

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 888 STATE ROUTE 23. WANTAGE NJ, ON
MARCH 10, 2016.**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Deputy Mayor Jon Morris, Committeeman William Gaechter. Also present were Township Attorney Glenn Kienz and Deputy Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen.

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 and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Bassani led all present in the Salute to the Flag.

Mayor Bassani requested the governing body review the Consent Agenda. Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

CONSENT AGENDA

Reports (Approval for filing the following):

Clerk's Report for February 2016

Registrar's Report for February 2016

Board of Health Report for February 2016

Tax Collector Report for February 2016

Zoning, Land Use and housing Reports for February 2016

Resolutions (Approval for the following actions):

1. Authorizing renewal of Coin Operated Amusement Devices License for Richard Denman, Pleasant Acres Campground, for 2016.

2. Authorizing additional sick leave allowance for James Doherty in accordance with existing municipal policy, granting up to an additional 45 days of sick leave if needed.

3. Authorizing Change Order #1 to the Contract entitled Bicycle Safe Grates & Type "N" Curb Pieces for Neepaulin Drive & South Shore Drive, decreasing the contract amount by \$1,652.00 for General Foundaries, Inc., representing field adjustments to contracted amounts of materials authorized by the Township Engineer.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter , second by Mr. Morris.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Ms. Von Oesen offered information about the upcoming free rabies clinic at the Wantage Township Building and provided information on a variety of scheduled Wantage recreation events: Easter Egg Hunt, Yankees vs. Rays bus trip, Wantage Day, 5K, Car Show and Christmas Tree Lighting.

COMMITTEEMAN REPORT – Mr. Morris spoke with Jake Little of Sussex Fire Department regarding fit testing, so that he could speak to his department.

OLD BUSINESS

Transfer of Liquor License for Fireman Dan's - Resolution.
Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to pass this resolution.
Motion by Mr. Morris, second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

The Route 284 development bond was discussed. Mayor Bassani has requested a list of all the outstanding construction bonds in the township and will report on same at a later date.

Mayor Bassani advised that DPW Supervisor Bob Wagner and Municipal Engineer Harold Pellow will be prioritizing the list of roads needing attention in the Township.

A letter was received from Mr. Gettler regarding tax assessment at the last budget meeting, and same is being forwarded to Tax Assessor Kristy Lockburner for her review, and due to comments regarding litigation, to Attorney Glenn Keinz. A formal response is anticipated in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

A Motion is in Order to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township Governing Body held of February 11, 2016 (M. Morris absent).
Motion by Mr. Gaechter, second by Mayor Bassani.

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

A Motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting and Executive Session of the Wantage Township Governing Body held of February 22, 2016 (all present).
Motion by Mr. Morris, second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

A Motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wantage Township Governing Body held on February 25, 2016 (all present).
Motion by Mr. Gaechter, second by Mr. Morris.

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

A Motion is in order to accept, with regrets, a letter of resignation from Department of Public Works employee Michael Psaroudis.
Motion by Mr. Morris, second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

Regarding salt shed roof repair quotes, Mayor Bassani advised of the proposal received by Lockburner Construction LLC in the amount of \$16,500 for estimate B, and \$15,000 for estimate A. Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to accept and award the \$15,000 quote.
Motion by Mr. Morris, second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

George Maragliano began to speak about his Lake Windsor neighbor, Joseph Maggio. Mayor Bassani advised that he had been a member of the jury hearing litigation between Mr. Maragliano and Mr. Maggio and was therefore privy to information that was not necessarily public and he would therefore not join in dialogue regarding same, but made it known that Deputy Mayor Jon Morris and Committeeman Bill Gaechter would be able to join in the dialogue. Mr. Maragliano chose to end the discussion.

Mr. Sevean wants to be on record, as Lake Windsor Property Association, that whether it be 6 months or 60 years, that lake will be contaminated and that contamination will have evolved from the business the Maggio property.

Mr. Morris and Mr. Gaechter advised that Zoning Officer Patrick Stefanelli could investigate.

Glenn Ball asks what township law is specific to dumping and landfills. He questions what is being dumped at said property. He said that Mr. Maggio is farm assessed as a tree farm, not a landfill. Mr. Ball adds that the county landfill is monitored, and asks who is monitoring the dumping at the Maggio property.

Scott Kirkpatrick asks if said property is commercial or not. Trucks and machinery wake his mother at 5:30 a.m. almost every day of the week. He states that weeds no longer are growing and waterfowl are no longer there. He is concerned about contamination. Mr. Fitzpatrick has a background as a construction inspector, and he states he has never seen anything like this.

