

**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  
JUNE 9, 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: 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.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Application (Approval for the Following Actions):**

Membership for NJ State Firemen's Association for the Wantage Township Fire Department for: Gregory Perry, Jr., Ryan M. Walther, and Joseph S. Stevens.  
Social Affair Permit for June 25, 2016 for Safe and Sound Animal Rescue at the Sussex Elks Lodge.

**Reports (Approval for Filing the Following):**

Clerks Report for the Month of May 2016.  
Zoning and Land Use Department Report for the Month of May 2016.  
Board of Health Report for the Month of May 2016.  
Registrar's Report for the Month of May 2016.  
Tax Collector's Report for the Month of May 2016.

**Resolutions (Approval for the Following Actions)**

1. Appointing Kristy Lockburner to the position of Municipal Tax Collector for a four year term from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020.
2. Appointing Arlene De La Osa Certifying Officer for the Public Employees Retirement System.
3. Hiring Dana Welch as a seasonal laborer for the Department of Public Works.
4. Authorizing Assignment of Tax Sale Certificate #23-14 for Block 150, Lot 7.01 to MV Liens.
5. Approving temporary Closure of County Routes 650 and 639 on October 1, 2106 for the Sussex County Firemens' Parade.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Second Mr. Morris

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**REPORTS**

Administrator Report: Wantage Day will be held on June 18, 2016, from 12 to 4 pm at Woodbourne Park on Sherman Ridge Road. Several residents are concerned about a black Jeep

with white Rubicon and blacked out windows cruising the Lake Neepaulin area evenings around 6 PM and believe this vehicle to be the same associated with 10 PM break ins in that area. Police have been advised of these concerns.

Committeeman Jon Morris Report: County 911 is working on a package price for Wantage dispatch. Sussex and Unionville Fire Department agreements are due for renewal. Beemerville and Frankford Fire Department agreements are also forthcoming. DPW repaired trip hazards that they were made aware of. Kristy Tuper had advised that Woodbourne Walking Path, Basketball Court and Roller Skating Rink need fixing, but Mr. Morris questions the cost figures, as he feels that there is more work than is reflected in the proposal. Mr. Morris adds that there is a broken drain and a 6" hole in the center of the court. Mr. Morris walked the area and he will DPW and/or Harold Pellow to rectify these issues.

Committeeman William Gaechter congratulates the Mayor on his Primary win. Mr. Gaechter discussed the Route 284 rumble strips. He stated that the State DOT is responsible for their placement and the volume of the noise associated with same.

Mayor Bassani credits Ms. Kathy Gorman for prompting Fish and Game to do a study specific to stocking Lake Neepaulin. The Committee concurs that this is a good move. Mayor Bassani and Committeeman Morris were pleased to attend the Eagle Scout ceremony for inductee Michael Schorr. Mayor Bassani reminds those in attendance that the Boy Scouts will be hosting a fishing derby at Lake Neepaulin on Saturday beginning at 6 am. Mayor Bassani attended the Sussex Rural Electric meeting, and conveyed to them that he would like to see their territory expand. The donated Lake Neepaulin fountain has been received. Repairs to Woodbourne Park continue, as Jon stated. Mayor Bassani calls upon politicians to take their Primary signs down. Mayor Bassani thanks the public for their support in this, his 9<sup>th</sup> campaign. He adds that this campaign and that of the Freeholders were very negative. Turning to NJ Herald Reporter Eric Obernauer, Mayor Bassani said that Mr. Obernauer and his editor could have written less impartial articles, so that all the people running for office could have been evenly represented. The Mayor adds that "Buy Local" was a big issue.

In light of new water lines planning to be laid through Wantage properties and into Sussex Borough from Lake Rutherford, Mayor Bassani calls on Wantage entrepreneur Hans Amell, who gave a detailed presentation about the wealth Wantage has in its water and how that resource could generate jobs and income for the Township. Mr. Amell will research this as a project if he has the support of the Committee. Mayor Bassani replied that Wantage has selectively stayed out of the water business, and that he will need more details and information on returns on investment. Mayor Bassani does not want Wantage to have the headache that Sussex does with water and sewer issues. Mayor Bassani would like to hear more, after Mr. Amell meets with Sussex Mayor Kathy Little. Mr. Amell provided copies of a newly released I (unedited) business book he has written.

Ann Smulewicz likes Mr. Amell's idea and envisions a company resembling Selected Risk, or Mars. She added that she was instrumental in bringing sewers to Hamburg, and although it was not a popular decision then, she is often thanked now.

Mayor Bassani requests a Motion for Approval of Liquor License Renewals for the licensing term of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 for the following:

1924-44-011-003, HP Liquors, 83 Hamburg Turnpike, Trading as Woody's Liquor Shop.  
1924-31-012-001, Pvt. Charles Auberge Post 213 American Legion, 915 Rt. 23 Sussex-High Point Road, Trading as Pvt. Charles Auberge Post 213.  
1924-33-002-004, Thomson Douglas J., 447 Route 284, Trading as Cabin Fever.  
1924-33-001-007, AKSHAR Liquors Wantage LLC, 65 County Route 639, Trading as Airport Pub & Package.  
1924-33-007-003, Presti Liquor LLC, 289 Rt. 23 North, Trading as Sussex Queen Dinner.  
1924-33-006-006, Penne Vodka Inc, 1 Libertyville Road, Trading as Bella Vita Ristorante.  
1924-33-003-009, Stuffed Olive LLC, 1 Libertyville Road, Trading as Green Olive.  
1924-31-013-002, 2288 Corporation, Route 565 Lewisburg Road, Trading as 2288 Corporation.

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

#### OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Ann Smulewicz congratulates Mayor Bassani on his Primary win, and also to Kathy Gorman for doing so well in a very filthy campaign. She adds that the Democrats made a big showing in this Republican county. She continues that the NJ Herald did Kathy Gorman no favors. She likes the Hans Amell water project. She states that political change is needed. She mentioned the recent law suit. She adds that someone did not do their job and that new faces are needed on township boards. Wantage citizens are being sued. Mayor Bassani said that one must choose their words carefully in this era of litigiousness. The Mayor talked about the D variance. Ms. Smulewicz adds that an issue from 2014 has yet to be resolved. Mayor Bassani offered to take another look at that unresolved 2014 issue.

Cathy Gorman (Mayor Bassani congratulates Ms. Gorman on her fine efforts.) My efforts are now back in Wantage, with Lake Neepaulin. What was written in the NJ Herald was not campaign journalism, but campaign sensationalism. Ms. Gorman states that taxes are at stake. She had provided backup documentation to the Herald, but they published without applying it.

Mayor Bassani asked NJ Herald reporter Eric Obernauer if he wished to defend himself, to which Mr. Obernauer replied that he is here to observe.

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  
All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine M. Von Oesen  
Deputy Clerk