

**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 29, 2012**

Mayor Gaechter 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 Gaechter, Committeeman DeBoer, and Committeeman Bassani. The following members were absent: None. Also Present: Township Attorney Michael Garofalo.

Mayor Gaechter 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."

Mayor Gaechter led the assembly in the salute to the American Flag.

**DISCUSSION: High Point Regional High School Representatives.**

At this time, Superintendent John Hannum, Board of Education Members Ed Vander berg, Chuck Musilli, and Ken Nelson, Interim Business Administrator Caroline Joseph, and New Business Administrator Alice Bresett met with the members of the governing body to review the High Point Regional High School's budget, and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.

Mr. DeBoer and Dr. Hannum discussed the impact of the Vocational/Technical School costs on the High School, and the impact of enrollment trends and staffing changes on costs. Mayor Gaechter and Dr. Hannum discussed state aid formulas. Mr. Bassani and Dr. Hannum discussed salary increases for Teachers.

**Consent Agenda: None.**

Mayor Gaechter requested that the members of the Committee review the Bill List.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve for Payment, the List of Bills for the Meeting of March 29, 2012 excluding Purchase Order 9241. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Payment of Purchase Order 9241 to Bassani Power & Equipment, in the amount of \$71.27. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**Sexual Harassment Training:** Mr. Doherty explained the need to provide training for employees and department heads regarding the Township's policy for handling sexual harassment concerns of employees. Mr. Doherty sought permission to close Wantage Town Hall for three hours on June 12 to provide the employees with this training. After review and consideration, the members of the governing body offered their consensus approval for this course of action.

**Municipal Endorsement of RER Application:** Upon recommendation of Mr. Doherty, Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, hereby offers endorsement of the "Application by RER Center for Administrative Approval to Convert an Exempt Class C and a Class B Processing Operation to a General Approval in Wantage, New Jersey", representing an application filed by RER Center of Wantage, New Jersey for Solid Waste Plan Amendment, under the requirements of the Solid Waste Management Planning Process in Sussex County, to expand the total volume of material that this facility processes, said application being dated December 21, 2011.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT, Continued**

**Adoption of Sussex County All Hazards Plan:**

Mr. Doherty explained that The Sussex County All-Hazards Plan was approved by FEMA on July 21, 2011 for a period of five years until July 21, 2016. A resolution by each participating community is mandatory by July 21, 2012. Those towns who fail to adopt a resolution of adoption by that date will be required to fully update their portion of the county plan. This will be an overwhelming task and can be avoided if the governing body adopts the plan by resolution prior to the July deadline. Additionally, only those municipalities that have adopted the plan will be eligible for FEMA funds.

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage is vulnerable to damages from hazard events which pose a threat to public health and safety and could result in property loss and economic hardship; and

WHEREAS, a multi-jurisdictional All- Hazards Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan has been developed through the work of the Sussex County Hazard Mitigation Working Group, and interested parties within the Township of Wantage; and

WHEREAS, The Sussex County All-Hazards Plan (the Plan) was approved by FEMA on July 21, 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends hazard mitigation actions that will protect people and property affected by hazards occurring within the Township of Wantage, that will reduce future public, private, community and personal costs of disaster response and recovery; and that will reinforce the Township of Wantage's leadership in emergency preparedness efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-390) (DMA 2000) and associated Federal regulations published under 44 CFR Part 201 require the Township of Wantage to formally adopt a hazard Mitigation Plan subject to the approval of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be eligible for federal funds for hazard mitigation projects and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of Wantage Township that:

The Township of Wantage hereby adopts the Sussex County, New Jersey All-Hazards Plan as this jurisdiction's official Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

The Township of Wantage officials identified in the Plan are hereby directed to implement the recommended actions assigned to them.

The Township of Wantage Office of Emergency Management will provide annual progress reports on the status of implementation of the Plan to the Township Council of the township of Wantage. This report shall be submitted to the Township Council of Wantage by December 31 of each year.