Joe Maggio wishes to educate the Committee in that the pictures are accusations, and now he knows who is complaining. He says he is in compliance with all agencies. He states that he is hauling dirt, and that he has permits for that. He states that he has a demolition company, and also a trucking company that hauls dirt. He states that other people have had work done without DEP permits. He stated that Mr. Maragliano had burned tires on his property. Mr. Maggio states that runs he his business only between the hours of 6 am and 10 pm, per policy established by the State.

Melanie LiTrenta complained about the noise and commercial dumping from the Maggio business.

Mr. Maggio then stated that that was a lawsuit and that they were all going to be in a lawsuit. Mr. Maggio advised that there would be defamation of character law suits.

Mayor Bassani stated that no one on the dais is being paid off.

Ms. LiTrenta asks what kind of business Mr. Maggio has that he needs all these permits.

Mr. Gaechter asked what led the Lake Windsor people to this meeting, and had they talked to Pat Stefanelli.

Ron Sevean stated that they had spoken to Pat Stefanelli. Mr. Gaechter stated that anonymous letters had been received by the township. Mr. Sevean stated that he had spoken to Mr. Doherty on various occasions. A Mr. Alvez and Mr. Sevean had taken photos and presented same to Mr. Doherty.

Lorine Barone states that Lake Windsor residents are fearful of Joe Maggio. She knows of utility representatives have been denied access to the Maggio property. Homes will be worth nothing if the lake dies. There is various debris at the location which was not there when she began living there in 1978.

Caroline Lamura watches diesel fumes spew off the mountain, while sitting on her porch. During rain storms, she can see the diesel running down the mountain. She adds that the noise is terrible, and the muskrats are gone.

George Maragliano stated that he had never burnt tires on his farm, as Mr. Maggio alleged. Mr. Maragliano complained that Mr. Pellow allowed Mr. Maggio to operate as he does. Mr. Maragliano stated that he lost his case in court against Mr. Maggio, and that it cost him \$80,000. He then complained that mud was creeping onto his property from the Maggio property, and he was fined \$20,000.

Scott Kirkpatrick thanks the committee for listening, asks for their help, and states that they will not give up.

Several unnamed speakers asked what will happen when Mr. Maggio comes after them, or has them harmed. Ron Sevean stated that there are people at the lake who are afraid to sign a letter or come to a meeting regarding Mr. Maggio.

Mayor Bassani counted 16 Lake Windsor residents in the audience.

Melanie LiTrenta asks what the noise ordinance is. Mr. Gaechter and Mayor Bassani replied that there is no Wantage noise ordinance. Ms. LiTrenta then asked what a reasonable time is to complain about the noise, and to whom. Mr. Gaechter suggested verifying the State 10 pm to 6 am no work time frame, and inside of that, the call should be made to the police.

Ron Sevean complained of hitting municipal walls. He states that throughout the County, and people involved in government, are afraid of Joe Maggio and do not want to take him on.

William DeBoer, Wantage First Aid Squad President, advises that the squad is holding a fundraising fish and chips dinner on March 18.

Kathy Gorman asks if the recreation commission is planning any activities at Lake Neepaulin.

Mayor Bassani says that Lake Neepaulin recreational activities are in the plan.

Ms. Gorman asks for the Lake Neepaulin signs to come down. She suggests that Sussex County signs were made by VoTech students, and perhaps, Lake Neepaulin signs could be made by them, too. Mayor Bassani adds that that would be a good Boy Scout project.

Melanie LiTrenta asks for road improvements at Lewisburg and Old Beaver Run Road as well as as the roads that come into Lake Windsor. Lake Windsor roads are not owned by the township.

Ron Sevean states that Mr. Doherty wrote that it would cost each Lake Windsor residence \$35,000 have the township pave the Lake Windsor roads, which is not financially feasible for the residents, so Mr. Sevean asks if there can be some township help fixing potholes. Mr. Sevean states that the Lake Windsor residents currently fill the potholes. Mr. Sevean stated that a Solar Farm was, unbeknownst to Mr. Sevean and his neighbors, being erected near the border between Lafayette and Wantage, which came to his attention when he asked about high tension wires and large poles there were being erected in the immediate area.

Rocco Russo asks if the brook between Cove Lane and Old Clove Road, dammed by rocks since Storm Irene, can be opened. It is causing erosion. Mr. Morris had given that information to Watershed Commissioner Nathaniel Sajdak. Mr. Russo stated that he had not been contacted by Mr. Sajdak. Mayor Bassani arranged for Mr. Russo to acquire Mr. Sajdak's contact information, and Mr. Morris added that he would talk to Mr. Sajdak the following day.

Lorine Barrone asked if she could acquire an estimate for Lake Windsor roads, because she felt that the one that Jim Doherty supplied to her was excessive. If the lake dries, there will be no reason for roads, because the homes will be worthless.

Mayor Bassani closed the Open Public Session.

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.
Motion by Mr. Morris, second by Mr. Gaechter.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Deputy Clerk
Wantage Township