

**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
September 12, 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: Administrator/Acting Clerk Michael Restel and Attorney Louis Karp.

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."

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Tom Ferry Wantage Township Auditor thanked the Mayor and Committee. He questioned if the Committee had a copy of the Audit which they indicated yes. Mr. Ferry went over the requirements for the audit and the General Audit Standards and Government Standards and Compliance. Mr. Ferry discussed the audit process with the Committee. Mr. Ferry asked that the Mayor and Committee turn to page 7 the Statement of Income, Wantage Township Income was \$34,911,000 which includes School, County and Open Space Taxes. Mr. Ferry stated on the Expenditure side Wantage Township added \$251,000 to fund balance, however Wantage took out \$660,900 out of fund balance to lower taxes. Mr. Ferry stated the fund balance decreased \$409,709.82 whereas the previous year the fund balance increased \$374,000. Mr. Ferry stated in 2017 fund balance was \$1,200,000 and in 2018 it was \$793,000. Page 46 goes over Wantage Township net Debt which includes BAN rollovers and loans is \$7,511,312 Mr. Ferry explained the Statutory Debt calculation. Page 55 Wantage Townships Tax rate is at .293 and has not increased in the past 3 years. Mr. Ferry explained the Percentage of Tax Collection, 2018 Wantage had a collection rate of 97.45% and in 2017 the collection rate was 98.07%. The 2018 tax levy was \$31,286,000 and Collection of taxes was \$30,489,000. Mr. Ferry spoke about the Tax titled Liens which was at \$515,000 and recommend Wantage either sell or foreclose on them. Mr. Ferry explained Tax Delinquency in Wantage Township which is at \$623,000 and overall is at \$1,179,000 which includes the tax titled Liens. Page 56 Mr. Ferry explained what the fund balance over the past 4 years and for the 2019 Budget Wantage used \$523,500 of fund balance money. Mr. Ferry explained the recommendations and corrective action plan. Mayor Bassani Thanked Tom Ferry for the presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #101-2019 through Resolution #107-2019.

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

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to pay Purchase Order #16400 to Bassani Power Equipment LLC in the amount of \$339.57

A Motion was made by Mr. Gaechter and Seconded by Mr. Morris

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #101-2019

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person to Person Transfer specific to Liquor License #1924-33-006-006, aka Penne Vodka Inc; and

WHEREAS, owners said liquor license, Angela Garrity and Maryann Cruz, wish to rename Penne Vodka Inc to Libertyville Realty LLC; and

WHEREAS, proof of publication of the said pending application for transfer has been submitted, and no objection from the public has been filed against this proposed transfer; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid,

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT REOSLVED, that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage in Sussex County, New Jersey, does hereby approve, effective September 12, 2019

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, New Jersey, at a meeting held on September 12, 2019.

Michael L Restel, Administrator/ Acting Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #102-2019

AUTHORIZING REFUND FOR QUICKCHECK CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for an outstanding performance bond.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

\$500.00 to QuickChek Corporation Performance Bond 104990188.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

XX

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 September 12, 2019.

Michael L Restel, Administrator /Acting Clerk
TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #103-2019

RESOLUTION APPROVING BILLS AND VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage in the County of Sussex that payment is hereby approved for all vouchers that have been properly authenticated and presented for payment, representing expenditures for which appropriations were duly made in 2018 and 2019 Budgets adopted by this local Governing Body, including any emergency appropriations, and where unexpended balances exist in said appropriation accounts for the payment of such vouchers.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage at a meeting held on September 12, 2019 in the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey.

Michael L Restel Acting Clerk/Administrator

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #104-2019

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FY 2020 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee further recognized that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for a tax overpayments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

\$3,431.54 to Lawrence Doherty, for Block 33, Lot 13.01, 72 Moore Road, for tax overpayment due to veteran deduction allowed.

