

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF WANTAGE, HELD VIA VIRTUAL MEETING 7:00 P.M. ON  
July 16, 2020**

Mayor Morris 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 Morris and Committeeman Ronald Bassani. Also, present: Administrator/Clerk Michael Restel, and Mr. Glenn Kienz, Esq. Deputy Mayor Bill Gaechter was Absent

Mayor Morris 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 Morris requested a motion to approve Resolution #58-2020-#60-2020

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Bassani Power Payment was pushed to August 20<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Committee Meeting.

Mayor Morris requested a motion to approve Resolution #61-2020 accepting the resignation of a Township employee October 1, 2020

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll Call:

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

Mayor Express his gratitude to Michelle LaStarza Wantage CFO for her hard work and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

REPORTS:

Administrator/Clerk: Mr. Restel stated road repair has begun on Coykendall Road, Phase 1 is drainage, Phase 2 Squaring the road and Phase 3 is final paving, the project should be completed in 3-4 weeks.

Mr. Restel stated the Primary election results are not final and should be done within the next couple days.

Mr. Restel stated Wantage in conjunction with Mohawk House and Franklin Sussex Auto mall did a food drive for Wantage Families in need.

Attorneys Report: Mr. Kienz spoke Sussex Airport issues that have occurred over the past month.

Mr. Kienz spoke about the High Point High School Budget and his firm has filed more paperwork to the State for the Petition of Appeal, Mr. Kienz stated Sussex Borough has been a big player and thanked the 4 out 5 towns for their cooperation.

Mr. Kienz spoke about the Mid Atlantic Salt COOP lawsuit the decision should be handed down shortly.

#### Mayors Report:

Mayor Morris stated 2020 has been a very interesting year and is glad to see everyone who attended the in-person meeting.

Mayor Morris stated he attended the Food Drive and handed out a few meals, Mayor Morris stated Wantage will do this again in the future.

Committeeman Bassani: Mr. Bassani spoke about attending the virtual Sussex Wantage Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Mr. Bassani spoke about the High Point Regional High School Budget Matter is moving forward and awaiting a decision. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bassani stated himself as well attended the Wantage Food Drive and about 15 cars showed up at the beginning than faded as time went on, Mr. Bassani stated the left-over meals did not go to waste and were donated to a Charity.

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion is in order to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2020 Mayor and Committee Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and seconded by Mayor Morris.

#### Upon Roll Call:

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

## **ORDINANCE**

A motion to Adopt Ordinance #07-2020 Authorizing and Directing that Title and Possession of a Portion of certain real property located in lots 8,9 and 10 Block 21 as set forth on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Wantage shall be acquired by Purchase and Gift.

A motion was made by Mr. Bassani and Seconded by Mayor Morris.

Mayor Morris opened the meeting to the public.

No one from the Public spoke.

Mayor Morris closed the meeting to the Public

Upon Roll Call:

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

## **OPEN PUBLIC SESSION:**

Walter Drag Linquenda Drive: Mr. Drag asked the question pertaining to why 14% increase for the High Point School Budget. Discussion Ensued.

Frank Rickenbaugh Sherman Ridge: Mr. Rickenbaugh asked about the High Point High School Budget and the 14% increase, Mr. Rickenbaugh stated his love of living in Wantage due to the Committee keeping the municipal taxes low. Discussion Ensued.

Kathy Gorman Fernwood: Mrs. Gorman asked if Wantage fell short in Tax revenues what would Wantage need to do. Mayor Morris stated we would need to do a Tax Anticipation Note.

Mrs. Gorman asked if Wantage would be reviewing the Sussex Wantage School Budget, Mr. Restel stated the Budget has been sent to Mr. Kienz office for review, discussion ensued.

Mrs. Gorman asked a question pertaining to the Sussex Wantage Shoprite, Mr. Restel stated the NJDOT permitting Division is on Furlough until August 1st.

Mrs. Gorman asked what's the status of the minutes amendment for the May 28<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Committee Meeting. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. Gorman state she would like to know if the property on Route 23 belonging to Mr. Bicsak has approval do to do the work that currently going on.

Steve Cruz 990 Greenville Road: Mr. Cruz expressed his frustration with Wantage Township for not responding fast enough to the vacant property next to his residence. Mr. Cruz

stated the sewer septic line runs across the street from his house and now is deteriorating discussion ensued.

Mayor Morris closed the meeting to the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Morris requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bassani made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mayor Morris.

Upon Roll:

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:35PM

Respectfully submitted by

Michael L Restel

Administrator/Acting Clerk