

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL
BUILDING, 888 STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 23, WANTAGE, N.J.,
ON MARCH 10, 2011**

Mayor DeBoer called the meeting 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 Gaechter, Committeeman Bassani. Also present: Township Attorney Michael Garofalo, Chief Finance Officer Michelle La Starza. The following members were absent: None.

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."

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor DeBoer invited all persons present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor DeBoer requested that the members of the Committee review the Consent Agenda. There being no Committee member present wishing to comment on the proposed Consent Agenda, Mayor DeBoer requested approval of the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve the following for filing:

Construction Department Report for February 2011
Board of Health Report for February 2011
Clerk's Report for February 2011
Tax Collector Report for February 2011
Registrar Report for February 2011

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to approve Payment of Bills for the meeting of March 10, 2011

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to designate the month of March as "Women's History Month", as follows:

WHEREAS, New Jersey women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways;

WHEREAS, New Jersey women have played and continue to play a critical economic, cultural, and social role in every sphere of the life of the State by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home;

WHEREAS, New Jersey women have played a unique role throughout the history of the State by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the State;

WHEREAS, New Jersey women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our State;

WHEREAS, New Jersey women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;

WHEREAS, New Jersey women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all;

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, it is both proper and fitting for us to remember and celebrate New Jersey women and to:

- Ensure that New Jersey women are offered equal opportunities in education, the workforce and healthcare regardless of age, sexual orientation, income, ethnicity, race or religion.
- Identify, implement, measure and coordinate programs that address the needs of New Jersey women.
- Engage in continuous study and research on issues affecting New Jersey women and their families, develop policy papers and legislative recommendations

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, State of New Jersey, that March 2011 is designated as "Women's History Month" under the National Women History Project's 2011 theme: Our History is Our Strength.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize the execution of an agreement between the State of New Jersey, the County of Sussex, and the Township of Wantage, clarifying local, county and state jurisdiction for public road maintenance in the vicinity of Lower Unionville Road. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize cancellation of taxes on Block 24 Lot 10.02 Q0074 for the 3rd and 4th Quarter of 2010, reflecting statutory correction to tax exempt status for property purchased by the State of New Jersey. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize escrow refund of \$152.00 to Richard & Ivette Kruk, for Land Use Board application L-4-2010, on Block 113, Lot 7. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize refund of \$30.00 to Suzanne Tellefsen for a certified copy of marriage license issued by the State of New Jersey rather than Wantage Township (local fee paid in error). Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize use of additional sick leave benefit as provided under collective bargaining agreement for employee Kim Moore, as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter VI of the Personnel Policies and Employee Handbook of Wantage Township provides "In the event that a full-time permanent employee must undergo hospitalization for major illness, and/or recuperation from a major illness, which requires the Employee to miss more than ten (10) consecutive working days, and if the said Employee has exhausted his existing sick leave bank, the said Employee shall be entitled to receive additional sick leave in the amount of three (3) days per year of service. A doctor's certification shall be required to establish eligibility for the additional sick leave described herein. Said additional sick leave is not cumulative, and may under no circumstances become accrued sick days for the employee"; and

WHEREAS, said employee benefit is ratified in the collective bargaining agreement between Wantage Township and United Public Service Employees Union, and

WHEREAS, Kim Moore has requested Additional Sick Leave Benefit as provided above, and has provided the required doctor's certification;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, does hereby authorize additional sick leave benefit for Kim Moore totaling 41 days during the months of January, February and March, 2011.

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Administrator's Report

Mr. Doherty presented recommendations of Judge Craig Dana for staffing the municipal court offices.

After review and consideration, the members of the governing body agreed to take action on two motions, and to table action regarding a permanent appointment to a part time clerk typist position with the understanding that members of the governing body would contact the Judge directly to further review explanations in support of his recommendation.