The Township of Wantage Office of Emergency Management will undertake periodic updates of the Plan in concert with the Sussex county Division of Emergency Management as indicated in the Plan but no less frequent than every five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Plan is hereby adopted this 29th day of March, 2012 at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Wantage.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

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**TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2011 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of The Mayor and Committee of Wantage Township to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage that Wantage Township hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates James R. Doherty to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**ATTORNEY REPORT:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. DeBoer offered an update report on his meetings with representatives of JCP&L to review concerns with service delivery and customer territory. Mr. DeBoer stated that while efforts are on-going, his most-recent meeting with Vernon Township Officials and JCP&L representatives convinces him that it would be appropriate for Mr. Doherty to send a letter to the NJ Board of Public Utilities, on behalf of the governing body, seeking the BPU's involvement in securing choice for customers in service territory for electric power between JCP&L and Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative. Mr. DeBoer asked if this was an agreeable course of action; Mayor Gaechter agreed.

Mayor Gaechter explained his position with respect to the back taxes owed by the Sussex Wantage Porpoises Parents Association on Block 93.02 Lot 23, also referred to as the Lake Neepaulin Swimming Pool. Mayor Gaechter suggested accepting a settlement offer as a means of obtaining tax revenue that would otherwise not be collected on this site, and provide the group with an opportunity to re-open the pool facility as a viable service for the Wantage general public. Mayor Gaechter indicated the proposed settlement would cover only back taxes up through the year 2011, and any taxes owed for the year 2012 would still be due and owing when those bills become payable, up until such time as the group may satisfy the requirements of the State of New Jersey for becoming tax exempt from payment of property taxes.

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Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following resolution, as per Mayor Gaechter's recommendation:

Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and Committee of Wantage Township agrees to accept the payment of \$15,679.80 as full and final payment of all tax obligations owed by Sussex Wantage Porpoises Parents Association on Block 93.02 Lot 23 within the Township of Wantage, located at 8 Pepperidge Road, up through the year 2011.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mayor Gaechter reported on a meeting he attended with Sussex Wantage School Superintendent Edward Izbicki and School Board Member Tom Card. Mayor Gaechter reported that the Sussex Wantage School budget is within the 2% cap increase allowed by law.

Mr. Bassani initiated discussion on the impact of the school budget on the tax burden, inquiring if there is any means by which to convince students attending the Vocational School to go instead to High Point High School.

High Point Board of Education member Edward Vander berg responded to this inquiry, explaining that there are both pros and cons to such a scenario which would impact the school budget and tax picture. Mr. Vander berg explained that such a proposal is made difficult because the Vo-Tech School is essentially autonomous from the High Point School Board.

Mayor Gaechter also pointed out the impact of Charter Schools on the High Point student population rolls.

Mr. Vander berg and the members of the governing body took an opportunity at this time to review the Colesville Fire Department budget figures, as Mr. Vander berg had those figures available for the governing body.

Mayor Gaechter inquired regarding whether there is any update regarding FEMA reimbursement from the storm events of last fall. Ms. Michelle La Starza, Wantage Chief Finance Officer, reported that FEMA is indicating a likelihood of seeing reimbursements begin within the next two months.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**INTRODUCTION OF 2012 WANTAGE MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the following resolution: Be it Resolved, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2012 ; Be it Further Resolved, that said Budget be published in the New Jersey Herald in the issue of April 12th , 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

