

**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
OCTOBER 9, 2014**

Mayor DeBoer called the regular meeting to order, and requested the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Bill DeBoer, Committeeman Ron Bassani, and Committeeman Bill Gaechter. 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 and certified by the Clerk."

FLAG SALUTE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor DeBoer requested that the governing body review the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Bassani moved to approve the following reports for filing:

- Construction Department Report for September 2014
- Zoning/Code Enforcement Report for September 2014
- Board of Health Report for September 2014
- Registrar of Vital Statistics Report for September 2014
- Municipal Clerk Report for September 2014
- Tax Collector Report for September 2014

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to approve Raffle License RL14-15, for Heritage & Agriculture Association, Inc., to hold an On Premise 50/50 Raffle on December 6 and 7, 2014, at Lusscroft Farms.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize a refund for tax lien redemptions with premium as follows:

- \$23,397.10 to US Bank, Block 147 Lot 6.09 for Tax Lien Redemption Cert. 13-42
- \$16,000.00 to US Bank, Block 147 Lot 6.09 for Tax Sale Premium Cert. 13-42
- \$34,499.88 to Lien Times, Block 165 Lot 24.07 for Tax Lien Redemption Cert. 11-55
- \$ 4,300.00 to Lien Times, Block 165 Lot 24.07 for Tax Sale Premium Cert. 11-55

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize a refund in the amount of \$200.00 to Ron & Lisa Velella, Block 140 Lot 5.01 for completed driveway application 2013-01. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Retirement of Craig Dana:

Mr. Doherty read the Letter of Retirement offered by Judge Craig Dana, effective 12/31/14.

Mr. Bassani moved to accept, with regrets, the Retirement notice of Craig Dana.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter. Upon Roll Call:

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

NJDOT Grant Application for FY2015:

Mr. Doherty reported that Township Engineer Harold Pellow recommends applying for a grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation to complete improvements to Pidgeon Hill Road, rather than as was previously authorized at the last meeting for a different road.

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Mr. Bassani moved to approve a Resolution: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Pidgeon Hill Road - Section IV project, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wantage Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2015-Pidgeon Hill Road - Section IV-00025 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Wantage Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Administrator/Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Wantage Township and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gaechter. Upon Roll Call:

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

Multi Town Court Negotiations: Mr. Doherty reported on the status of negotiations. After due consideration, the governing body agreed by consensus to terminate negotiations with Hampton Township by mutual agreement; and to offer Green Township, Andover Borough, and Fredon Township an opportunity to receive a final quotation for the cost of joining the Wantage court system if such were their desire.

Lake Windsor Roads Snow Plowing Issue: Mr. Doherty suggested the Township hold a Bid Opening for contractors interested in handling the snow plowing, salting and Sanding of the three Private Roads in the Lake Windsor development currently receiving these public services under the New Jersey Services Act; and to consider the merits of a special assessment program to improve the condition of these roads for the future.

The governing body, by consensus, authorized Mr. Doherty to proceed with the proposed bid, but to hold off from taking any action regarding a Local Improvement Project for these roads until the will of the majority of property owners on these roads could be ascertained.

Overcharge on County Taxes: Mr. Doherty reported on the communication received from the Sussex County Tax Administrator, in response to questions posed by a Wantage citizen at the previous meeting of the Mayor and Committee regarding an Overcharge on County tax. The County Tax Administrator informs that the actions taken by her office were the only options made available to her upon advice from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, and that actions have been taken to ensure the mistake would not be repeated.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: None

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor DeBoer read a letter of thanks from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mulford of Sherman Ridge Road, complementing the members of the governing body as well as the Animal Control Officer for jobs well done.

Mayor DeBoer initiated a discussion regarding dissatisfaction with the actions of the New Jersey Department of Transportation in regard to traffic configuration during construction of the Route 23 Realignment. Various concerns and points of disagreement were raised by all members of the governing body, including pedestrian access, timing of traffic signals, access for emergency vehicles, and routing of truck traffic. Mayor DeBoer requested Mr. Doherty to arrange a meeting with representatives of NJDOT so Wantage Township representatives may ask questions and obtain answers to these expressed concerns.

Mayor DeBoer reported his investigations into the feasibility of initiating a local ordinance regulation for towing fee regulation is ongoing, with the Mayor and Mr. Doherty scheduled to meet with the new Barracks commander for the Sussex Station of the New Jersey State Police next week.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sussex Technical School Tuition Issue: After general review and consideration of the request from the Wallkill Valley High School Superintendent for a resolution in opposition of the tuition being charged by Sussex Technical School on sending districts, the governing body directed Mr. Doherty to inform the Superintendent of the Wallkill Valley Regional School System that the Township's Position of Opposition on this issue remains unchanged from the position taken in January of 2011, and as such, no further action is deemed necessary by the Wantage governing body.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of Ordinance 2014-17: Bingo/Raffle Approval

Mr. Gaechter moved to Introduce on first reading, Ordinance 2014-17, entitled “ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER III, POLICE REGULATIONS, OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO APPROVE BINGO AND RAFFLE LICENSES.” Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Final Hearing on this Ordinance is scheduled for October 23, 2014. Upon Roll Call:

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

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bassani moved to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of the Wantage Township governing body held on September 25, 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Ann Smulewicz, Route 23, expressed her views on issues including solar energy, Sussex County Community College, and the Sussex Technical School. Mrs. Smulewicz stated that she informed the Freeholders that Committeeman Bassani had questions, and informed that the Freeholders suggested Mr. Bassani contact the Freeholders directly to obtain input.

Mr. Bassani thanked Mrs. Smulewicz for her information, but stated that Mrs. Smulewicz had not properly understood Mr. Bassani’s suggestion from the previous meeting. Mr. Bassani stated that he had no questions for the Freeholders, nor had he requested Mrs. Smulewicz to ask any questions on his behalf. Rather, at the last meeting, when Mrs. Smulewicz was directing questions to the Wantage governing body that should rightfully, instead, have been directed to the Freeholders, Mr. Bassani encouraged Mrs. Smulewicz to consider addressing the Freeholders with her input, as the party who would be in a position to address her concerns and questions.

Mrs. Smulewicz expressed concerns with foreclosures and the Board of Estimates.

William Gettler, Gemmer Road, gave input on the Route 23 traffic conditions; offered further input on his views regarding an overcharge on the county portion of tax bills. Mr. Bassani asked if Mr. Gettler had approached the County with respect to this issue. Mr. Gettler responded that he had, but that the County could take no action and that the county was expecting an expression of concern from the public, which has not occurred. Mr. Gettler stated his belief that this is due to a lack of media attention on the issue.

Mr. Gettler expressed concern that the Township may be seeking title to property across from Woodbourne Park, which he says has a dam located on it.

No one else expressed a desire to speak. Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor DeBoer declared this meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

James R. Doherty, Municipal Clerk