

**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
MAY 26, 2016.**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting to order, and requested that 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: Municipal Attorney Glenn Kienz, Deputy Clerk Christine M. Von Oesen.

Mayor Bassani stated, "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act, Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231, it has been properly noticed and certified by the Clerk."

Mayor Bassani invited all those in attendance to join in the Salute to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

REPORTS (Approval for Filing of the Following)

- Municipal Clerk Report for April 2016
- Registrar Report for April 2016
- Tax Collector Report for April 2016
- Board of Health Report for April 2016
- Land Use Board Report for April 2016
- Housing Report for April 2016
- Zoning Report for April 2016

Approval of Bill List for May 2016, with the exception of check #23578, vendor #2503, Bassani Power and Equipment in the amount of \$380.05.

1. Resolution of Intent to Assign Tax Sale Certificate #23-14 authorizing the assignment of said Certificate to M and V Liens.
2. Resolution of Intent to Assign Tax Sale Certificate of Sale #15-01 authorizing the assignment of said lien to M and V Liens.
3. Resolution authorizing Refund of:
 - \$2,272.85 to Sprint Corporation for Escrow Deposit Z-01-2001
 - \$ 123.66 to Sprint Corporation for Escrow Deposit Z-03-2000
4. Resolution authorizing Refund of:
 - \$2,545.44 to Core Logic Tax Real Estate for Block 30 Lot 1.04 for tax overpayment.
 - \$ 36.50 to Core Logic Tax Real Estate for Block 30 Lot 1.04 Q0216 for tax overpayment.
 - \$1,778.64 to Thomas A. Kelly, Jr. for Block 33 Lot 19 for tax overpayment.
 - \$ 336.69 to Paul and Diane Schuchert for Block 37 Lot 1.20 for tax overpayment.
 - \$ 446.71 to Michael and Karen Rainer for Block 33 Lot 11.01 for tax overpayment.

5. Authorizing Renewal for the Doggie Chalet Dog Boarding permit.
6. Authorizing Renewal of Rayewood Trailer Park Permit.
7. Authorizing Wantage DPW Supervisor Bob Wagner's request to hire two laborers plus an alternate should the alternate be needed.
8. Authorizing two NJ Firemen's Association Membership Applications.
9. Acknowledging Wantage Township First Aid Permits for Highway Occupancy/Charitable Solicitations for May 27, 28, 29, and 30, 2016, August 5, 6, and 7, 2016, and September 2, 3, 4, and 5, 2016, during the hours of 8 am through 7 pm.
10. Authorizing Mayoral Proclamation congratulating Michael Shorr on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.
11. Authorizing Chapter 159 Resolution acknowledging notification for the State of New Jersey Clean Communities Program, that \$49,586.70 is available to the 2016 Clean Communities Grant and the Committee acknowledges an amendment in its 2016 Municipal Budget to include same as revenue.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris
 Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

12. Authorizing check #23578 to vendor #2503, Bassani Power and Equipment in the amount of \$380.05.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris
 Ayes: Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None
 No Vote on the advice of council: Bassani

NEW BUSINESS: A Motion is in order to Adopt on Final Reading Ordinance #2016-05: Bond Ordinance - Various Capital Improvements - 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 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,174,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TONWHSI TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

Mayor Bassani opened the floor to the public specific to Ordinance #2016-05, and hearing from no member of the public, closed the floor to the public specific to Ordinance #2016-05.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris
 Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report: The American Legion will begin their Memorial Day Ceremonies on May 30, at 8:30 am at Woodbourne Park. The Recreation Committee received a letter from the American Legion

thanking them for their \$3500 donation from Car Show proceeds. Recreation is holding the First Annual Fishing Contest on June 11 at Lake Neepaulin. Recreation has expressed an interest in the fountain that a Lake Neepaulin resident had recently offered to the township. Sussex County Skylands Ride is holding its annual public hearing on June 14. Annual Bulk Waste tickets are on sale now.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Kienz attended a settlement meeting regarding Affordable Housing . Ken Nelson and Harold Pellow have been exceedingly helpful in this area. Joseph Maggio's attorneys are preparing for the Land Use Board meeting in approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Mayor Bassani advises that he has heard frustrations because he is not engaging in the Maggio dialogue because of his past experience in court specific to Mr. Maggio and Mr. Maragliano. Attorney Kienz continues to advise that Mayor Bassani should not engage in dialogue concerning Mr. Maggio.

