

**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
December 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."

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve Resolution #138-2019 through Resolution #146-2019. With the Removal of PO 16593 for Bassani Power Equipment in the Amount of \$95.00

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 payment of PO# 16593 to Bassani Power Equipment in the amount of \$95.00

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

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

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE

RESOLUTION 138-2019

AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on property known as Block 17 Lot 14 a Tax Lien was struck off to Wantage Township on December 3, 2018;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has received the funds necessary to redeem this certificate.

WHEREAS, the cancellation of the certificate requires the original signatures of the Clerk and Mayor and be affixed with the Municipal Seal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage that the Mayor and Clerk endorse the back of the original certificate and the Municipal Seal be affixed to same.

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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 December 12, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_

Michael Restel, Administrator/Acting Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

**RESOLUTION #139-2019**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, The Township Council 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 therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council further recognizes 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 Township Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Sussex;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Township Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Sussex/Wantage Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2021 in the amount of:

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| DEDR       | \$10,905.00 |
| Cash Match | \$ 2,726.00 |
| In-Kind    | \$ 8,179.00 |

The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Name), Mayor*

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Michael L Restel, Acting Township Clerk of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Township Council on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Michael Restel, Administrator/Acting Municipal Clerk*

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

**RESOLUTION #140-2019**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AS FINAL AND COMPLETE MILLING AND PAVING,  
RYAN ROAD, CENTRAL SCHOOL ROAD- SECTION I AND SHERMAN RIDGE ROAD.**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Wantage awarded a contract the milling and paving of Sherman Ridge Road, Ryan Road and Central School Road Section 1, on November 4, 2019 to Tilcon New York, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Engineer, Harold E. Pellow, of Harold E. Pellow & Associates, recommends in his letter dated November 4, 2019, that the project be accepted as final and complete for the milling and paving, line striping Ryan Road, Central School Road Section 1 and Sherman Ridge.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex that it hereby accepts the milling and paving, for Sherman Ridge Road, Ryan Road, Central School Section 1 as final and complete.

**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 December 12, 2019 in the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael L Restel Administrator/Acting Clerk

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

**RESOLUTION #141-2019**

**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.



**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE  
RESOLUTION #143-2019  
AUTHORIZING REFUND**

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

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

\$17,915.23 to US Bank for Block 59 Lot 57, 4 Warren Lane, for tax sale certificate #2017-010.

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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 December 12, 2019.

Michael Restel, Acting Clerk/Administrator

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #144-2019
AUTHORIZING REFUND**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse water sewer collections due Sussex Borough resulting from the 2018 tax sale.

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

\$638.00 to Sussex Borough for Block 44 Lot 29, 711 Route 23, for Water/Sewer collected at Tax Sale.

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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 December 12, 2019.

Michael Restel, Acting Clerk/Administrator

TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
RESOLUTION #145-2019
AUTHORIZING REFUND

WHEREAS, the Land Use Secretary has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for completed land use application.

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

\$2,718.02 to Charles Meissner for Block 117 Lot 34 for completed land use application L-19-01.

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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 December 12, 2019.

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Michael Restel, Acting Clerk/Administrator

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE**

**RESOLUTION #146-2019**

**AUTHORIZING REFUND**

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Collector has recommended the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage reimburse funds for a tax lien redemption and premium.

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

\$4,563.02 to US Bank for Block 112.01 Lot 39, 18 Fernwood Road, for tax sale certificate #2019-014.

\$8,500.00 to US Bank for Block 112.01 Lot 39, 18 Fernwood Road, for tax sale premium, tax certificate #2019-014.

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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 December 12, 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Restel, Acting Clerk/Administrator

**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 December 12, 2019 in the Wantage Township Municipal Building, 888 Route 23, Wantage, New Jersey.

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Michael L Restel Acting Clerk/Administrator

## **REPORTS:**

Administrator/Acting Clerk: Mr. Restel Thanked Wantage Township DPW for their Hard work throughout the past Snowstorm and also Thanked all the Utility workers as well.

