

**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, HELD AT 7:00 P.M. ON  
April 11, 2019**

Mayor Bassani called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested that the Clerk call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the governing body were present: Mayor Ronald Bassani, Deputy Mayor Jonathan Morris and Committeeman William Gaechter. Also, present: Acting Administrator/Clerk Mrs. Jeanne McBride.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #53-2019, with the removal of PO #16104 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC, and monthly reports for February: Board of Health, Clerk, Construction, Dog, Driveway, Escrow, Housing, Land Use, Property Maintenance, Registrar, Tax Collector, and Zoning.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve PO #16104 for Bassani Power Equipment LLC.

A motion was made by Mr. Gaechter, seconded by Mr. Morris

Upon Roll Call:

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

REPORTS

Clerk/Administrator –

The Berry Road property owner is continuing to clean the property. He is waiting for quotes from Wantage Excavating. The sludge barrels on the property are owned by the company that removed the septic. They will pick up immediately.

The Rabies Clinic is scheduled for April 12, 2019

The Elks applied for a Social Affairs permit for a Poker Run to take place on April 28, 2019. They are waiting for the State Police for final approval.

The bid opening for the proposed irrigation of Woodbourne Park fields 5 & 6 is scheduled for May 1, 2019

The work should be completed on the Route 23 Bridge, by the Double S. Diner, the summer of 2019. Helen from Senator Oroho's office, will keep us updated as she finds out additional information.

Sussex County appointed Dr. William Truran as County Historian.

A letter has been sent to the resident in Lake Neepaulin regarding the tree in the lake.

Attorney – Mr. Kienz discussed the Amendments to the Soil Ordinance; the amendments will strengthen the ordinance. Many municipalities in Sussex County are facing illegal dumping. Mr. Bassani explained the purpose of the Ordinance is not to hurt local landscapers or residents from improving their property, it is to stop contaminated soil from making its way to Wantage.

Mr. Kienz also noted the residents of Clove Hill would like the Township to take over the roads. Mr. Pellow is reviewing the paperwork.

Mayor/Committee

Committeeman Morris - None.

Committeeman Gaechter – None.

Mayor Bassani – Mayor Bassani discussed the debris on the Berry Road property which is causing the Township to delay the closing. Wantage is seeking public input on the future use of the land.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BUDGET**

Mayor Bassani stated a motion is in order to introduce the 2019 Wantage Township Municipal Budget in the amount of \$6,356,844.00, which is an increased tax rate of .303 and a flat Open Space Tax rate of .005. Public Hearing will be May 9, 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Upon Roll Call:

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

**PERMISSION TO FARM BERRY ROAD PROPERTY**

Mr. Shane Swartz asked permission to continue farming the Berry Road property. He wants to plant hay. The Committee all agreed he can continue farming the fields this year. Mr. Kienz will create an agreement for the Township and Mr. Swartz

**RESOLUTION**

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #52-2019 authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with the New Township Administrator and acting Municipal Clerk.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

Ayes: Gaechter, Morris, Bassani. Nays: None

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE  
RESOLUTION # 52-2019

RESOLUTION APPROVING A 3 YEAR CONTRACT WITH THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR,  
ACTING MUNICIPAL CLERK & QUALIFIED PURCHASING AGENT

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage has negotiated with the new Township Administrator Michael L. Restel to become Administrator, Acting Municipal Clerk and Qualified Purchasing Agent for the Township of Wantage; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage and Michael L. Restel have agreed to the terms of a three-year contract that expires on December 31, 2021; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby appoints Michael L. Restel as Administrator, Acting Municipal Clerk and Qualified Purchasing Agent for Wantage Township for a three-year term April 29, 2019 to December 31, 2021, in accordance with the terms of the executed employment agreement.

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, in the County of Sussex, New Jersey, at a meeting held on April 11, 2019.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Bassani stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Special Meeting March 25, 2019, Special Executive Session March 25, 2019, Special Meeting March 28, 2019, Special Executive Session March 28, 2019, and Regular Meeting March 28, 2019.

A motion was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

A voice vote was unanimously in favor.

## **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION**

Mayor Bassani opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Carl Hoffman - of 4 Mudtown Road, requested the Committee investigate an old road located on his property. The road is not depicted on map. Mr. Coleman does not wish to pay for a survey on his property. Mr. Hoffman stated he spoke with the Tax Assessor. Ms. Lockburner had Mr. Pellow investigate the road and did not have a definitive answer. Mr. Kienz suggested Mr. Pellow examine maps to see if he can locate the road.

Mrs. Kathy Gorman - of Fernwood Road expressed her displeasure regarding the Lake Neepaulin Pool. The Committee explained Wantage has still not assumed ownership and agreed something must be done.

Gary Gruber of High Point Midget football asked for an update on the football field expansion. Mayor Bassani explained the first step is to speak with Harold Pellow, to discuss the cost of the project. He will then decide how much the Township is prepared to contribute.

There being no other public, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor Bassani requested a Motion to adjourn, made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Gaechter.

A voice vote was unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne McBride, Acting Municipal Clerk