Committeemen Reports: Mr. Morris, none. Mr. Gaechter, none.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Bassani met with two Fire Departments and relayed to the Committee that a fireman was under the impression that the County 911 system may be less costly than Vernon dispatch, and asked Mr. Morris to investigate. The Mayor attended the Sussex Elks 4th Annual Veterans Memorial at the High Point Monument. Clove Hill Manor residents are requesting reflective signage of some sort at the Route 23 entrance and the Mayor will query Bob Wagner about same. The Mayor advises that Dunkin' Donuts will be opening soon, adding that the LUB is looking for more rateables for the Route 23 corridor. Water and sewer service is now available on the Route 23 corridor, which will benefit future commercial development. The Open Space Committee has a \$500K+ grant from Green Acres totaling \$1.2 million dollars total. High Point Park will buy a 100 acre parcel of land and it will never be built on. The Open Space Committee is looking at 2 additional parcels in Wantage, having made an offer on one, while another offer is forthcoming in 2016-2017. Mayor Bassani said that Recreation Committee, member Christy Tuper, and Recreation Secretary Arlene de la Osa are doing an excellent job. DPW looks to keep Woodbourne Park maintained and repaired. The back soccer area needs attention. Christy Tuper says that the Woodbourne Park walking trail is in poor condition and getting worse. Pidgeon Hill Road resurfacing has been approved. New Jersey State Forest Service State Land Management Team is holding a meeting on June 14 at High Point State Park. Sussex Fire Department is hosting a wetdown pm October 1. The Sussex Wantage Regional School 2016-2017 budget has been submitted. NJ Department of Education has been submitted from High Point Regional High School. Patrick Stefanelli wrote a letter praising First Responders at a recent call out for their extraordinary professionalism, kindness and sensitivity. Larry Bono had called on Patrick Stefanelli to respond to that call, as his knowledge of home structure was vital, and he praised Patrick's professionalism amidst a difficult medical situation.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to Introduce Ordinance #2016-06, ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$2,800 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SALT SHED. BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows: SECTION 1: The sum of Twenty Eight Hundred dollars (\$2,800.00) presently located in the General Capital Fund is hereby appropriated for the purchase of a storage shed vehicle funded from the General Capital, Capital Improvement Fund: Purchase of DPW Vehicle: \$2,800.00. SECTION 2: In connection with the amount authorized in Section 1 hereof, the Township makes the following determinations: 1) The purpose described in Section 1

hereof is not a Current Expense and is a purchase the Township of Wantage may lawfully make as a capital purchase. 2) The period of usefulness described in Section 1 hereof is not in the limitation of said Local Bond Law and according to the aggregate reasonable life thereof is five (5) years or longer. SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance be and the same hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency. SECTION 4: This ordinance becomes immediately effective upon publication after adoption.

It will be considered for final passage after public hearing at a meeting of the Mayor and Committee to be held in the Municipal Building, 888 State Route 23 South, in the Township of Wantage, on June 23, 2016, at 7 pm.

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 March 10, 2016 Wantage Township Committee meeting.

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 March 24, 2016 Wantage Township Committee meeting.

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 April 28, 2016 Wantage Township Committee meeting.

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 a SCUMA Shared Service Agreement.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter, Second by Mr. Morris

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

No vote on the advice of counsel: Morris

A Motion is in Order to keep NJ 284 a no passing zone, and submitting a resolution that shall be submitted to the Department of Transportation in support of same.

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 certification of a \$2,800 contribution from the County of Sussex and to the Wantage Township First Aid Squad.

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 a \$29,970 bid submitted by Bob Viersma and Sons for proposed Cove Lane Drainage Improvements.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Second by Mr. Morris

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Karen Merritt advised that there will be an 8:30 am American Legion Memorial Day ceremony at Woodbourne Park and added that Greg Williams has acquired medals to replace those stolen at the Veteran's Memorial.

Mayor Bassani advises that June 5 is now Sussex County Day and that Wantage Day date is June 18. He adds that June 7 is Primary Day.

Melanie LiTrenta asks Glenn Kienz to speak to what may be expected of the Maggio attorneys. Wantage Attorney Glenn Kienz says that Maggio attorneys are prepping plans for hearing on onsite activities and they may request an appeal or use variance at the Land Use Board Meeting. All owners of properties within 200 feet of the Maggio property will be noticed. LUB meetings are held on 3rd Tuesdays. Mayor Bassani added that she could ask LIB secretary Jeanne McBride for an agenda, and that the issue must be placed on the agenda 10 days prior to the hearing.

Ann Smulewicz suggested to Melanie LiTrenta that she call Jeanne McBride in advance to review the plans for the agenda. She questions why the Parrott property can have 6 uses. Ms. Smulewicz asks how Mr. Maggio can have a business without ever having gone before the Land Use Board. Ms. Smulewicz feels that some members of the LUB are disrespectful to some members of the public. Mayor Bassani responded that he would talk to LUB President Mike Cecchini about same.

Melanie asks who it is who decides if Joseph Maggio can request and commercial. Interested parties can there voice their opinions, both pro and con, and can ask questions and give testimony.

Nick D'Agasotino asked why the May 12 meeting was cancelled. Mayor Bassani responded that there was little business to be discussed, plus scheduling conflicts. Meetings can be adjusted due to no/low current business. He then asked why a Public Session could be held without the other parts of the regular Committee meeting. Mr. Morris and Mr. Kienz responded that 2 Committee members must be present.

Ann Smulewicz states that Deputy Clerk Christine Von Oesen is doing a phenomenal job.

Christy Tuper thanked Mayor Bassani for attending the Sussex County Chamber Counsel.

Mayor Bassani requested that a Motion be made to approve the appointment of Michelle LaStarza as Interim Administrator until a replacement is hired.

Motion by Mr. Morris. Second by Mr. Gaechter

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Ann Smulewicz states that past Wantage Clerk Mary Ann Seeko performed as both clerk and administrator, and that she did a great job. Ms. Smulewicz feels that Wantage does not need an administrator.

Mayor Bassani refuted recent claims citing overspending, against the buy local policy, and questioning transparency. Mr. Bassani thanked Mr. Morris and Mr. Gaechter for the work they have done on the Committee, and noted how well they all work together.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Adjourn.
Motion by Mr. Morris. Second by Mr. Gaechter.
All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted:

Christine M. Von Oesen
Deputy Clerk