

**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 26, 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 Glenn Kienz.

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 #109-2019 through Resolution #113-2019.

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE CERTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT

WANTAGE TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION #109-2019

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, The Annual Report of Audit for the year 2018 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to local fiscal affairs, as per R.S. 52:27BB-34, and

WHEREAS, The Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

General Comments; Recommendations

and,

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

General Comments; Recommendations

as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body, and

WHEREAS, Such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, All members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board, and

WHEREAS, Failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52, "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of WANTAGE, hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2019.

Michael Restel, Acting Municipal Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
CERTIFICATION OF GOVERNING BODY OF THE ANNUAL AUDIT
GROUP AFFIDAVIT FORM
NO PHOTO COPIES OF SIGNATURES

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF SUSSEX

We, members of the governing body of the Township of WANTAGE, in the County of Sussex, being duly sworn according to law, upon our oath depose and say:

1. We are duly elected members of the Township Committee of the Township of WANTAGE in the county of Sussex;
2. In the performance of our duties, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, we have familiarized ourselves with the contents of the Annual Municipal Audit filed with the Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-6 for the year 2018;
3. We certify that we have personally reviewed and are familiar with, as a minimum, the sections of the Annual Report of Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations."

Ron Bassani, Mayor (L.S.)

Jon Morris, Committeeman (L.S.)

William Gaechter, Committeeman (L.S.)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
_____ day of _____

Notary Public of New Jersey

Notary Public

The Municipal Clerk shall set forth the reason for the absence of signature of any members of the governing body.

IMPORTANT: This certificate must be sent to the Bureau of Financial Regulation and Assistance, Division of Local Government Services, P.O. Box 803, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, SUSSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN – 2018 ANNUAL AUDIT

WANTAGE RESOLUTION#110-2019

Finding - Finance

The Analysis of General Capital Fund Cash includes a cash deficit for an Ordinance over 5 years old.

Response

A capital ordinance in 2003 was partially funded by a Grant from the NJ DOT. When permanent financing was undertaken, bonds were not issued. Further investigation showed the final amount expended for the project exceeded the amount of the grant and should have been funded. Since the ordinance is over 10 years old, it can only be funded as a deferred charge to future taxation in future years.

Corrective Action

A deferred charge to future taxation will be raised in all budgets starting in 2020 until the \$140,000 deficit is fully funded.

Effective

January 1, 2020

Finding – Municipal Court

Tickets assigned but not issued over 181 days be reassigned or voided.

Response

Tickets assigned but not issued will be reassigned or voided within 181 days.

Effective

September 26, 2019

Submitted by: Michelle LaStarza

Chief Financial Officer

September 12, 2019

Cc: Division of Local Government Services

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION #111-2019

**AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR TAX COLLECTION SERVICE
WITH ANDOVER BOROUGH**

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage and the Borough of Andover wish to enter into a Shared Service Agreement for Tax Collection services; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the proposed agreement, effective January 1, 2019, are to provide Tax Collection service to the Borough of Andover; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq. permits municipalities to enter into a local service agreement for the sharing of services and expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to execute a Shared Service Agreement between the Township of Wantage and the Borough of Andover for Tax Collection services for 5 years, starting January 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Andover.

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 26, 2019 in the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey.

Michael L Restel CPWM Administrator/Acting Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #112-2019**

**AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR CFO SERVICE WITH
ANDOVER BOROUGH**

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage and the Borough of Andover wish to enter into a Shared Service Agreement for CFO services; and

WHEREAS, the terms of the proposed agreement, effective January 1, 2019, are to provide CFO service to the Borough of Andover; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq. permits municipalities to enter into a local service agreement for the sharing of services and expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to execute a Shared Service Agreement between the Township of Wantage and the Borough of Andover for CFO services for 5 years, starting January 1, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Mayor and Clerk of the Borough of Andover.

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 26, 2019 in the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey.