\$3,432.72 to Tina and Glenn Mania, for Block 125 Lot 4.19, 12 Eileen, Drive, for tax overpayment made during closing.

~~~~~

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 September 12, 2019.

---

Michael Restel, Acting Clerk/Administrator



---

Michael Restel, Acting Clerk/Administrator

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

**RESOLUTION #107-2019**

**AUTHORIZING REFUND**

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Clerk has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for an overpaid dog license.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the refund of

\$2.00 to Sharon Uchida for overpayment on Dog License #1412.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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 September 12, 2019.

---

Michael Restel Administrator/Acting Clerk

REPORTS:

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated that the paving and milling on the select town roads were completed and line striping will be completed in the next two or three weeks. Mr. Restel explained that he sat down with Wantage Township Court Administrator and went through some old ordinances and will be submitting some requests to the attorneys for review. Mr. Restel stated the LED outdoor sign will be shipped to Wantage in about 3 weeks. Mr. Restel asked for volunteers for Wantage Day on September 28<sup>th</sup> at Woodbourne Park. Mr. Restel explained the meeting with P S and Sons to review Soil Samples and understand how the process works and what to look for.

Attorney: Mr. Karp advised that the JIF appointed Dick Cushing to represent the Township for the When Pigs Fly matter and that Glenn Keinz will be meeting with Mr. Cushing shortly to bring him up to date.

Mayors Report: Mayor Bassani recently met with the Elks and they are currently putting forth effort to get the Mobile Vietnam Wall come to Wantage in 2020, there are some cost to this project. The wall is 126 feet long and Wantage would need to build the foundation for it. The timeframe for the wall will be September 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> 2020 in Woodbourne Park it will be lit and policed for entire time frame. The Elks are looking for a thumbs up to proceed and be agreement to support this, all agreed to proceed with it. Mayor Bassani explained that Mike and I met with the union and will be discussing it further in Executive Session. Mayor Bassani and Mr. Restel met with New Jersey Department of Transportation by the Double S diner to discuss that project and NJDOT explained the issue with the Project delay and should be completed Fall of 2020, it was discussed to re align the barriers in two sections the parking lot and on 23. Mayor Bassani spoke about the Wantage 5K on September 21 and the Fall Festival is September 28<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Bassani spoke about letter received from Congressman Gotthierner about some programs available for our Dairy Farmers and a letter was sent out referencing the program. Mayor Bassani explained the issue at 401 Pidgeon Hill and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has issued a stop working warning letter on the property because of the amount of soil imported. Mayor Bassani stated that he can confirm that the Property Owners are in the process in preparing the plan for both removal and soil clean up. Mayor Bassani spoke about a letter received from Congressman Gottheimer stating about a meeting in Washington DC on September 29<sup>th</sup> in reference to grants that are available to his constituents. Mayor Bassani stated Sussex County Day is this weekend September 14<sup>th</sup> at the fairgrounds. Mayor Bassani stated open Space received our check for \$314,374.51 payback for Berry Road Project and if you have any suggestions please stop by the Suggestion Box at Wantage Day.

Deputy Mayor Jon Morris: Mr. Morris stated he would like to propose moving forward with hiring a Part Time Zoning Officer, Mayor Bassani agreed and we will be discussing it in Executive Session.

Mayor Bassani gave the authority for Mr. Restel to move forward with purchasing and placing road signs at all entry points into Wantage stating our Soil Importation Ordinance.

Committeemen William Gaechter: Mr. Gaechter stated he had a minor change in the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting that needed to be changed, where it states Historical Markers its supposed to be Historical Designation. Mr. Gaechter spoke to Nancy Vanderberg and she informed Mr. Gaechter that the program is handled by the County and the cost of the sign is about \$2,800, the County did have money but unfortunately there were two other sites in two other towns and for some other reason those two other sites received money and Wantage did not receive so much. Mr. Gaechter advised Mr. Restel to reach out to the County Freeholders or find a way to fundraise to help. Mr. Gaechter

stated what is the sense of having of having Historical Designation if we don't have the Marker.

MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Bassani stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Meeting August 8, 2019.

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

Mr. Gaechter asked for a minor change in the minutes.

