

**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 JANUARY 3, 2013**

After a brief recess following the Organization Meeting, Mayor Bassani called the regular meeting to order, and requested the Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Bassani, Committeeman DeBoer, and Committeeman Gaechter. The following members were absent: None. Also Present: Township Attorney Michael Garofalo

Mayor Bassani 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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested that the governing body Review the Regular Consent Agenda.

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve the following Reports For Filing:

Municipal Clerk's Report for December 2012

Board of Health Report for December 2012

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the refund of money for certificates redeemed during the December 2012 tax sale:

\$ 3,627.67 to US Bank, Block 140 Lot 2 for Tax Sale Certificate

\$ 400.00 to US Bank, Block 140 Lot 2 for Tax Sale Premium

\$ 4,783.19 to US Bank, Block 163 Lot 20 for Tax Sale Certificate

\$12,600.00 to US Bank, Block 163 Lot 20 for Tax Sale Premium

\$10,468.98 to US Bank, Block 2 Lot 47 for Tax Sale Certificate

\$14,500.00 to US Bank, Block 2 Lot 47 for Tax Sale Premium

Redeemed by outside lien holder:

\$ 3,537.44 to US Bank, Block 12.01 Lot 13.05 for Tax Sale Certificate

\$ 7,800.00 to US Bank, Block 12.01 Lot 13.05 for Tax Sale Premium

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize removal of Block 146 Lot 2.10 and Block 147 Lot 6.10 from the list of In Rem Foreclosed Properties by virtue of current property owners redeeming taxes due on both property lots. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize annual renewal of Junkyard License to Beemerville Auto Wrecking for Block 125, Lot 6.02. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize annual renewal of Junkyard License to Charles and Annette Meissner for Block 117, Lot 33. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize renewal of Kennel License for Roger & Ellen Titus of 1167 Route 23, Block 139 Lot 19, subject to confirmation of acceptable Health Regulation Compliance Report from the Sussex County Health Department.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize renewal of Shared Services Agreement with the Town of Newton for animal control and pound services for the year 2013.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

CONSENT AGENDA, Continued

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize renewal of Shared Services Agreement with the Township of Montague for animal control and pound services for the year 2013.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to accept completion of the project entitled "Milling and Paving Alder Terrace and Lakeview Drive", as per recommendation of Township Engineer Harold Pellow dated 12/19/12. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize A Resolution Consenting To The Proposed Water Quality Management Plan Amendment Entitled: Sussex County Water Quality Management Plan, per the request and recommendation of the Sussex County Division of Planning.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Administrator's Report: None

Attorney's Report: None

Township Committee Member Reports: None

OLD BUSINESS: Developer's Agreement Between G&S Solar, LLC, Valley View Manor At Wantage, Inc., Bill Properties, LLC, and the Township of Wantage

After general consideration, this matter was left tables pending the answers to several questions posed by Mayor Bassani to Land Use Chairman Jim Smith and Land Use Attorney Glenn Kienz.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of Ordinance 2013-01

Mr. Gaechter moved to introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2013-01, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13, ET SEQ.," with a proposed Final Hearing date set for January 31, 2013. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. DeBoer moved to adopt the Regular and Executive session minutes of December 13, 2012.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

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

Mr. William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered observations and questions regarding the final adoption process and public notice process for Ordinance 2012-08. Mr. Doherty responded to the questions posed. Mr. Gettler offered comments regarding the County Tax Board, State Division of Taxation employee Patricia Wright, the Wantage Township Compliance Plan, the upcoming Wantage Township Reassessment, expressed a preference that a complete Revaluation be undertaken, expressed lack of trust in the capabilities of various municipal officials past and present, offered his views on a pending issue of potential property infringement involving a municipal owned lot on Lake Neepaulin, and expressed a desire not to see a Cat licensing ordinance be adopted in Wantage Township.

PAGE THREE OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 3, 2013

Mrs. Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, offered comments and observations regarding Parker Space and the possibility that he may be seeking the seat of State Assemblyman; offered comments regarding the Wantage Compliance Plan; expressed a preference for a town wide Revaluation, and a desire to have an outside firm with no past ties to the Township involved; offered comments regarding her dissatisfaction with a past interaction with the Wantage Pound that was not acceptable to her; expressed opposition to cat licensing or expansion of the Dog Pound to accommodate more cats; offered congratulations to Mr. Bassani on taking the seat of Mayor; offered comments of thanks to the governing body regarding their efforts in 2012.

Mr. Tom Jable, South Shore Drive, offered comments in rebuttal to statements made by Mr. Gettler regarding the Friends of Lake Neepaulin over the recent past. Mr. Jable addressed the issue of well impact by Lake Neepaulin; offered comments regarding the level of water remaining in the Lake during the lowering of the water level during rehabilitation of the dam; and offered comments regarding the issue of possible encroachment by FOLN on a Township-owned lot.

Diane Snure, Mt Salem Road, stated that she does not support expansion of the dog pound or licensing of cats; offered comments regarding the Compliance Plan; and expressed a preference for Reassessment.

Mayor Bassani at this time requested that the public refrain from any further comments or observations regarding the 2012 Compliance Plan. Mayor Bassani reminded the public that the governing body agrees with all of the comments that have been made and continue to be made, but the compliance plan is a matter of the past at this point, and nothing is gained from continuing to discuss the matter. Mayor Bassani encouraged the members of the public to focus on upcoming issues for 2013, such as the Reassessment program, rather than dwell on old issues which are not matters over which the governing body had, or has, any jurisdiction.

Mr. DeBoer reminded all those present that the issues of a Revaluation versus a Reassessment, or even a compliance plan, are matters which do not involve the governing body in the decision-making process. Mayor Bassani offered further explanation of the reasons why the State of New Jersey has made the office of Tax Assessor autonomous from local political interference, and in so doing, has removed that office from oversight by the governing body.

Mayor Bassani again recognized Mr. Gettler, who expressed comments regarding the compliance plan, and expressed comments regarding Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner, and former Assessor Tom DeKorte.

Mayor Bassani stated that he intended to provide an open forum for discussion of resident concerns in 2013, but informed Mr. Gettler that he should refrain from accusations, innuendoes, and claims of illegal acts having taken place unless Mr. Gettler can present facts to support such statements. Mayor Bassani requested that Mr. Gettler refrain from offering comments stating "We" when his comments reflect only his own views and opinions. General discussion among Mr. Gettler and members of the governing body continued.

Mayor Bassani again recognized Ms. Smulewicz, who offered comments regarding the Compliance Plan, and suggested that the Revaluation program comes down to a matter of trust which requires a clean sheet.

Ms. Teri Fabiano requested a copy of Ordinance 2013-01. Mr. Gettler also expressed a desire to obtain a copy of this ordinance.

There being no one else present wishing to address the governing body at this time, Mayor Bassani 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. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer **Nays:** None **Absent:** None **Abstain:** None
Mayor Bassani declared this meeting adjourned.

James R. Doherty, Administrator Clerk