

**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, AT 7:00 PM, ON
OCTOBER 13, 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 William Gechter. Committeeman Jon Morris – Absent. Also present: 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 notice 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

Resolution (Approval for the following actions):

REPORTS:

- Clerks Report for the month of September 2016.
- Zoning Report for the month of September 2016.
- Land Use Reports (Land Use Board, Housing, Driveway) for the month of September 2016.
- Board of Health Report for the month of September 2016.
- Registrar’s Report for the month of September 2016.
- Tax Collector’s Report for the month of September 2016.

A Motion is in order to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2016 Wantage Township Mayor and Committee Meeting.

A Motion is in order to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2016 Special Meeting of the Wantage Township Mayor and Committee.

A Motion is in order to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2016 Special Meeting of the Wantage Township Mayor and Committee.

A Motion is in order to approve a Certificate for Business License approving the location, establishment and maintenance of NJ Motors at 97 Route 23 in Wantage NJ.

A Motion is in Order to authorize a Tax Refund as follows:

\$4,201.88 to M & V Liens for Block 45 Lot 10, for tax sale certificate 15-09.

A Motion is in Order to authorize Land Use Board to reimburse funds for escrow deposit fees uncollectable as follows:

\$1,477.45 to Land Use OE for Block 24 Lot 1.01 for L-09-12.

\$ 88.25 to Land Use OE for Block 7 Lot 21 for LC-14-01.

A Motion is in order to approve the following addition to the Township Finance Procedure to comply with recommendations from the CY 2016 Best Practices Worksheet.

TAX APPEALS

By June 1 the Tax Assessor shall notify the chief financial officer and the governing body of all tax appeals pending.

A motion is in order to approve Chief Administrator/Chief Financial Officer certification of the CY 2016 Best Practices Worksheet.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Second by Mayor Bassani.

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

REPORTS

Clerk Report – None

Administrator Report – None

Attorney's Report - None

Committeeman Gaechter – Mr. Gaechter said that he enjoyed the recent Fireman's Parade He congratulated the firemen in attendance for their successful events. Mr. Gaechter thanked Freeholders Phoebus and Space for voting against the gas tax increase.

Mayor's Report – None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to appoint Debra Millikin to the position of Administrator/Acting Clerk, to begin on November 1, 2016, at the salary of \$110,000 per year.

Motion made by Mr. Gaechter. Second by Mayor Bassani.

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

A Motion is in order to approve on final reading Ordinance #2106-10 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SPEED LIMITS FOR QUARRY ROAD WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE.

Motion made by Mr. Gaechter. Second made by Mayor Bassani

Mayor Bassani asked those in attendance if they had any questions or comments regarding Ordinance #2016-10, and hearing none, proceeded with the vote for same.

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

A Motion is in order to approve a Road Opening Permit for Lot 24 on Wantage School Road subject to the conditions established by Wantage Township Engineer Harold Pellow.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Second by Mayor Bassani.

Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: Morris

Abstain: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Steven Tribuzio asks if the Committee is aware of Wantage First Aid Squad issues. He spoke about an emergency call regarding an upper GI bleed. He advised that Wantage was called out twice, but it was Sussex that responded after they received the third call out. Mayor Bassani explained the call sequence: Wantage is called out, followed by Sussex, and thirdly, if further response is needed, Atlantic Health Care is called out. Mayor Bassani advised that he would check into this and get back to Mr. Tribuzio.

Wantage First Aid Squad Captain David Burns and Wantage First Aid Squad President Bill DeBoer spoke about the Wantage First Aid Squad. Mr. Burns advised that they were proactive, and that they have often received 2 or 3 calls at once. Mr. DeBoer thanked Sussex First Aid for the assists they provide. Mayor Bassani asked about response times and call ques. Mr. Burns and Mr. DeBoer advised that squad membership has been affected because approximately 10 members have left to go to college or the military, and others are aging out. Mr. DeBoer and Mr. Burns spoke about paid first aid service, and advised that there would be no cost to the township because if the patient is insured, insurance pays the bill, and if the patient is not insured, no bill is generated. He added that this is the first time in 25 years that the Wantage First Aid Squad was not able to respond as quickly as it normally does.

Amber Simons advised that the Sussex First Aid Squad was wonderful when responding to her son's recent injury. The accident occurred on the day of the Fireman's Parade and it was her understanding that Wantage was to cover while Sussex marched in the parade. She feels that the response time was inadequate and that her son and/or the upper GI patient Mr. Tribuzio spoke of were fortunate to have survived, given the response times. She is terrified that should another medical event occur, there could be dire consequences. She feels that a paid squad may be the only solution. She added that Wantage is a very large area to cover.

Steve Tribuzio wants to know why Wantage residents are serving on the Sussex squad instead of the Wantage squad, and asks why the two squads can't be one team.

Bob Sypniewski spoke about foreclosed homes, and specifically spoke about people he feels are squatters, who are living very close to him, who have caused damage to his property, have threatened him, and caused physical harm to him. Mayor Bassani requested that Patrick Stefanelli address Mr. Sypniewski's concerns about his neighbors.

Hearing no further comment from those in attendance, Mayor Bassani closed Open Public Session.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Gaechter. Second by Mayor Bassani.

Ayes: Gaechter, Bassani

Nays: None

Absent: Morris

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine M. Von Oesen
Deputy Clerk