Upon Roll Call:

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

ORDINANCES:

A Motion is in Order to Adopt Ordinance #08-2019 ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FOR THE YEAR 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

\_\_A Motion is in order to Adopt Ordinance #09-2019 AN ORIDINANCE OF THE WANTAGE TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING SECTION 8-2.1 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE" AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW SECTION 8-2.1 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE ENTITLED "PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE".

Township Attorney Louis Karp explained the Property Maintenance Ordinance regulates how properties are maintained and the old Ordinance used the guidelines of the International Code.

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

Public Comment:

Kathy Gorman Fernwood Road: Mrs. Gorman agrees with Mr. Morris that we need someone soon and asked who she should contact if there's an issue, Mayor Bassani responded with either Mr. Restel or the Zoning Officer.

John Difiliy 403 Pidgeon Hill: Mr. Difiliy would like to propose the prohibition of storing of chunks of wood piled up on the property and be properly disposed of. Mayor Bassani requested that Mr. Restel look at that with the Attorney

Upon Roll Call:

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

Open Public Session:

Kathy Gorman Fernwood Road: Mrs. Gorman spoke about the issue last year and the Trick O Treaters in Northfield Estates about the way the cars were parked. Mrs. Gorman mentioned the new website and asked the town to add historical attractions to it, put something about the picnic tables at Woodbourne Park to let other groups know about them and mention Lake Neepaulin. Mrs. Gorman mentioned the status about Lake Neepaulin pool and further discussion will be looked into. Mrs. Gorman spoke about an issue, during the Open Space Meeting mentioned about a dump site on Roy road would be a great rateable for Wantage and Mrs. Gorman expressed her disgust about the issue. Mayor Bassani mentioned the need for Recreation Department.

William LaSalla Rose Morrow Road: Mr. Lasalla commended the Road Department for their Job well done behind his house on a project they were doing. Mr. LaSalla spoke about what the outcome of Wantage School Road and explained his displeasure about the project. Mayor Bassani stated he would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Lasalla to discuss the issues. Mr. LaSalla explained the process of paving the road the proper way.

Dan Veit Jr 1273 Route 23: Mr. Veit spoke about Ordinance #2019-06 and would to have it put back on the Agenda with modifications. Mayor Bassani asked Mr. Veit if he could email him with any suggestions.

Anne Smulewicz 108 Route 23: Mrs. Smulewicz mentioned about the noise in the middle of the night behind her property and nothing has changed. Mayor Bassani explained there were certain hours were put in place for the operation. Mrs. Smulewicz explained there is dust issues and noise issue. Mrs. Smulewicz spoke about the bills list and that our Engineer bills were almost \$30,000.

John Nuss Beemer Road: Mr. Nuss recommended Wantage setup something where a resident sees something we can respond.

William LaSalla Rose Morrow Road: Mr. LaSalla mentioned see something say something and Wantage should send a flyer. Mayor Bassani asked if Mr. LaSalla read the newsletter.

Mayor Bassani closed open Public Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Bassani request a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel, Contract Negotiating & Shared Services. Mr. Karp read Resolution #108-2019 into the record. Mayor Bassani mentioned we may be taken action after Executive Session.

Entered Executive Session 7:57pm

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

**RESOLUTION #108-2019**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION SEPTEMBER 12, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Wantage is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, provides that an Executive Session, not open to the public, may be held for certain specific purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b and designated below:

- (1) Personnel
- (2) Contract Negotiation – Blue Collar Union
- (3) Shared Services

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, assembled in public session on September 12, 2019, that an Executive Session closed to the public shall be held on September 12, 2019, at        PM in the Township of Wantage Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, NJ, for the discussion of matters relating to the specific item designated above.

It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Township Committee that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

**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 September 12, 2018.

Michael L Restel, Administrator/ Acting Clerk

Mayor Bassani resumed the meeting at 9:15pm

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to move forward with interviewing for a Part -Time Zoning Officer.

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 Adjourn

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

Adjourned 9:16PM