Michael L Restel CPWM Administrator/Acting Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #113-2019**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF TAXES
ON BLOCK 132 LOT 1.01 &
BLOCK 132 LOT 1.01 QUALIFIER QFARM**

WHEREAS, Block 132 Lot 1.01 was purchased by Township of Wantage on May 22, 2019,

WHEREAS, taxable property acquired by a municipality is exempt immediately upon acquisition as per N.J.S.A.54:4-3.3.

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor has changed the property class to 15C (Exempt Property) and will remove the QFARM Qualifier for the tax year 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, does hereby authorize the cancellation of taxes for the remainder of 2019 as follows:

Block 132 Lot 1.01 in the amount of \$6,032.66.
Block 132 Lot 1.01 Qualifier QFARM \$270.78.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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 26, 2019.

Michael Restel, Administrator/Acting Clerk

Reports:

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel spoke about the Irrigation System installed at Woodbourne park and will be tested shortly. Mr. Restel mentioned there was a good turnout for the 5K around 135 participants. Mr. Restel explained an interesting email pertaining to someone looking for a birth certificate from 1855.

Attorney: Mr. Keinz explained that the NJHIF will be appointing Richard Cushing as the Attorney to represent Wantage Township for pending litigation.

Mayor and Committee: Deputy Mayor Jon Morris spoke about the 5K and the great turnout for the event.

Committeeman William Gaechter: No report

Mayor Bassani stated he attended the September 23rd Open Space Meeting and at Wantage day their will be a Suggestion ox for the Berry Road Property.

Mayor Bassani spoke about meeting with the Voza Agency and DPW to discuss new insurance plans.

Mayor Bassani spoke about attending the Sussex Wantage Chamber of Commerce Meeting on September 11th.

Mayor Bassani and Mr. Restel met with Mr. William Lasalla to discuss issues with Wantage Township roads.

Mayor Bassani spoke about a meeting with the OEM, Mr. Restel and Representatives from Vernon Township to discuss shared services.

Mayor Bassani spoke about attending the recreation Meeting.

MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Bassani stated a motion is in order to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Meeting September 12, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes for August 8, 2019 and September 12, 2019.

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

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Open Public Session:

Anne Smulewicz Route 23: Mrs. Smulewicz thanked mayor Bassani for all his hard work and being present at events.

Mrs. Smulewicz expressed her concerns about her Cable bill through Service Electric and would like the Township to reach out.

Mrs. Smulewicz spoke about the Enterprise Zone and would like to see Wantage Township be a part of it.

Alex Rubin Wantage Township Fire Chief: Mr. Rubin spoke about a grant that was received for Colesville Fire Department. Justin Vander Groef explained that the Fire Department will receive \$87,595 for a compressor station.

William LaSalla 123 Rose Morrow Rd: Mr. LaSalla spoke about issues he sees in Wantage pertaining to road resurfacing, discussion ensued.

Mr. LaSalla spoke about who would be responsible to repair the issues and who is going to repay it, Mr. LaSalla asked if there was a 5-year performance bond on the mentioned roads. Discussion ensued.

Paula Ashfield 1243 Route 23: Mrs., Ashfield asked there was an update on the Bird Ordinance presented a couple meetings and discussion ensued.

Mrs. Ashfield spoke about the dog park issues and what we can do to move forward. Mrs. Ashfield would like to see possibly a check in station when entering the park. Mayor Bassani spoke to Mrs. Ashfield an Mr., Langan to speak to each other and try to work it out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A Motion is in Order to approve Resolution#114-2019 Authorizing the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations, Personnel and Shared Services. Attorney Glenn Keinz read into record the Executive Session Resolution. Executive session started at 7:30PM

Mayor and Committee return to Business at 8:28pm

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Wantage Township to enter into a contract with Sussex County Dispatch for 911 Services.

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

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

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Mr. Gary Marrigiotta as a new member to the Recreation Committee.

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

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. Gaechter and seconded by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Meeting Adjourned 8:29PM

Respectfully Submitted

Michael L Restel CPWM,
Administrator/Acting Clerk