Mr. Restel spoke about RER Compost facility and all the odor complaints. Mr. Restel advised that he has been in contact with NJDEP and Sussex County Health Department.

Attorney: Mr. Glenn Keinz spoke a Litigation case that will be discussed in Executive Session.

Mayors Report: Mayor Bassani stated the transition for the new County 911 dispatch went well and Wantage is working on the Antenna issue which will be resolved shortly. Mayor Bassani stated the County agreed to reprogram all the radios and discussion ensued.

Mayor Bassani stated that letters of appreciation will be sent on behalf of Wantage Township thanking all the departments that were at the Dry Cleaner Fire.

Mayor Bassani stated he has accepted the Land Use Chairman's resignation and Mr. Ron Slate will not be seeking another term to land use. Mayor Bassani stated these two gentlemen have been very good for the Board and will be missed.

Mayor Bassani spoke about the Traveling Vietnam Wall.

Mayor Bassani stated the Wantage Tree Lighting was successful once again.

May Bassani stated Open Space is looking at other properties in Wantage to possibly purchase.

Mayor Bassani thanked all the people that participated in the Open Public Meeting for Berry Road Project.

Mayor Bassani congratulated himself and Mr. Chuck Meissner on passing the Land Use class required for Land Use Members pass within 18 months of appointment. Mayor Bassani recommended all Land Use members retake the course, discussion ensued.

Mayor Bassani spoke about the possibility of getting a blast messaging system.

Deputy Mayor: Mr. Morris Thanked everyone for their hard work for the tree lighting

Mr. Morris Thanked the DPW, First Responders and Utility companies for their hard work during the recent snow storm.

Mr. Morris thanked all the local volunteers for all they have done this year for Wantage Township.

Committeeman William Gaechter: Mr. Gaechter asked the attorney if there was a Statue to take the Land Use class, discussion ensued.

Mr. Gaechter stated the Wantage Christmas tree looked great.

Mr. Gaechter stated he spoke to Mr. Joe Konopinski Wantage Township OEM about the lack of Communication with Sussex Rural and their Outage Map. Mr. Gaechter stated he spoke to Mr. Chris Reese CEO of Sussex Rural and that a better plan is needed.

Mr. Gaechter asked Mr. Restel to find out who's responsibility it was to remove a tree dangling in the Power Lines on Wantage School Road.

#### MEETING MINUTES:

Mayor Bassani requested a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Committee Meeting November 14, 2019 and executive Session Minutes on November 14, 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

#### OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:

Kathy Gorman Fernwood Road: Mrs. Gorman spoke about Shared Service Animal Control and the situation in Lafayette, discussion ensued.

Mrs. Gorman spoke about an email sent to the committee pertaining to the Land Use issue.

William LaSalla 123 Rose Morrow Road: Mr. LaSalla asked if there was an update for Wantage School Road. Mayor Bassani stated there is a meeting set up with the Engineer, discussion ensued.

Bill DeBoer Beemer Road: Mr. DeBoer would like Wantage Township to send a letter of Appreciation to the New Jersey State Police for their efforts during a 911 call where a Trooper entered through a basement window to gain entrance into a house.

Eric Schlueter 17 Bridle Way: Mr. Schlueter spoke about the numerous issues with Tilcon and the way his road was paved. Mr. Schlueter spoke about a meeting with Tilcon in November and what was discussed pertaining to repairing the curb damage in his development, discussion ensued.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A Motion is in Order to approve Resolution#147-2019 Authorizing the Township Committee to go into Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations, Personnel and Shared Services. Attorney Glenn Kienz read into record the Executive Session Resolution. Executive session started at 7:48PM

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 return from executive session at 8:16pm.

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

**RESOLUTION 148-2019:** Approving the Memorandum of Agreement Between the Township of Wantage and the united Public Service Employees Union-Wantage Township Department of Public Works.

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

**ORDINANCE:**

A motion is in order to Introduce Ordinance 2019-10 "Amendment to Salary Ordinance Fixing Salaries of Employees of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey for the year of 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 adjourn. Mr. Gaechter made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Morris.

Upon Roll:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael L Restel Administrator/Acting Clerk