<b>2012 Municipal Budget</b>			
of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, for the fiscal year 2012			
Revenues and Appropriations Summaries			
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		2012	2011
1. Surplus		\$ 648,500.00	\$ 360,000.00
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues		\$ 1,657,188.00	\$ 1,797,064.00
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes		\$ 850,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes		\$ 3,352,877.00	\$ 3,504,240.00
b) Addition to Local District School Tax			
Total Amount to be Raised for			
Support of Municipal Budget		\$ 3,352,877.00	\$ 3,504,240.00
Total General Revenues		\$ 6,508,565.00	\$ 6,661,304.00
Summary of Appropriations		2012 Budget	Final 2011 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages		\$ 1,427,448.00	\$ 1,456,408.00
Other Expenses		\$ 2,154,320.00	\$ 2,349,644.00
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations		\$ 329,800.00	\$ 292,067.00
3. Capital Improvements		\$ 468,350.00	\$ 415,000.00
4. Debt Service (Included for School)		\$ 906,605.00	\$ 789,210.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes		\$ 1,222,042.00	\$ 1,358,975.00
Total General Appropriations		\$ 6,508,565.00	\$ 6,661,304.00
Total number of Employees		24 F/T, 12 P/T	25 F/T, 13 P/T
2012 Dedicated Water/Sewer Utility Budget			
Summary of Revenues		Anticipated	
		2012	2011
1. Surplus		\$ -	
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues		\$ 117,725.00	\$ 120,033.00
3. Deficit (General Budget)		\$ -	\$ -
Total General Revenues		\$ 117,725.00	\$ 120,033.00
Summary of Appropriations		2012 Budget	Final 2011 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages			
Other Expenses		\$ 117,725.00	\$ 120,033.00
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations			
3. Capital Improvements			
4. Debt Service			
5. Surplus (General Budget)			
Total General Appropriations		\$ 117,725.00	\$ 120,033.00
Total number of Employees		None	None
Balance of Outstanding Debt			
	General	Water Utility	Utility - Other
Interest	\$ 337,511.65		
Principal	\$ 5,669,110.79		
Outstanding	\$ 6,006,622.44		
Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, on March 29, 2012.			
A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building on April 26, 2012, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolutions for the year 2012 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.			
Copies of the budget are available in the Office of the Administrator/Clerk, James Doherty, at the municipal building, 888 State Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey, (973) 875-7192 during the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.			

**NEW BUSINESS, Continued**

**Introduction of Capital Ordinance**

Mr. DeBoer moved to introduce Ordinance 2012-02, entitled “ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$65,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF DPW VEHICLE” with a Final hearing date set for April 26, 2012. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call, Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

**Introduction of Bond Ordinance**

Mr. Bassani moved to introduce Ordinance 2012-03, entitled “BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$550,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$522,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF” with a Final Hearing Date set for April 26, 2012.

Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the meeting held on March 8, 2012. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

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

Ms. Karen Merritt reminded all of the Recreation Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for March 31.

Mr. Jim Roche, Mr. Edward Scannavino, and various other residents of Brown Road engaged the members of the governing body in a discussion regarding the length of time involved in the County addressing the closure of Brown Road. Mayor Gaechter reviewed communications received from the Sussex County Office of Engineer, relaying the anticipated construction schedule for this repair to take place.

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, inquired regarding the schedule for repair of Old Clove Road.

Mr. Doherty stated that the award of contract for this project took place at the previous meeting and that he would send Ms. Gorman an update on the schedule via Email once it is related to him by the Township Engineer.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, expressed concern

The members of the governing body apologized for this, and agreed to further investigate expressed concerns with the public address system. The Mayor encouraged the public to make known immediately if such a problem is occurring in the future, as the governing body is not in a position of being able to hear what the public can or cannot hear while sitting on the dais.

Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, expressed concerns regarding announcement of potential closure of St. Clare Hospital services in Sussex; Mr. DeBoer offered input regarding information he has heard regarding this topic. Mr. Gettler also offered comments regarding the School Budget and tax impact, and the Compliance Plan. Mr. Gettler expressed unhappiness with the response to an OPRA request he made.

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION, Continued**

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, asked if the meeting between the Assessor and Ms. Patricia Wright of the NJ Division of Taxation was recorded. Mr. Doherty stated that it was not.

Mr. Rocco Russo, South Shore Drive, expressed concern with herbicides used in treatment of Lake Neepaulin's water.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items for the attention of the governing body, Mr. Deboer moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,  
Ayes: Bassani, DeBoer, Gaechter    Nays: None    Absent: None    Abstain: None

Mayor Gaechter declared this meeting adjourned.

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James R. Doherty, Municipal Clerk