

**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, NJ, ON JANUARY 28, 2016**

Mayor Ronald Bassani called the regular meeting of the Wantage Township Committee to order and asked Deputy Clerk Christine Von Oesen to call the roll call. In attendance were Mayor Ronald Bassani, Committeeman Jonathan Morris, Attorney Glenn Kienz, and Assistant Municipal Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen. Absent: Committeeman William Gaechter.

Mayor Bassani stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. P.L. 1975, Ch. 231. It has been properly advertised and posted, and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Bassani invited all present to Salute the Flag.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Morris made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Second by Mayor Bassani.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve for filing:

Clerk's Report for December, 2015

Registrar's Report for December 2015

Board of Health Report for December 2015

Tax Collector Report for December 2015

Zoning, Land Use and Housing Reports for December 2015

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve Transfer of Budget Appropriation Reserves in the amount of \$13,250 for the meeting of January 28, 2016.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve Payment of Bills for the meeting of January 28, 2016, excluding P.O. 13108 to Bassani Power & Equipment in the amount of \$304.11.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve the refund of:

    \$3,871.22 to CoreLogic Tax Services for Block 113 Lot 7.08 & 7.08Q for tax overpayment

    \$ 652.06 to US Bank for Block 19 Lot 10.02 for redemption of tax sale cert 15-04

    \$6,500.00 to US Bank for Block 19 Lot 10.02 for premium on tax sale certificate 15-04

    \$ 244.74 to Maria Palumbo for Block 41 Lot 6 for redemption of tax sale certificate 09-14

    \$15,724.60 to US Bank for Block 15.10 Lot 1 for redemption of tax sale certificate 13-05

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

**PAGE TWO OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2016**

Mr. Morris moved to approve the cancellation of the following tax sale premiums to fund balance

- \$120,000.00 for Block 18 Lot 5, Tax Sale Certificate 08-02
- \$ 100.00 for Block 18 Lot 5.01, Tax Sale Certificate 08-03
- \$ 100.00 for Block 18 Lot 5.02, Tax Sale Certificate 08-04
- \$ 200.00 for Block 14 Lot 28.01, Tax Sale Certificate 11-02
- \$ 100.00 for Block 21 Lot 34.07, Tax Sale Certificate 13-10
- \$ 100.00 for Block 21 Lot 34.12, Tax Sale Certificate 13-11
- \$ 100.00 for Block 21 Lot 34.13, Tax Sale Certificate 13-12
- \$ 100.00 for Block 21 Lot 34.17, Tax Sale Certificate 13-13
- \$ 100.00 for Block 21 Lot 34.18, Tax Sale Certificate 13-14
- \$ 1,900.00 for Block 81 Lot 4 Tax Sale Certificate 12-23
- \$ 13,400.00 for Block 121 Lot 15.02 Tax Sale Certificate 09-51
- \$ 5,100.00 for Block 139 Lot 14 Tax Sale Certificate 05-13

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve the Wantage Township Hazard Mitigation Plan Annex, as prepared by Emergency Management Coordinator Joseph Konopinski.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Shared Services Agreement with Branchville Borough for providing Certified Recycling Coordinator services for 2016.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Shared Services Agreement with Andover Township for providing Animal control and Pound services for 2016.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal certification for Space Farms Realty for Block 160 Lot 2 for 2016.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve renewal of Soil Removal certification for Lois H. Wright for Block 136 Lot 5 for 2016.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mr. Morris moved to approve acceptance of the Road Improvement Projects entitled Milling and Resurfacing Lower Unionville Road – Section 1; Milling and Resurfacing Pidgeon Hill Road – Sections II and III; Milling and Resurfacing South Shore Drive and Neepaulin Drive at Lake Neepaulin.

Second by Mayor Bassani. Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Bassani tabled the Payment of a bill to Bassani Power & Equipment in the amount of \$304.11 for repair of a saw, until the next meeting to be held on February 11, 2016.

