

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
August 23, 2018**

The monthly meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held on this date at the Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Starrs.

Mayor Starrs led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Starrs read the following statement: "This meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: P: 1975, Chapter 231, noting that notice of all regularly scheduled meetings has been published in the Star Gazette and/or the Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk's office."

Roll Call

Present: Deputy Mayor Cuntala, Committeeman McNinch, Committeeman Van Horn and Mayor Starrs

Absent: Committeewoman Shipps

Also present was Township Engineer Ted Rodman

PRESENTATION

2018-2019 North Warren Regional High School Budget—rescheduled for a later meeting

Beth Styler Barry--Nature Conservancy

Committeeman Van Horn left the room and returned when the presentation was over. Ms. Barry would like to put in a grant application to fund the educational or recreation activities in the area where Columbia Lake was. These are activities that a group of Knowlton residents planned and were approved by the Committee, that included a walking path, boat launch, photography blind. Ms. Barry presented a slideshow on the update for the Columbia Dam removal. The slideshow presented a graph of the river flow, which has been under normal levels until July. In the last few weeks it has been above average because of all the rain. There was also a look at one of the monitoring wells that was installed in order to monitor the wells that may be affected by the removal of the dam. Ms. Barry showed pictures that were taken by a drone which were before and after pictures after 6 feet of water was drained. The after pictures show the river flowing through its natural channels also areas for fishing and kayak docking.

The Committee agreed to provide a letter of support from the township for the grant that will be applied for.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jeff Milesky said that trees on his property by the river are gone. Gray sludge is showing up on the property and that there is flooding on his property and also commented about the surveyor who was on the property.

Ms. Barry said the flooding is because of high amount of recent rain and his home's location at the intersection of two rivers. The Nature Conservancy had a surveyor come and survey Mr. Milesky's land under their own expense because Mr. Milesky did not agree with the surveyor.

Resident Vince Gaeta wanted to let the committee know that he is not in favor closing the one end of the Decatur St. He would much rather see it be a one way.

Resident Karen Lund was happy to see that some of the recommendations that residents made for the Columbia dam are going to happen.

Resident Tom Devaney commented that tree fell across Knowlton Rd. and he would like to know who in the County they can call to take care of the tree. Mayor Starrs explained that they should call Warren County DPW Supervisor. Mr Devaney also said that there is an uprooted tree on Auble Rd. and who would be responsible for that. The tree is leaning on a CenturyLink wire. Mayor Starrs will call CenturyLink.

Resident William Clifford would like to know if they can get internet on Koeck Road. Mayor Starrs said Koeck Road has had Internet for several years. She knows some residents on Koeck Road who have it. Mayor Starrs suggested he call CenturyLink and ask to be hooked up.

Business owner Robert Van Wettering commented on a storm drain that is on his property on a county road. Mayor Starrs again suggested to call Warren County DPW Supervisor.

Vincent Gaeta also commented on a storm drain in front of his house on a county road.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Engineer Ted Rodman

Simpson Road problem statement— still no response.

Polkville Road—Mr. Rodman is coordinating with DPW Supervisor Brian Peck to get the millings and paving done on schedule.

Kill/Station Road—scheduled to be paved on October 8th.

Simpson Road project— still working on punch list.

Mr. Rodman has inspected all 30 of the lots the Township is considering for foreclosure. Mr. Rodman still needs to put a report together to present to the committee at a meeting that the Township Attorney is present.

RESOLUTIONS

2018-116- Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Letter Allowing T-Mobile to Perform Modification Work on a Cell Tower Pursuant to a Lease Agreement -

WHEREAS, the Township leases certain property located at 648 State Highway 94, Columbia, New Jersey to Omni point Communications, Inc. (now T-Mobile USA Tower, LLC) for the operation of a cell tower pursuant to a Lease Agreement date May 1, 1998;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 8© of the Lease Agreement dated May 1, 1998 between the T-Mobile (through CCTMO, LLC) has requested permission to perform modifications to the New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC'S cell tower equipment as set forth in a letter dated July 3, 2018 which is attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, T-Mobile has requested that the Township indicate its consent to such modifications being performed by signing the above-referenced letter; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposal and find that it does not conflict with the Lease Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton requested an audit in July 2018 by Crown Castle, the parent company of T-Mobile, to analyze whether rents paid for the cell tower are accurate; and

WHEREAS, the audit found the account to be balanced and rents to have been paid appropriately to Knowlton Township; and

WHEREAS, once the Township signs the above-referenced letter, T-Mobile must still apply for and receive engineering review, all applicable zoning permits, and all applicable building permits; and

WHEREAS, if equipment of a subtenant or co-locator is added to the cell tower, any such sublease agreement shall be subject to review by the Township Attorney.

NOW , THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that they Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the attached letter consenting to modification by T-Mobile of cell tower equipment at 648 State Highway 94, Columbia, New Jersey.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeeman McNinch and approved by an all-in-favor to Resolution 2018-116 contingent on a letter of approval from Township Engineer Ted Rodman.

2018-117- Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County, New Jersey, that all claims attached are hereby approved as reasonable and proper claims against the Township of Knowlton.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that approval for payment is hereby given to the Chief Financial Officer to pay said claims, subject to the availability of funds.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, second by Mayor Starrs and approved by a roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, McNinch—yes, Shipps—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2018-117.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposal to Close one end of Decatur Street

Mayor Starrs followed up with Fire & Rescue and they did not see any complications. The Post office was not in favor. Committee will discuss further after seeing how much resident support there is.

Municipal Building Repairs

Knowlton DPW does not have the equipment needed to make the repairs the outside of the building. Mayor Starrs had reached out to contractors to get quotes and is still waiting on a response.

Hearing impaired Devices for Municipal Building

Mayor Starrs had looked into seeing if there are any grants available to buy equipment to help the hearing impaired. In her research Mayor Starrs found none available. Individual hearing units can be purchased for about \$250.00. Committee agreed that individual unit could be purchased.

NEW BUSINESS

Employee Summer Luncheon

Committee approved to have the Employees to have a Summer luncheon in place of the Christmas luncheon.

CORRESPONDENCE

Sussex-Warren Area Energy Co-op Electric Auction. The current contract for the co-op is almost over and so the cooperative is going back out to auction to try and get a price better than JCP&L's.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, second by Committeeman McNinch and approved by an all-in-favor to authorize the Mayor to sign the authorization form for the Sussex -Warren Area Energy Co-op Electric Auction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Vincent Gaeta asked for an update regarding the node boxes from Verizon. Mayor Starrs said that right now it is in limbo because Verizon said they received mixed reviews from towns on the idea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor to go into Executive Session at 8:00pm.

Resolution 2018- 118 Authorizing an Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognized exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the N.J.S.A. 40:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Knowlton Township, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic (s) as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40:4-12:

A. Litigation Update

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee hereby declare that their discussion of the subject (s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Township Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Township or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to return to public session at 8:20.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, and carried to adjourn tonight's Township meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Shipps
Acting Municipal Clerk