

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

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

May 28, 2015

A regular meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held at the Knowlton Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Starrs, Deputy Mayor Cuntala and Township Committee Member Mathez and Farber. Also present was Ted Rodman, Township Engineer. The minutes were recorded by Lisa Patton, Municipal Clerk.

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 by Mayor Starrs at 7:00 pm with a salute to the flag and roll call.

PRESENTATION:

Sam Milron, Simpson Road Project

Mr. Milron provided a status report of the Simpson Road project. The project includes an 11,000 square foot building with gas station, food court or convenience store. He expects to apply for a building permit in the next few weeks. Mr. Milron stated there will be no truck traffic allowed; it is a family destination.

Mr. Milron explained he acquired the adjacent lot to the project and inquired if the Township is interested in selling an adjoining triangular lot next to block 14, lot 2.

Discussion took place regarding sewer service hook up and fees. Engineer Rodman will follow up with Cerenzio & Panaro. Committeeman Mathez asked if Mr. Milron will manage the project after completion. Mr. Milron replied yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. and Mrs. More, Station Road, were present to review the history of complaints regarding graffiti on the Station Road viaduct. Mrs. More suggested the installation of bright lighting and shrubs planted in front of the viaduct to deter graffiti painters.

Mayor Starrs reported the viaduct is scheduled to be painted the first week in June. Trooper Benjamin, NJSP, suggested no trespassing signs should be posted for better enforcement. Mr. More suggested that plain clothes officer could patrol the area. Trooper Benjamin explained the detail would need prior approval; he will request a plain clothes detail to his supervisors. Mayor Starrs suggested that troopers who are Knowlton Township residents could drive by the viaduct on their way to or from work.

Nick Brando, 51 Kill Road, suggested the installation of dummy cameras as a deterrent. Mr. Brando also requested the issue be addressed again in June for follow up. Engineer Rodman also suggested that motion lights could be installed with a dummy camera.

Committeeman Farber explained the viaduct is not Township property and should be maintained by the State. He suggested eliciting the assistance of legislators to address the issue. He also reviewed problems other than graffiti at the location: campfires, alcohol and drugs. He noted the location is advertised on websites such as Weird NJ. Mayor Starrs suggested the Township Attorney could write a letter to Weird NJ asking them to remove the location from their website.

Discussion took place regarding an ordinance allowing reimbursement to municipalities for maintenance costs on State property.

Bob More, 25 Station Road, stated it is difficult to address the illegal activity and allow hikers and fishermen access to the area.

Bob McNinch, Vail Road, suggested a parking restriction along that portion of Station Road from 8:00 pm to 6:00 am or appropriate time. Engineer Rodman will draft a parking ordinance. Mayor Starrs will notify the State Police when the ordinance is adopted.

Glen Chwan, 19 Station Road, suggested installing surveillance equipment. Deputy Mayor Cuntala asked if the cameras could be vandalized. Mr. Chwan suggested they could be put high enough to prevent vandalism.

Mayor Starrs will contact Paul Licitra, 24th Legislative District. She also stated the Township Committee will decide what further actions need to be taken. Engineer Rodman will meet with Committeeman Farber to determine signage needed at the site.

Trooper Benjamin also reviewed recent activity in Knowlton Township. He stated there have been approximately 230 traffic summonses issued month to date. There were eight indictable offenses and three DWIs. Two armed robbers at a Route 46 gas station were apprehended. An Illegal fireworks setter was also apprehended. The State Police are currently operating the Click It or Ticket program.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Joe Rossi, Zoning Officer

Mr. Rossi presented pictures of a vacant building next to the elementary school. He explained he can cite the owner for maintenance of an old tank, fencing and debris removal. Mr. Rossi stated he would like to review the maintenance ordinance and will provide Pohatcong's maintenance ordinance as a model.

Committeeman Mathez stated he is not enthused about maintenance ordinances as they can be abused. Mayor Starrs stated the ordinance could distinguish between residential and business maintenance.

Committeeman Farber stated the fence may be needed for playground boundaries. Mr. Rossi stated they would only have to repair or replace existing fencing.

Discussion took place regarding the number of non-household animals allowed. Mr. Rossi will provide a letter to a resident clarifying the number of horses allowed per acre. He will copy the Township Committee on the letter.

Mr. Rossi also reported the Gulf Gas Station on Route 46 is scheduled for the June Board of Adjustment meeting. Creditors for 23 Decatur Street are in the process of obtaining a demolition permit.

Ted Rodman, Township Engineer

Engineer Rodman reported he is waiting for information from the fire company to compile specifications for a refurbished fire truck. Mayor Starrs will follow up with Mike Bates, Fire Chief.

Discussion took place regarding the Frog Pond Road and Route 94 intersection. Engineer Rodman stated he gave recommendations in April and will check to determine if an ordinance change is necessary. He will also provide a memo advising the intersection of Hainesburg River Road and Stark Road should remain as is due to the fact that Hainesburg River Road is the through road.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 15-57
Resolution Approving Payment Of Vouchers
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Mayor Starrs and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve Resolution 15-57. Discussion took place regarding the T&R alarm invoice. The municipal clerk will contact T&R to determine if any negotiation can take place regarding new monitoring charges. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber – yes, Shipps – absent, Starrs – yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

PILT Payment

Mayor Starrs reported that municipal attorney is preparing a contract with Hardwick Township and Warren County for receipt of Payment In Lieu Of Taxes revenue. The amount will vary. It is expected to be \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00 yearly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Engine Braking

Committeeman Mathez will contact the Route 46 resident who requested no engine braking signs on the highway. The request should be made to NJDOT for signs on the state highway.

Guide Rail

The municipal clerk will draft a letter to NJDOT requesting guiderail at 612 Route 94.

Deputy Housing Liaison

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to appoint Christine Rolef as Deputy Housing Liaison. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Farber – yes, Shipps – absent, Starrs – yes.

New Jersey State Police

Mayor Starrs reported the State Police are requesting a \$250.00 - \$300.00 donation from each North Warren Municipality for surveillance cameras at the Hope Barracks. Township Committee members present were in agreement to make the donation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no further public comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm by Mayor Starrs. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Patton
Municipal Clerk
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