

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 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 is a meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee. 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 and/or Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk's office."

Roll Call

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

Also present was Township Engineer Ted Rodman, Recreation Supervisor Dennis Lembeck, Emergency Management Officer Frank Makowski, Attorney Leslie Parikh, and shadowing Attorney Ben Valliere.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session: Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried by an all-in-favor at 7:01pm

RESOLUTION 2018-57-RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 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

B. Contract Negotiations

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, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor vote to come out of Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. and return to Regular Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Former Committeeman Rene Mathez asked the committee to consider paying Finelli Engineering partial payment for surveying services on the Conti open space farm project. He was informed that the Warren County Engineer may require revisions. Mr. Mathez and Committeeman McNinch will review the contract from Finelli as well as the comments that the Warren County Engineer may have.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved with a roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, McNinch—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes and Starrs--yes to approve half of the Conti Farm voucher.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Engineer Ted Rodman

NJDOT sent a formal reply to the Township's problem statement stating that they were not in favor of posting signs for no engine breaking on Route 46.

NJDOT has still not responded to the problem statement that was sent regarding trucks accessing Route 80 from Simpson Rd.

Hemlock Road Update— getting another engineer estimate for the improvements that are needed for Hemlock Rd.

Mr. Rodman will be taking a webinar for the SAGE program which is used to apply for grants through the state.

Dennis Lembeck - Recreation Supervisor

Mr. Lembeck is having a difficult time purchasing items for the Easter egg hunt due to the change of the audit policy. Mr. Lembeck is asking for help from the committee in order to resolve this matter. Committeewoman Shipps will speak with Township Auditor John Mooney.

Deputy Mayor Cuntala mentioned that KAA no longer has a baseball team because the organization that they were part of dissolved. All Knowlton Township baseball players will now play with North Warren Little League. Deputy Mayor Cuntala believes that insurance was paid by player for the KAA organization and will speak with Sharon Cooper to see if the township can be reimbursed.

RESOLUTIONS

2018-58- Contracting for Professional Services Without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A-11.1 Et Seq.)

WHEREAS, there exists a need for contracting for professional service for the calendar year 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the Resolution authorizing the awarding of contracts and appointments for Professional Services without competitive bidding must be publicly advertised with copies of these contracts available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk; and,

WHEREAS, the need for these services exists for Knowlton Municipal Court and for development of the overall program and guidance of the Township Committee for the betterment of the Township of Knowlton:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County, New Jersey, that pending Township Committee approval of 2018 contracts, the following persons be retained for the year:

Public Defender	Scott M. Wilhelm
	Donald Farino

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution and contract is available for public inspection in the office of the Municipal Clerk and that this resolution be published in the official newspaper as required by law.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by a roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, McNinch—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2018-58.

2018-59 -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, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, McNinch—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2018-59 with the exception of the Finelli voucher, which was approved to pay half of the voucher amount.

OLD BUSINESS

NJDOT Route 80 Rockwall Mitigation Update

Mayor Starrs said that there has been good progress regarding the Rockwall mitigation. There have been 6 newspaper articles. Sierra Club came out with a public press release-- they are against the Rockwall along Route 80. Mayor Starrs plans on attending the League of Municipalities Mayors'

Legislative Day to find members of the Transportation Committees to discuss this project with them. Deputy Mayor Cuntala showed a representative from Governor Murphy's office the Route 46 fence last weekend. Resident Pam Rusweiler's petition already has 1,200 signatures.

Speeding Washington Street

A resident contacted the Warren County Freeholders about speeding on Washington Street. The Freeholders then contacted some members of the 24th Legislative District who are asking Knowlton Township for a letter of support.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor to approve the letter that Mayor Starrs prepared to Senator Oroho's office.

Knowlton Township Pavilion at Tunnel Field

Deputy Mayor Cuntala asked if the committee would consider amending the Ordinance for Park Rental Fees, taking out all fees with the exception of the Pavilion fee, and reducing that to \$100, which is less than what was charged in the past. The amended ordinance will be put on the agenda at the next township meeting for Introduction.

NEW BUSINESS

Winter Storm After Action Review

Frank Makowski stated that there were multiple trees down. DPW did a great job on getting to the trees that they could that did not involve any wires. Fire Dept. also cut trees. There was an emergency management meeting everyday in Blairstown with Blairstown, Knowlton, Hardwick, and Hope. North Warren Regional High School was used for a warming station for food and hot showers. Knowlton Fire & Rescue also had their building open if anyone wanted to keep warm or even charge cell phones. Knowlton is preparing a preliminary damage assessment to send to Warren County to submit to the State. Mike Mulligan and Dan Jasinski from Knowlton Fire & Rescue were also present. They thought things went well. The only difficulty thing they encountered was road closures and not knowing which became open and which were still closed. DPW Supervisor Brian Peck was not present at the meeting but he had sent a list of comments to the Mayor. Some of Mr. Peck's thoughts were that JCP&L did not communicate what lines were safe. DPW should be involved in all OEM meetings from the beginning. Mr. Peck also asked if the township to look at the policy or ordinance for abandoned vehicles. Attorney Parikh will look into broadening the ordinance to include allowing the State Police or a designee to order removal of abandoned vehicles.

Everyone agreed that there was a communication barrier within JCP&L. Mayor Starrs also had a concern regarding gas stations not having generators. Several suggestions were made on how to improve this problem. Engineer Ted Rodman will ask the gas stations before the other Township boards to volunteer to purchase generators. Mayor Starrs will ask the Committee to discuss the issue again if that is not successful.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by a all-in-favor to have Township Engineer Ted Rodman recommend to any gas stations applications that come before the other Township boards to install a generator.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor to have all township employees enroll in Nixle so they get up-to-date information.

27 Washington Street—tabled until next meeting

League of Municipalities Mayors' Legislative Day on March 14—Mayor Starrs will be attending

High School Student Shadowing—Mayor Starrs had a request from a North Warren Regional High School Junior who would like to shadow her at committee meetings and other events.

CORRESPONDENCE—No Correspondence

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 12, 2018 Executive Session Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, second by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by an all-in-favor for the February 12, 2018 Executive Session Minutes

February 22, 2018 Executive Session Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, second by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by an all-in-favor for the February 22, 2018 Executive Session Minutes

February 22, 2018 Public Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, second by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by an all-in-favor for the February 22, 2018 Public Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jeff Milesky spoke about the existing train tracks at the viaduct and that he hears they are going to be reopened.

Resident Pam Rusweiler spoke to a gentleman who was not a Township resident and was asking about updating the boat ramp at Columbia Beach to allow larger boats. He was willing to update it himself if the township DPW was present. Committee did not think that it would be a good idea.

Resident Jeff Milesky mentioned about millings going down near the river. Committee agreed he should address the issue with the Zoning Officer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to go into Executive Session: Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried by an all-in-favor at 8:45pm

RESOLUTION 2018-61- RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 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

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Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor vote to come out of Executive Session at 9:01 p.m. and return to Regular Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, and carried to adjourn tonight's Township meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shipps
Acting Municipal Clerk