The Township is to provide protective clothing which includes: foot and leg protection, body protection including hands, face and eye, and respiratory protection. Discussed ensued on this matter and Ms. LaStarza believes at one time there was an OSHA grant requiring it to be split out. Chief Vander Groef indicated that every 5 years the hydro's have to be tested. Mayor Gaechter stated the Fire Department will have to plan for this.

Mrs. Millikin indicated the Committee has a copy of the memo prepared by the Fire Department. Mrs. Millikin moved on to the Capital budget. Budgeting again for hose replacement for \$5,000. Sussex Fire Department for \$5,000 for portable radios. The Fire Department applied for FEMA money and this amount has been set aside. Next the big item is the washer and dryer for the turnout gear \$8,100. The SCBAs have been pushed out to 2022. Mr. Morris questioned what SCBAs are being proposed to be upgraded. Chief Vander Groef stated that with the Colesville new SCBAs and the ones in Beemerville are an older generation so it causes double fit testing. Discussion ensued. The low air sensor is different. Discussion ensued on the SCBA. Chief Vander Groef indicated the reason for the washer and dryer is due to the cancer concern to keep gear clean. Currently a company is utilized for the gear. Typically, about \$70.00 a set for the gear. Issue with this is because the down time on the gear for cleaning. Recommendation after every fire the gear must be cleaned. Mr. Morris questioned the septic's ability to handle the washer at the Beemer Ville Firehouse. Chief Vander Groef stated it was upgraded this year with the bathroom upgrade. The water from the washer will go into the old septic.

Chief Vander Groef stated the last is the Tanker replacement for Beemerville. He indicated that working on capital replacement plan for the Fire Trucks. The trucks are not getting cheaper. The recommendation is to try to adjust the Fire Truck for 5-year replacement. The Tanker Beemerville purchased in 2001. The biggest issue is members can not drive the tanker due to the fact that it is as standard transmission. Chief Vander Groef indicated that the other detriment with this truck is there is no pumper. The final issue is there is no NFPA standards or requirements on the tank. Discussion ensued regarding the Pumper Tanker. Mayor Gaechter questioned would the Township get some money for the truck? Chief Vander Groef stated the truck would be worth some money. Mr. Morris stated could be utilized as trade in or sold at auction since this is municipal asset. Mr. Snook indicated he went through the Houston Galveston Coop to get pricing based on the various manufacturers. Mrs. Millikin indicated the Coop has specific bidders and a truck can be designed based off options bid. This was instituted by the state because the issue with Fire Truck Bidding. Chief Vander Groef stated that

625 would be up for replacement in 2020 and this is the work horse for Colesville. Colesville has put plans together to do an addition to the front of the Firehouse. Discussion ensued regarding the two truck replacements. Mrs. Millikin question do you have an idea of a cost for 625? Discussion ensued about the replacement schedule. The Fire Trucks need to be cleaned and maintained especially with the salt to help keep the trucks in good condition. The Committee thanked the Fire Department.

Mrs. Millikin questioned if the Committee would like one more meeting for next week. It was decided to do a meeting on March 1st at 4:00 p.m. Ms. LaStarza stated the budget must be introduced in March and adopted in April.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

None

Mayor Gaechter asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Morris. Second by Mayor Gaechter.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra Millikin, Municipal Clerk