

**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
APRIL 28, 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, Committeeman Jon Morris and Committeeman William Gaechter. Also present were Township Attorney Glenn Kienz, CFO Michelle LaStarza, 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested the governing body review the Consent Agenda. Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve the following:

Approval of the Bill List with the exception of PO for Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$115.21.

Approve refunds for the following:

\$36,628.56 to US Bank for Block 117 Lot 37.02, Certificate 15-19 for lien redemption.

\$3, 119.74 to Rolling Hills Properties for Block 117 Lot 32.01 for tax overpayment.

\$100.00 to Albert McEvoy, 71 Coykendall Road, Wantage, for refund of Yankee tickets.

Approval to correct resolution dated April 14, 2016 for tax sale redemption certificate 13-26 Block 67 Lot 16 (corrects typographical error, Block 27).

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

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve payment of PO #13378 for Bassani Power and Equipment in the amount of \$115.21. Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Mayor Bassani recused himself from participation in this motion.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris

Nays: None

Absent: Bassani

Abstain: None

REPORTS

Administrator's Report: Ms. Von Oesen reported that Mayor Bassani will attend the ribbon cutting for the Garden of Life at its new Wantage location at Boulder Hills on Saturday April 30. The Township will be hosting 40 students during the Annual Youth in Government Day on May 3. Ms. Von Oesen contacted the County on behalf of resident Lorine Barrone regarding the condition of a bridge near Lake Windsor.

Attorney's Report: An Affordable Housing trial date has been set for May 16, and will be attended by Lead Attorney Glenn Kienz, Ken Nelson, and Harold Pellow. Mr.Keinz requests permission to use an additional \$2000 for the consortium should it be needed. (Permission granted.) Mr. Kienz will be forwarding to Mr. Maggio's attorneys, a letter written by Harold Pellow, dated April 28, 2016, which indicates that the Maggio lot is in an R5 residential zone and therefore the commercial use on that property is not an permitted use and would require Mr. Maggio to seek a use variance specific to said business.

Committeeman Morris Report: None

Committeeman Gaechter Report: None

Mayor's Report: None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bassani asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016 Wantage Committee Meeting. Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

Mayor Bassani asked for a motion to award the Curbside Bulk Waste Collection and Disposal Contract to Blue Diamond Disposal. Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

Mayor Bassani signed a letter of no objection which is required for the granting of a temporary license so that the Atlantic Air Medical Unit can perform a scheduled helicopter landing and presentation during the June 18, 2016 Wantage Day event.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve the Self Exam Resolution for the 2016 Municipal Budget. Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris.

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

CFO Michelle LaStarza provided a presentation on the 2016 Budget, including operating expense history and cost descriptions specific to such items as COAH litigation, group insurance, health benefit waiver, snow removal, Sussex water bill, recreation department, parks, Lake Neepaulin water testing, electricity, gas and diesel, municipal court, defined contribution program, LOSAP grants, recycling grants, capital improvement fund, improvement to roads/DPW oil and stone, debt service, interest on notes, bond anticipation notes, Green Acres loans for the park, special emergencies, salaries, shared services, Road Repair, Debt Service, revenues, analysis of surplus.

Mayor Bassani asked if the Committee had questions regarding the budget summary as proposed by Ms. LaStarza, and hearing none, asked those present from the public if they had any questions regarding same.

George Maragliano is pleased that Code Enforcement is receiving additional hours.

Bill Gettler wants a reduction of property taxes. He commends Tax Collector Melissa Caton and her staff, and CFO Michelle LaStarza and her staff, for their work.

Lorine Barrone asked about Emergency Management Grants. Ms. LaStarza offered information about the (\$50,000 for hazard mitigation) Colesville Fire Department Generator Grant, and the (\$7000) grant stipend awarded for emergency management for having our plan up to date.

Hearing no other public input, Mayor Bassani closed that section of the Budget discussion.

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to Adopt the 2016 Municipal Budget. Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to Approve Chapter 159 adding \$190,000 for Improvements to Pigeon Hill Road, Section IV. Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris.

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

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to Introduce on First Reading Ordinance 2016-05 (and Capital Budget amendment as in the packet) entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,236,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,174,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF." The proposed final hearing date of this Ordinance shall be May 26, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to Award Contract to Petro Mechanics in the amount of \$18,650.00 for fuel pump replacement. Motion by Mr. Morris, Second by Mr. Gaechter.

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

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Ron Sevean is pleased with the progress specific to DEP and Harold Pellow, as it applies to Lake Windsor issues. Mr. Kienz gave Mr. Sevean a copy of a letter he will be submitting to Mr. Maggio's attorneys after tonight's meeting.

George Maragliano asks if Mr. Maggio has a stop work order. Mr. Keinz replied that there is no stop work order at this time.

Melanie LiTrenta asked what the DEP has done and what it will do regarding the Lake Windsor issue, and how the Township will respond to same. Mr. Kienz referred Mr. LiTrenta to the letter he gave Mr. Sevean. Ms. LiTrenta cited criminal penalties and enforcement specific to illegal dumping. Ms. LiTrenta offered that additional agencies have been involved in previous similar circumstances.

Bill Gettler advises that the Flag should not have been lowered for Mr. Doherty's passing. Mr. Morris disagreed. Mr. Gettler wants a reply to his March 10 farmland assessment letter. Mayor Bassani answered that once Mr. Gettler sued the Township by appealing his taxes, said request for a reply became a matter for the attorney. Mr. Gettler advises that the Township does not need an Administrator. Mr. Gettler advises that Lake Neepaulin water testing is unnecessary.

Warren Wisse applauds the Committee for having had the Flag lowered in honor of Mr. Doherty's passing. Mr. Wisse has spearheaded a campaign to name the main field at Woodbourne Park in Mr. Doherty's memory.

Tina Palecek, as a Veteran of the US Marine Corp, approves of the lowering of the Flag in Jim Doherty's honor.

Mike Clark states that Sussex Fire Department has co-oped with NJ State Forest Fire Service and has received a cascade system for filling Scott Air Bottles, and that the SFD Ladies Auxiliary has purchased a compressor to run that system. It was agreed that shared services between Sussex and Wantage fire departments is a benefit to both departments. Regarding fit testing, Mr. Morris adds that Dr. Fischer has offered to do the fit testing pro bono.

Melanie LiTrenta asked for a list of roads projected to be worked on. Mayor Bassani responded that the Clerk's office could provide her a target list, which is subject to change. Ms. LiTrenta spoke about heavy truck traffic and roads needing attention due to same. Ms. LiTrenta has a copy of a cease and desist order addressed to Mr. Maggio.

William Schreiber , Viet Nam Veteran, disagrees with the lowering of the Flag for Jim Doherty.

Ron Sevean agreed with Ms. LiTrenta, and asks the Committee for their support.

Mayor Bassani closed the Open Public Session.

Mayor Bassani , the Committee, and Mr. Kienz will meet on Tuesday, May 3 at 6 pm, to discuss the clerk and/or administrator position, at a Special Meeting and in Executive Session.

Mayor Bassani asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Mr. Morris and second by Mr. Gaechter.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Deputy Clerk