

**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
DECEMBER 4, 2014**

Mayor DeBoer called the regular meeting to order, and requested that the Deputy 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:

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

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of \$15,448.53 to US Bank, Block 23 Lot 9.02 for redemption of tax sale certificate 12-14. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of tax overpayments as follows:

- \$250.00 to Harold and Diane Butler for Block 44 Lot 34 for veterans deduction allowed.
- \$1,563.17 to Valley National Bank for Block 76 Lot 4 for fourth quarter overpayment.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the refund of \$142.53 to Margaret Morozov, Block 133 Lot 1.21&4 for escrow deposit L-13-03, to be issued to Williams Caliri Miller & Otley Trustees (clarifying a prior refund authorization due to a name change). Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the employment of Mitchell Hardick as an Emergency Backup Snow Plow Operator for the Public Works Department at a rate of \$18 an hour.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Renewal of the Shared Services Contract for Animal Control and Pound Services with Montague Township for the year 2015. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the Renewal of Shared Services Contract for Animal Control and Pound Services with Ogdensburg Borough for the year 2015. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize Renewal of the Shared Services Contract for Animal Control Services with Sandyston Township for the year 2015. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion.

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

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Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the Renewal of the Shared Services Contract for Animal Control and Pound Services with Hardyston Township for the year 2015. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion.
Ayes : Gaechter , Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize payment of Purchase Order PO #11948 in the amount of \$143.84, and PO #11028 in the amount of \$1,319.00, both payable to Bassani Power Equipment.
Mayor DeBoer seconded the motion.
Mr. Bassani recused himself from consideration of this matter and took no part in the motion.
Ayes: Gaechter, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Mr. Gaechter moved to authorize Judge Dana's new retirement date of 1/31/2015.
Mr. Bassani seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the 2015 contract for treatment services at Lake Neepaulin with Aquatic Analysts in the amount not to exceed \$6,500. Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,
Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani, DeBoer Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

Mr. Eric Schlueter of Bridle Way was invited to attend tonight's meeting regarding concerns with the condition of Bridle Way and Martingale Drive for discussion with the Committee and Harold Pellow. Mr. Schlueter was not present. Mr. Pellow addressed the issue.

Vernon Township has made an offer for the renewal of the 911 Dispatch Contract. The Committee decided to discuss this issue during Executive Session.

Upon discussion, the Committee decided that no action will be taken on a drainage ditch issue as it is a neighbor to neighbor dispute.

Regarding a Professional Services Contract: As of the deadline of this report, a final copy of a proposed contract with Ken Nelson for Planning Services associated with designation of properties in need of redevelopment was not been received. It is anticipated that action shall take place at the January 8, 2015 Committee meeting.

Attorney's Report - None

Committee Member Report - Committeeman Bill Gaechter offers that Wantage Residents can save 50% at Mountain Creek.

Engineer's Report

1. Harold Pellow offers that numerous roads have been repaved this year, including Kearny Drive, Maida Drive, Old Clove Road, Rutgers Road, Bergen Avenue, Passaic Avenue, and Volcanic Hill Road. Mr. Bassani feels that Volcanic Hill Road is too narrow, but all agreed that the completed project looks good, as does the project completed at Colesville Fire Department.

2. Mr. Pellow elaborated on the updated 5 year plan, incorporating Lake Neepaulin, Sections 2 and 3 of Pidgeon Hill Road, the reclamation of Lower Unionville Road. He added that asphalt prices have increased from \$23 to \$80 per ton. Mr. Pellow is seeking to increase the time frame between road repairs. All roads cannot be done, if is cost prohibitive.

3. Rolling Hills Estates will be done by June 1. Upkeep of detention areas and basins needs greater attention. Mr. Pellow states that Rolling Hills has been very cooperative.

4. Mr. Pellow offers that a Digital Tax Map will probably be completed in late spring and submitted for State approval. Attorney Glen Kienz questioned if Mr. Pellow is an "Official Township Surveyor," and OTS eligible.

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5. Regarding Soil Removal specific to properties associated with Mr. Bicsak, Mr. O’Krepky, and Mr. Zummo, Mr. Pellow indicates that he will be able to supply that information by next week. He suggests that temporary approval may be needed.

6. Mr. Gaechter asked Mr. Pellow about the Roy Road project. Mr. Pellow replied that nothing has happened, and that the project has died.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the candidates seeking the Municipal Judge position which shall be open due to Judge Dana’s retirement was reserved for Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the adoption on final reading of Ordinance 2014-18, entitled “AMENDMENT TO AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OR WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 2014.” Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting for Public discussion. The Public had no questions or comments with respect to the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the adoption on final reading of Ordinance 2014-19, entitled “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER VII, THE TRAFFICE CHAPTER, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE.” The proposed final hearing date for this Ordinance shall be December 4, 2014. Mayor DeBoer opened the meeting for Public discussion. The Public had no questions or comments with respect to the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

3. Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session of the Wantage Township governing body held on November 13, 2014.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Warren Wisse reminds all that the Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 5, 2014, at 7 PM.

Karen Merritt adds that the event is the 25th Anniversary of the Wantage Christmas Tree Lighting.

Jackie Espanoza, of Jersey Central Power & Light, indicates that there was one issue during the storm, and that it was resolved. She thanks the people for their patience. She states that there were 750 outages the day before Thanksgiving, and 19 outages on Thanksgiving day.

Kathy Gorman offered a packet of information to Attorney Glenn Keinz regarding the use of Lake Neepaulin. She stated that her investigations reveal that “swim at your risk” is not a good idea and referenced the “Land Owners Liability Act. “ Furthermore, the act of charging a fee makes the Township liable. No fee equals no damages, per Case Law. Ms. Gorman adds that even a nominal fee, \$1.00, makes the owner liable. There is a duty to children, as a child cannot understand the concepts of “swim at your own risk.” Additionally, the words “swim at your own risk” do not cover all possible accident scenarios – for example, someone might be injured by diving. She states that all bases cannot be covered and adds that depths must be shown.

Ann Smulewicz agrees that swimming in Lake Neepaulin is not a good idea. She commended Judge Dana for his stellar career.

Public Meeting Closed

Mayor DeBoer closed the meeting to the public at this time and the governing body continued with the regular order of business.

Executive Session

Mr. Bassani moved to enter into closed session, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the consideration of the employment of a specific prospective public employee, being the Municipal Court Judge; and Negotiations regarding Potential Renewal of the 911 Dispatching Contract with Vernon Township.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be kept on file in the municipal clerk's office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

After meeting in closed session, the governing body returned to open session and continued with the regular order of business.

Mr. Bassani moved to authorize the attorney and administrator to proceed with negotiation and review of Vernon's proposal for renewal of the 911 Dispatch Contract.

Mr. Gaechter seconded the motion. Upon roll call,

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

Attorney Glenn Kienz advises that there has been no decision on the judge position at this time.

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 to be adjourned.

Christine Von Oesen, Assistant Municipal Clerk