Mr. Bassani moved to extend the employment of Rachel Nestel in the municipal court from March 15 through April 15 as a temporary part time clerk typist, and to name Maria Spiegler and Sherry Hansen as back up Acting Court Administrators in the event of the unavailability of Court Administrator Tania Ell, at a rate of compensation of \$50 per callout. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Attorney's Report

Mr. Garofalo initiated a discussion regarding Solar Farm applications, their designation of "Favored Tax Status", and potential implications for Wantage Township. Mr. Garofalo suggested it would be prudent for Mayor DeBoer and/or Mr. Gaechter to offer regular update reports of applications and activities at the Land Use Board meeting so that the governing body and their professionals may have the benefit of advance notification when matters such as this are being discussed and considered at the Land Use Board level.

General discussion continued regarding the implications and details of Solar Farm applications.

Township Committee Member Reports

Energy Efficiency Grant Eligibility

Mr. Gaechter reviewed the details of presentations made by Sussex Wantage School Administration representatives and High Point Regional High School Business Administrator Linda Alvarez, regarding projects that could be pursued if Wantage Township were to donate its Energy Efficiency Grant eligibility to one of the School Districts. Mr. Gaechter stated that both schools have valid projects for consideration and if this grant program continues next year with available funding, he would support donating the Township's eligibility to the High School, but as for the 2011 Grant Eligibility of \$50,000, Mr. Gaechter moved to donate this grant eligibility to the Sussex Wantage School District. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion.

General discussion took place regarding the recommendation made. After review and consideration, the governing body agreed they were ready to call the roll. Upon roll call, Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF 2011 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mr. Doherty offered a brief review of the proposed 2011 Municipal budget. General discussion took place regarding the time frame allowable for introduction and adoption of a municipal budget, with members of the governing body expressing a desire to continue their scrutiny of the municipal budget between now and the public hearing date. Mr. Bassani suggested that several budget line items might be appropriate for adjustment based on historical spending trends and year-to-date spending report, but wished to review details prior to offering any specific recommendations. Mr. Bassani was directed to set up an appointment with CFO Michelle La Starza to address those questions and clarifications.

Mr. Gaechter moved to introduce the 2011 Wantage Township Municipal Budget, with a public hearing date scheduled for May 12, 2011, as follows:

Be it Resolved, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2011; Be it Further Resolved, that said Budget be published in the new Jersey Herald Newspaper in the issue of April 25, 2011: The Governing Body of the of does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2011: A hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the municipal building on May 12, 2011 at 7:00 o'clock P.M. at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2011 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

General Appropriations:

1. Appropriations within "CAPS" - Municipal Purposes 3,706,080.00
2. Appropriations excluded from "CAPS (a) Municipal Purposes 1,518,377.00
- Total General Appropriations excluded from "CAPS" 1,518,377.00
3. Reserve for Uncollected) - Based on Estimated 95.5 Percent of Tax Collections 1,359,067.00
4. Total General Appropriations 6,583,524.00
5. Less Anticipated Revenues Other Than Current Property Tax 3,077,231.00
6. Difference: Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget
- (a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes 3,506,293.00

Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Wantage governing body held on February 24, 2011 and the Budget meeting held on March 7, 2011. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting to the public at this time, for any questions or comments involving the good and welfare of the community.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered comments regarding the County budget and tax rate, and the municipal budget. Mr. Gettler expressed a desire to see a reduction in local tax burden, suggesting that the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes should be reduced and pointing out that the governing body had increased their salaries for 2011. Mr. Gettler also referenced a letter he received from Mr. Doherty, and expressed a belief that tampering of public records had occurred.

Ann Smulewicz, 108 Route 23, asked questions regarding farmland assessment. General discussion took place regarding farmland assessment rules, regulations, goals, and impacts.

Mr. Gettler offered his views regarding farmland assessment.

Ms. Karen Merritt offered her views regarding farmland assessment and the process by which the State of New Jersey is distributing Homestead Rebates.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator Clerk