

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OR THE
TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, HELD AT THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING, 888 STATE
ROUTE 23, WANTAGE NJ, ON
AUGUST 11, 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 Willian 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 Meetings Act, Public Laws 1975, Chapter 231, it had 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 requested a motion to approve the following:

Reports:

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

Approval of August Bill List, with the exception of PO#13704 in the amount of \$65.13 to Bassani Equipment LLC.

Approval NJ State Fireman's Membership Application for Kristian H. Rokosny.

Approval of Resolution authorizing refunds as follows:

- \$ 3,778.91 to Rolling Hills Properties for Block 26 Lot 4 for tax overpayment.
- \$24,252.40 to IS Bank Block 52 Lot 4 for redemption of tax sale certificate 5-11.
- \$ 595.26 to Steven Triebes for Block 154.03 Lot 15.07 for tax overpayment.
- \$ 1,121.84 to Steven Triebes for Block 154.03 Lot 15.01 for tax overpayment.

Approval for Resolution authorizing acceptance of Wantage Hazard Mitigation Program.

Approval of July 14, 2016 minutes.

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

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Approve Bassani Power Equipment, LLC PO#13704 in the amount of \$65.13.

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

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None Not Voting: Bassani

CLERK'S REPORT – The Sussex County Office of Mosquito Control sent a letter thanking the Township for welcoming them to display pictures and provide pamphlets at the Wantage Township Building for the purpose of providing information about mosquitos and mosquito control. The cost to get the Lake Neepaulin aerator/fountain up and running is approximately \$3000, which is not in the budget, and so the placement of the aerator/fountain may be in next year's budget. The Office of Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health had found on March 22, 2016, hazards and/or violations, specifically in the DPW area, and as of the July 8, 2016 PEOSHA inspection, all are remedied. Director of the Division of Plant Industry (within the Department of Agriculture) Joseph Zoltowski advises that gypsy moth defoliation was detected in Wantage, and with the Mayor and Committee's approval, Ms. Von Oesen will request that the State perform a no cost survey that will provide information as to the extent of the gypsy moth infestation, and from which information, a decision can be made as to the need and manner by which the problem may be abated. Ms. Von Oesen provided detailed information about the program. Mayor Bassani agreed to the survey request. Ms. Von Oesen provided detailed information about Flu and Pneumococcal clinics being scheduled throughout the area. Every year, each Sussex county municipality creates a display unique to their area at the NJ State Fair. This year's theme was tourism and/or infrastructure. Wantage chose tourism and asked local children to draw pictures of activities that they like to-do in Wantage. The colorful display was entitled, "Tourism through the Eyes of a Child."

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – The Land Use Board will be hearing the Fair Share Housing this month, and after that is ratified, the Mayor and Committee will be asked to take action.

COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Morris – None.

COMMITTEE REPORT – Mr. Gaechter states that Woodbourne Park looks fantastic, and he commends the employees who work to keep it that way. Mayor Bassani agrees, but said that there are a few cracks in the walking path pavement that need repair. Mayor Bassani will meet with DPW Supervisor Bob Wagner to discuss. Mr. Morris added that the rink pavement and drain also need repair.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Bassani attended a presentation hosted by Senator Oroho about the proposed 23 cent per gallon gas tax increase over the existing 14 cent per gallon gas tax. Mayor Bassani mentioned many of the issues that were discussed at the presentation. Mayor Bassani did not feel that there was any arguement presented that could render support for the increase, especially in the less urban area that is Wantage Township. We do have a Resolution, provided by attorney Glenn Kienz, indicating that Wantage is opposed to the gas tax as proposed by Governor Chris Christy and Senator Steve Oroho. The Committee continues to narrow the search for a candidate to fill the position of Administrator. Remedy Hair and Nail Salon recently held a Grand Opening, and which was attended by the Mayor at the invitation of the owners. ShopRite recently held a meeting at the Boro in Sussex. Attendees included Sussex Boro representatives, Mayor Bassani, and Wantage Township Land Use Board President Mike Cecchini. The layout of the ShopRite building and parking lot was discussed, as it applies to property belonging to the Township of Wantage and the Boro of Sussex, with a focus as to the benefit to the taxpayers of each municipality. A new state mandate requires the Municipal Court to have the ability to video conference. We are researching video conferencing systems now, and may include a system that will allow for use beyond that of the Court. The Sussex Boro water quality report shows that water to be fine. The Mayor alerted those in attendance to recent reports of unlicensed vendors in Wantage Township, and cautions the public to be wary of same. Mayor Bassani

congratulated Miss Wantage 2016 Kelly Wask, who continued on to win the title of 2016 Queen of the New Jersey State Fair. Mayor Bassani read and signed a Daughters of the American Revolution Constitution Week proclamation.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

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

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None
Enforcement Officer Patrick Stefanelli spoke regarding unoccupied and/or abandoned and/or bank owned houses. A ordinance has been prepared by Glenn Keinz. Belvidere has a resolution in place, and Newton is in the process of approving a resolution for unoccupied homes .

