

**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 MAY 23, 2013**

Mayor Ronald Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested the Deputy Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Deputy Mayor William DeBoer and Committeeman William Gaechter. The following members were absent: None.

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."

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve payment of Bills for the meeting of May 23, 2013

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the refund of

\$1,489.39 to Christe Development LLC, Block 12.01 Lot 3.08 for tax overpayment

\$1,492.60 to Christe Development LLC, Block 12.01 Lot 3.05 for tax overpayment

\$1,534.40 to US Bank, Block 19 Lot 7 for lien redemption, certificate 12-13

for tax certificates redeemed and overpayments due to farmland assessment granted.

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize the refund of

\$3,000.00 to MJH Construction, Block 12.01, Lot 2.07 for Escrow Deposit E-13-03

\$1,840.00 to Main Land Sussex, Block 7, Lots 12 & 13.02 for Land Use Application L-11-12

\$247.85 to Beemerville Cemetery, Block 160 Lot 12 for Land Use Application L-12-06

for completed escrow and land use applications.

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to confirm the award of contract to Denville Line Painting in the amount of

\$1,318.96, for line striping on the Holland Road Section II Improvement project, under the

Morris County Cooperative Pricing council contract, as per recommendation of Township

Engineer Harold Pellow. Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to authorize Chapter 159 Budget Amendment Resolution for the 2013

Wantage Municipal budget, accepting the Grant from the NJ Department of Transportation in the amount of \$130,000 for the Improvement Project for Pidgeon Hill Road.

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve Peddler Permit renewal of Khaled Mazkatl for the year 2013.

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve Peddler Permit application of Sam Stillings for the year 2013.

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

**CONSENT AGENDA, Continued**

Mr. DeBoer moved to approve 2013 Shared services Agreement with Ogdensburg for their use of the Wantage Township Vehicle Washing Station.

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

Mr. DeBoer moved to acknowledge and correct inadvertent use of incorrect surname during public session minutes of November 15, 2013, correcting paragraph to read: "Mayor Gaechter stated he believed it was correct to say that the Township Committee knows as much as Ms. Merritt knows on that issue, and the governing body has engaged in no discussions regarding alternative assessment options. Mr. Bassani stated his belief that Ms. Merritt's question involved drawing a distinction between possibility versus probability."

Mr. Gaechter Seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION:** Mayor Bassani offered the following Proclamation:

***Honoring the Graduating Class of 1938 from Sussex High School,  
on the 75th Anniversary of their graduation***

WHEREAS, Sussex High School provided educational opportunities for the residents of both Wantage Township and Sussex Borough beginning in 1909 which previously did not exist for Wantage residents, and the graduates of Sussex High School have gone on to become civic and community leaders of our communities, and

WHEREAS, the graduating class of 1938 from Sussex High School is celebrating their 75th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, by their efforts and accomplishments in the fields of farming and business, and by the legacy of family values and community volunteerism they embraced and passed on to the present generation in Wantage Township and Sussex Borough, the graduates of the class of 1938 have contributed to the spirit, success and happiness of our communities in ways that cannot be counted but must be acknowledged and honored;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronald Bassani, Mayor of the Township of Wantage, hereby join the entire Wantage community in recognizing and celebrating the 75TH Anniversary of the SUSSEX HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1938, offering our thanks and appreciation for all that you have done.

**Administrator's Report**

General review and discussion took place regarding the Administrator's Report, offered for consideration by Deputy Clerk Christine Von Oesen.

- 1) Dog Pound Expansion: the governing body reviewed a proposal from Mrs. Lynne Negele who has offered to help coordinate a fundraising effort for the purpose of raising funds for dog pound expansion. The members of the governing body expressed appreciation and support for this concept, and requested Ms. Negele coordinate her efforts through Animal Control Officer John Abate and Administrator Jim Doherty. The Committee asks that Jim Doherty keep them current on this project.
- 2) Request for Executive Session: Mr. Doherty had offered an opportunity to enter executive session to discuss matters of attorney client privilege with Mr. Garofalo. Upon review and consideration, the members of the governing body determined there was no desire to enter executive session this evening.
- 3) Mr. Doherty offered the opportunity to review and consider retirement benefits for a member of the public works department. The governing body chose to take no action on this matter at this time.

**Administrator's Report, Continued**

- 4) Reassessment Update: The Administrator's report indicated a Tentative Date for Public Information Forum for the Reassessment program is June 19 at 7 pm. Upon review and discussion, it was agreed that the members of the governing body would be able to attend this forum as members of the public for information purposes, but that it would not be conducted as an official Public Meeting of the governing body.
- 5) Soil Removal: noting that the Township Engineer would be inspecting 284 Aggregates Soil Removal Site in the coming week, the governing body tabled discussion on this topic at this time.

**Attorney's Report** None

**OLD BUSINESS** None

Mayor Bassani noted that the proposed discussion regarding the status of the Sussex Airport has been postponed to a future date, to be determined.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2013-07: BOND ORDINANCE**

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt on final hearing, Ordinance 2013-07, 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 \$855,800 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$813,010 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF." Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion.

Prior to final roll call, Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public for any questions or comments with respect to this proposed Ordinance. There being no one present wishing to speak on this topic, Mayor Bassani closed the meeting to the public and requested a roll call vote on the motion. Upon Roll call,

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Gaechter moved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on May 9, 2013. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,

**Ayes:** Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani    **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.

Karen Merritt, Alpine Road, reminded all present that Wantage Day was scheduled for June 1, and the American Legion would be holding a Wreath Placing Ceremony at Woodbourne Veterans Memorial Park on Memorial Day.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, offered comments regarding tax appeals in Wantage and in Sussex Borough.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, offered comments regarding the Sussex County Freeholders meeting, the economic situation in Sussex County, and offered Mayor Bassani good wishes for the Primary Election. Mrs. Smulewicz also expressed her belief that as a candidate for local elected office, Mr. Greg Williams should have attended meetings of the governing body.

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**OPEN SESSION, Continued**

Kathy Gorman, Fernwood Road, expressed the belief that Mr. Williams should be present at the meeting, and also rebutted comments that were made in a Letter to the Editor in the New Jersey Herald.

Bill Gennaro stated that he was at the meeting regarding the Sussex Airport. Mayor Bassani invited Mr. Gennaro to return to future meetings.

Ann Smulewicz offered commentary regarding Paul Steiger, owner of the Sussex Airport. Mrs. Smulewicz expressed the belief that Mr. Steiger had contributed to the community through hosting the Sussex Air Show and operating the airport.

General Discussion took place regarding the Sussex High School Class of 1938 and the Mayor's proclamation.

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. Gaechter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. DeBoer seconded the motion. Upon Roll call,  
**Ayes:** Gaechter, DeBoer, Bassani    **Nays:** None    **Absent:** None    **Abstain:** None

Mayor Bassani declared this meeting adjourned.

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Christine Von Oesen, Deputy Clerk