

**TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 5, 2015**

A meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held at the Knowlton Municipal Building. Present were Township Committee Members Rene Mathez, Kathy Cuntala, and Adele Starrs. The minutes were recorded by Municipal Clerk Lisa Patton.

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by publishing notice of all regularly scheduled meetings in the Star Gazette, Star Ledger or Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk's office.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag and roll call.

SWEARING IN OF TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Committeewoman Shipps was sworn into office by the municipal clerk.

NOMINATION OF MAYOR:

A motion was made by Committeewoman Shipps and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to nominate Adele Starrs as Mayor for 2015. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber – absent, Shipps – yes, Starrs – yes.

There were no other nominations. Mayor Starrs was sworn into office by the municipal clerk.

NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR:

A motion was made by Mayor Starrs and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to nominate Kathy Cuntala as Deputy Mayor. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber - absent – yes, Shipps – yes, Starrs – yes.

There were no other nominations. Deputy Mayor Cuntala was sworn into office by the municipal clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve the December 29, 2014 Township Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber – absent, Shipps – yes, Starrs – yes.

RESOLUTIONS:

**Resolution 15-01
Resolution Adopting Annual Meeting Calendar
(copy attached)**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to approve Resolution 15-01. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala - yes, Farber - absent, Shipps – yes, Starrs - yes.

**Resolution 15-02
Resolution Approving Compensated Appointments
(copy attached)**

Mayor Starrs suggested that the recycling coordinator position be offered to the environmental commission chair. A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve Resolution 15-02. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber – absent, Shipps – yes, Starrs – yes.

Resolution 15-03
Resolution Approving Non-Compensated Appointments
(copy attached)

Mayor Starrs suggested that Resolution 15-03 be tabled. Township Committee members present were in agreement.

Resolution 15-04
Resolution Approving Temporary Municipal Budget
And Temporary Wastewater Utility Budget
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve Resolution 15-04. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala - yes, Farber – absent, Shipps- yes, Starrs - yes.

Resolution 15-13
Resolution Approving Consent Agenda
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve Resolution 15-13. Roll Call: Mathez- yes, Cuntala -yes, Farber - absent, Shipps - yes, Starrs - yes.

Resolution 15-05
Resolution Establishing Rules Of Conduct Of Order For Knowlton Township Meetings
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-06
Resolution Authorizing Imposition Of Additional Penalties For Tax Delinquencies In Excess Of Ten Thousand Dollars And Setting Interest Rates For Delinquent Taxes
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-07
Resolution Designating A Cash Management Plan
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-08
Resolution Authorizing The Assessor And Attorney To File Corrective Appeals And Stipulations With The Warren County Board Of Taxation
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-09
Resolution Authorizing Assessor And Attorney (or Special Counsel) To File And Prosecute Municipal Tax Appeals And Municipal Roll Back Tax Complaints
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-10
Resolution Instituting A Fee For Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-11
Resolution Designating Authorized Signatures
(copy attached)

Resolution 15-12
Resolution Designating Newspapers For Receipt Of Open Public Meeting Notices
(copy attached)

OLD BUSINESS:

Fire Official

Glenn Wilson, retired fire official introduced Jim McAleer as a candidate for the fire official position. Mr. McAleer reviewed his employment history, He explained that quarterly state reimbursements compensate for the fire official salary. Discussion took place regarding business and residential false alarms.

A motion was made by Mayor Starrs to appoint Mr. McAleer at the 2014 fire official salary rate. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber – absent, Shipps – yes, Starrs – yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 Budget

Mayor Starrs stated that the CFO will meet with department heads on January 13, 2015 at 10:00 am.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

George Trongone, Polkville Road, inquired about the status of the Station Road Bridge. Township Committee members explained the project was expected to be completed in December. It is anticipated that the bridge will be open in January.

Mr. Trongone also stated that with all the money and resources spent on the Route 80 weigh station, it is rarely open. Committeeman Mathez stated the project was poorly planned. Mayor Starrs noted that the court administrator will provide a weigh station revenue report at a budget meeting.

Matt Capano, Vail Road, stated he is a 16 year resident of the Township. He owns a 3.5 acre undeveloped lot which fell into tax arrears of \$14,931.50 due to economic hardship. He learned that the Township took a tax lien and he now owes \$23,998.62 due to the 18% interest rate.

Mr. Capano said the 18% interest rate seems excessive. He explained that the Township is permitted by law to charge 18%, but is not compelled to do so. He requested that the Township Committee reconsider Resolution 15-06. He also requested that the Township Committee review this case and adjust the interest rate to a more reasonable amount. Township Committee members present said they will confer with the tax collector.

Committeewoman Shipps stated residents should be notified if their property is on the tax sale list. This will also be discussed with the tax collector.

Committeewoman Shipps also reported that Poppy's Court road is in need of repair. Mayor Starrs stated that the engineer and DPW supervisor will provide a priority list for road repairs.

Tracy Allen, Poppy's Court, stated hazardous pot holes on Station Road and Poppy's Court cannot be avoided.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Patton
Municipal Clerk