**REPORTS**

**Administrator's Report:** None

Attorney's Report: Mr. Kienz reported progress on Affordable Housing, working with Ken Nelson. Deadlines are approaching and the Township looks to be in good shape.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS:**

Committeeman Jon Morris: Mr. Morris stated the Township has addressed the issue of the Lake Neepaulin signs many times. Mr. Morris believes that it is time to take them down, but waiting until better weather to remove the signs. Mr. Morris suggested that If any of the signs are salvageable, the best one should be placed on the beach as a bulletin board, or just a sign indicating that this is Lake Neepaulin and it is owned by Wantage Township, including signs for invasive weed control and boat launch posted signs.

Although Mayor Bassani is in agreement with Mr. Morris, he expressed a desire that this long standing issue should wait until the entire committee is available to discuss and act.

**Committee Mayor Report:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Final Adoption of Ordinance 2016-01: Repair of DPW Equipment.** A Motion is in Order to adopt on Final Reading, Ordinance 2016-01 entitled "Ordinance appropriating the sum of \$12,000 for repairs to township loader."

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public for any questions of comments with respect to the proposed Ordinance. Hearing none, Mayor Bassani closed the open public portion.

Mr. Morris made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2016-01.

Mayor Bassani seconded the Motion. Upon Roll Call:

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

**2. Introduction of Ordinance 2016-01: Salaries**

A Motion is in order to introduce on First Reading, Ordinance 2016-02 entitled "Ordinance fixing the salaries of officers and employees of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey, for the year 2016," with a proposed final hearing date set for February 11, 2016.

Mr. Morris made a Motion to Introduce Ordinance 2016-12.

Mayor Bassani seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**3. Introduction of Ordinance 2016-03: Cap Waiver**

A Motion is in order to introduce on First Reading, Ordinance 2016-03 entitled "Ordinance to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank for calendar year 2016 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)," with a proposed final hearing date set for February 11, 2016.

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion.

Mr. Morris made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2016-03.

Mayor Bassani seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Bassani tabled the Approval of the Minutes until the next meeting on February 11, 2016.

Mayor Bassani asked for a **Motion to approve a Resolution authorizing acceptance of Federal funds and participation in the Federal grant program administered by the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety.**

Mr. Morris made a Motion to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 allows for acceptance of federal funds and,  
WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage has been awarded FY 2015 Emergency Management Performance Grant, subaward CFDA 97.042, for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of this grant is \$14,000, \$7,000 federal share and \$7,000 cash match, and

WHEREAS, the Township does accept this subaward for the purpose of completion of the Wantage Township EMMA Workplan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize acceptance of federal funds and participation in the federal grant program administered by the State of New Jersey, Department of Law & Public Safety.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Bassani seconded the Motion.

Upon Roll Call:

Ayes: Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: Gaechter

Abstain: None

**OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:**

Rocco Russo agrees that it is a good idea to place a sign by the lake. A future improvement to the sign would be to copy the Stokes State Forest sign which has a roof, a glass enclosure, a lock, and is waterproof, weatherproof.

Kathy Gorman thanked the governing body for deciding to remove the Lake Neepaulin signs in the R2 zone. Mayor Bassani and Committeeman Mr. Morris replied that it was not a done deal yet, and that the suggestion could possibly reverse.

Jackie Espinoza, of Jersey Central Power & Light, advised of new tree trimming guidelines that her company must follow, as provided by the Board of Public Utilities. This does not affect Wantage Township so much, as it is in the lock out zone, which is the distance from the substation to the first protection device, which is primarily in Sussex Borough. Wantage is served out of the Sussex Borough lock out zone. This will provide better reliability for Wantage Township. There will be more trimming of trees in the lock out zone to facilitate this new standard. Mayor Bassani asked if the tree trimming will be only in Sussex Borough, and Ms. Espinoza replied in the affirmative.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Adjourn.

Motion by Mr. Morris.

Second by Mayor Bassani.

All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Christine M. Von Oesen  
Assistant Municipal Clerk