Mayor Bassani, Attorney Kienz and Harold Pellow talked about the unposted speed limit on Quarry Road and how the to be determined speed limit affects site distance specific to a proposed driveway.

Attorney Kienz and Patrick Stefanelli spoke about issues regarding the Joe Maggio business.

Lisa Hibbs, of Concord Engineering, Government Relations spoke regarding their Energy Aggregation Program.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Introduce on First Reading Ordinance #2016-08 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$9,500 FOR THE UPGRADE TO THE MEETING ROOM RECORDING SYSTEM, with a proposed Final Hearing date set for September 8, 2016.

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

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

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve a RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY OPPOSING THE STATE LEGISLATURE'S PROPOSED INCREASE OF GAS TAX \$0.23 PER GALLON.

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

A Motion to Introduce on First Reading Ordinance 2016-07 ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM was tabled.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve a Place to Place transfer – Expansion of Premises, Liquor License #1924-33-008-010.

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

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

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve Liquor License #1924-32-010-004, ShopRite Wine & Spirits of Wantage.

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

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

After discussion with Harold Pellow, Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to approve the issuance of Soil Removal Licenses for 565 Land Development, LLC and 284 Aggregates, LLC. Issuance of Bicsak/Wantage Stone Removal license was tabled.

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

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Ron Sevean states that "We are all being sued for speaking our concerns to the board." Mr. Sevean feels that the process is not moving forward and Mr. Keinz countered that it is being handled as quickly and as judicially as possible. Mr. Sevean wants to know when the township will exert its authority as he feels that the stop work order has not been respected. Mr. Keinz offered that a September meeting is scheduled that will seek to establish what work can and cannot be done. Documentation is vital, added Mr. Keinz.

George Maragliano states that numerous filled trucks still go up the driveway and trucks park there overnight. Mr. Maragliano states that by 7 am, he can hear from his residence, 1000 feet away, tailgates slamming and dumping their loads, and this continues all day. Work has not stopped. Mr. Keinz offered that he will speak to Patrick Stefanelli to stop the activity. Mr. Morris suggested that Mr. Maragliano bring his photos to the LUB meeting.

Melanie LiTrenta asked about the criteria required by the LUB. Mr. Keinz responded that he believes that Joe Maggio will apply to the LUB for a use variance, need variance relief, and must prove both affirmative criteria and negative criteria. Mr. Keinz added that organized and unemotional argument is key. Ms. LiTrenta stated that the March 14 stop work order has been violated. Her family cannot have dinner outside due to the loud concrete crushing. Mr. Stefanelli states that the best route is the LUB process. Mayor Bassani reiterated that documentation is key.

Ann Smulewicz stated that she is one of 10 being sued by Mr. Maggio. Regarding the Maggio noise issue, she states that she deals with similar noise beginning at 4 AM. Ms. Smulewicz appreciates that the Township has passed a resolution against the proposed gas tax increase. Ms. Smulewicz feels that the committee is doing great without an administrator, and she is impressed, especially with tonight's meeting. She is prepared for the LUB meeting, and held up documents white stating that the cost to those being sued will be \$100,000. Ms. Smulewicz read from a New Jersey Herald about the Maggio property and business.

Mayor Bassani interjected to use words cautiously, that the meeting is recorded, and that this is a resident to resident lawsuit.

George Maragliano agrees that the 23 cent gas tax should be fought. He adds that New York and Pennsylvania gas taxes are high, but that those roads are awful. He believes that New Jersey legislators will spend the 23 cents, but not on the roads.

Ron Sevean appreciates tonight's dialogue. He feels that they have said nothing to deserve a lawsuit, and that had the town been proactive long ago on this issue, they would not be in the position that they are in now.

Mayor Bassani closed the Open Public Session, and advised that there would be no Executive Session.

Mr. Bassani asked the Clerk to advertise a Special Meeting for Executive Session, for August 22, 2016, at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to Adjourn.

Motion by Mr. Morris. Second by Mr. Gaechter

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: None

Absent: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Von Oesen
Deputy Clerk