

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY 23, WANTAGE, N.J.  
ON THE DATE OF JANUARY 20, 2011**

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Mayor DeBoer called the regular meeting of the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor DeBoer, Committeeman Bassani, and Committeeman Gaechter. The following member was absent: None.

Also present: CFO Michelle La Starza

Mayor DeBoer stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231. It has been properly noticed and posted to the public, and certified by the Clerk."

**BUDGET**

Fire Chief John Cannici was joined by Fire Department Line Officers Jon Morris and Larry Bono to review the proposed Fire Department budget line items for 2011.

Discussion included Fire Vehicle Repair of Engine 643 (Company 1 Beemerville), a proposed project for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Upgrade/Replacement for which a \$380,163 grant application has been submitted to FEMA requiring a \$20,000 co-pay requirement from the Township if the grant is awarded; a Hose Replacement Project proposed to \$14,000 a year over a 5 year span; Contributions for 2011 which are proposed to maintain the same contributions that were provided in the 2010 budget; OSHA Standard Fire Fighter Turnout Gear for 2011 which are proposed to maintain the same contributions that were provided in the 2010 budget; Hepatitis B Shots, proposed to increase from \$2,000 to \$3,000 in 2011; PEOSHA Respiratory Program Costs for 2011 which are proposed to maintain the same contributions that were provided in the 2010 budget; and the Fire Department Operating Expense budget line item which is proposed to increase from \$25,685 in 2010 to \$26,200 in 2011, representing a 2% increase.

General discussion turned to the 10 year vehicle replacement program of Wantage Township which reflects that the 1995 International Pumper (Beemerville Fire Dept) is scheduled for replacement in 2012 at an anticipated cost of \$600,000. After review and consideration, the members of the governing body expressed consensus support for this proposed purchase to proceed based on the needs justification presented by the Chief and line officers present.

General discussion turned to the status of inter-departmental cooperation between Wantage Fire Department and Sussex Fire Department. After general review and discussion, Chief Cannici and the line officers present expressed their belief that while particular individuals may hold their own, personal views on this matter, over all the officers of both departments agree that a smooth working relationship exists between the departments.

There being no further items for discussion with the fire department representatives, Chief Cannici and his line officers left the meeting with the thanks of the governing body for their input.

General discussion turned to the First Aid Squad budget. Mayor DeBoer explained that no members of the Squad were present for today's meeting, but the Squad is requesting the same contribution in 2011 that they received in 2010. Mayor DeBoer also indicated the willingness of the Squad to hold off on the replacement of an ambulance for a one year period, so that no ambulance purchase would be pursued in 2011.

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General discussion turned to the topic of options for handling the Mowing of Public Parks in 2011. After brief review of options, the governing body requested this matter be placed on the agenda of the January 27 meeting for action.

General review took place of the Debt Analysis presented by Mr. Doherty in the agenda packet. No discussion took place regarding this topic.

Mr. Doherty inquired if the governing body were inclined to retain Bond Ordinance 2008-04, which appropriated funds for any potential Open Space preservation project, or rescind said ordinance and reduce the Township's Net Debt figures. Mr. Doherty recommended rescinding the ordinance. The governing body expressed consensus with this recommendation.

Mayor DeBoer expressed a desire to discuss and review the staffing need in the Land Use Board office, and requested Mr. Doherty to send a Rice Notice to the Land Use Board Secretary, informing her that the governing body would be discussing the terms and conditions of her employment at the January 27 meeting.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered an observation regarding the possibility that the price of fire hose replacement may increase over a five year period.

Mr. Gettler and Mayor DeBoer entered into a discussion regarding the need of the 2003 purchase of a Ladder Truck with the Borough of Sussex.

Mr. Doherty reminded the governing body of Township Attorney Mike Garofalo's legal advice that while the Open Public Meetings Act provides for the opportunity of public comment, there is no requirement for members of the governing body to engage members of the public in a discussion regarding their comments.

Mayor DeBoer and Mr. Gettler continued their discussion on the topic of the Ladder Truck.

Mr. Gettler offered his views on the Sussex Tech Tuition Bill issue, and an analysis of his projected school tax impacts for the coming year.

Mr. Gaechter asked Mr. Gettler if he supported the proposed purchase of a new Fire Truck in 2012.

Mr. Gettler responded in the affirmative, stating if the Fire Department's needs analysis is accurate, the replacement is warranted.

As there was no one else from the public who wished to address the Committee, Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public.

As there was no further business to discuss, Mr. Bassani moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

**Ayes:** Bassani, Gaechter, DeBoer    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting to be adjourned.

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James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk