

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Public Session Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021**

The meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held on this date at the Knowlton Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey and 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 statements “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 *New Jersey Herald* and/or Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk’s office.”

Roll Call

Cuntala—yes, Mazza—absent, Shipp—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes.

Moment of Silence for Knowlton resident and September 11 first responder Bruce Reynolds. Committeeman Van Horn said a few words regarding first responder Bruce Reynolds

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Tara Mezzanotte updated the committee on the Warren County Commissioners’ actions regarding the NJTPA meeting. NJTPA did approve the TIP, and Commissioner Sarnoski abstained from voting, stating that unless he sees substantial results on the Route 80 Rockwall, he will not be voting yes.

Mrs. Mezzanotte also provided the committee with the number of traffic impacts along the “S” curves over a 9-week period June 26th – August 27,th which is 63 days total. Out of those 63 days only 31 days had no impacts. The other 32 days had some sort of event that caused traffic backups, usually caused by an accident.

Warren County is going to introduce a resolution to fix the “S” turns with the data that Mrs. Mezzanotte has provided.

ORDINANCE

Public Hearing/ Adoption:

2021-12- AN AMENDED ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF VARIOUS ROADS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNDING THEREOF

BE IT ORDAINED the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the following be properly authorized:

Improvements to Various Roads	-	\$ 85,000.00
Improvements to Mount Pleasant Road Section I		\$ 136,700.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the financing for the above is as follows:

RESERVE FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS \$ 85,000.00
DOT GRANT RECEIVABLE – Mount Pleasant Road \$ 136,700.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the period of usefulness of the improvements is in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Township for this improvement authorization.

The capital budget conforms with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full details of the Capital Budget and Capital Program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Municipal Clerk is available for public inspection.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Van Horn and carried to go into Public Hearing.

No public comments were made.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried go come out of Public Hearing.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—absent, Shipp—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes, to the adoption of Ordinance 2021-12.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-80 Renewal of Liquor License for 2021-2022.

WHEREAS, the following renewal application has been completed, the proper fees have been paid to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Township of Knowlton; and

WHEREAS, the licensee is qualified according to all statutory, regulatory and local government NJABC laws and regulation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, State of New Jersey approves the following NJABC liquor licenses renewal:

L' Auberg De France t/a Buckwood Bistro 2113-33-001-002

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approved Resolution 2021-80.

2021-83 A Resolution in Support of the Continued Enjoyment of the State's Waters for Drinking Water and Recreation Without Harm to Agriculture.

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township has approximately 3,055 residents, most of whom receive drinking water from underground aquifers; and

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township contains more than 48 miles of streams and rivers, including the Pequest River, the Paulins Kill, Stony Brook, Yards Creek, Delawanna Creek, Knowlton Creek, Honey

Run, Delaware Lake, and other waters which may be used for recreation, drinking water, agriculture, fish and wildlife habitat, and other purposes; and

WHEREAS, significant investments have been made for the acquisition of land for the public use and enjoyment, especially land with surface waters, through use of public funds by Knowlton Township and governmental and non-governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, clean water from streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters contribute to the municipality's scenic and aesthetic qualities, real estate and home values, and economic opportunities from recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the loss of good water quality in streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters can result in a loss of the municipality's scenic and aesthetic qualities, real estate and home values, and economic opportunities from recreation and tourism; and

WHEREAS, recreational uses have not been incorporated by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection into assessments for developing anti-degradation safeguards for discharges to surface waters; and

WHEREAS, the waters in streams and rivers are held in the public trust and recreation may occur on those waters, but the land underlying them may be owned privately or publicly, and trespass on private lands is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important activity, and no additional restriction or undue burden should be placed on agriculture with regard to water withdrawals, which are already regulated by the Water Supply Management Act, and

WHEREAS, residents rely on underground aquifers as their drinking water source; and

WHEREAS, underground aquifers can include porous rock formations, vulnerable to the mixing of contaminated surface and ground waters, such as carbonate bedrock; and

WHEREAS the presence of pollutants in a surface water or groundwater may inadvertently put drinking water aquifers at risk; and

WHEREAS, the additional costs associated with the treatment of degraded drinking water supplies can be a burden to homeowners, industry, and drinking water suppliers; and

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, that Knowlton Township encourages:

- 1) The Department of Environmental Protection to develop methods for identifying waters already utilized for recreational purposes to ensure water quality in these areas are not degraded

by new discharges; and

2) The Department of Environmental Protection to promote the protection of drinking water aquifers, including waters in carbonate rock areas; and

3) The Department of Environmental Protection to establish anti-degradation standards for small public water supply systems and waters in the Highlands Region to protect drinking water quality; and

4) The Department of Environmental Protection to preserve and enhance water quality by protecting headwater streams from disturbances; and

5) That any actions the Department of Environmental Protection may take in response to this resolution, be done so in consultation with the stakeholders, including municipalities and counties; and

6) That the state should provide adequate resources to ensure the public's access to state lands and waters.

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve Resolution 2021-83.

2021-84 -Refurbish Work on Tanker Truck

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton has the need to contract for Refurbish Work on Fire Tanker Truck; and

WHEREAS, the township received three (3) sealed bids on Tuesday August 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the lowest responsible and responsive bidder was Fire & Safety Services Ltd. of South Plainfield New Jersey with a base bid of \$101,211.89 and with Add Alternates Item # (1) Backup Camera \$2,965.00, Item (#2) Hose Wells at Pump Panel \$3,950.00 and Item (#3) 35 Foot Ladder \$2,620.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to award the Base Bid in the amount of \$101,211.89 with Add Alternates (#3) 35 Foot Ladder in the amount of \$2,620.00 for a total award of \$103,831.89;

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Township Fire & Rescue Company No.1 has supplied a Letter of Commitment in the amount of \$33,831.83 towards said Refurbishment;

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that the balance of funds is available thru Capital Ordinance 2021-08

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey enter into a contract with Fire & Safety Services Ltd. 200 Ryan Street South Plainfield, New Jersey 07080 in an amount not to exceed \$103,831.89 for the Proposed Refurbish Work on Fire Tanker Truck and Add Alternates # (3) 35 Foot Ladder.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—absent, Shipps—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2021-84.

2021-85 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 made by Cuntala, second by Van Horn and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—absent, Shipps—absent, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2021-85.

OLD BUSINESS

Hope Township group requesting again to ban trucks on Route 519

Mayor Starrs stated that Hope Township residents are requesting that the Warren County Commissioners ban trucks on Route 519 and is requesting that residents attend the Warren County Commissioners meeting on September 22, 2021, to voice their concerns.

At this time Deputy Mayor Shipps joined the meeting to vote for two resolutions. Deputy Mayor Shipps left the meeting immediate after voting.

2021-81 Resolution Approving New Jersey State Alcohol Beverage Control Special Affairs Permit for Lions Club Burns 5th Annual Car Show.

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Township Lions Club special affair permit application is complete in all respects, the proper fees have been paid to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Township of Knowlton; and,

WHEREAS, the licensees are qualified according to all statutory, regulatory and local governmental New Jersey Alcoholic Beverage Control laws and regulations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of Knowlton Township hereby approves NJABC special affair permit for the Knowlton Township Lions Club 5th Annual Car Show to be held on September 26, 2021 at Gary Grey Field located at 70 Route 46, Delaware, New Jersey.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to approve resolution 2021-81. Committeeman Van Horn abstained.

2021-82 Award Contract- Overlay of Alpine and Victoria Crossings Road.

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize various contracts for Overlay of Alpine and Victoria Crossing Roads; and

WHEREAS, South State, Inc. of Bridgeton, New Jersey has been awarded Contract #6. This has been awarded through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available thru Capital Ordinances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the Overlay of Alpine and Victoria Crossing Roads contract not to exceed \$125,000 be awarded to South State, Inc. 202 Reeves Road Bridgeton, New Jersey 08302.

Motion made by Van Horn, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—absent, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—abstain to Resolution 2021-82.

Weigh Station for Route 46

Discussion took place if there was a location in Knowlton Township along Route 46 for a weigh station. This could help decrease the number of trucks using Route 46 once the warehouses in White Township and Upper Mount Bethel are built. Due to the amount of land that is needed for a weigh station, it was decided that there is no space at this time.

Bruglar Road Pothole

Mayor Starrs stated that in June of this year, NJDOT told Knowlton Township that the pothole belongs to NJDEP. Mayor Starrs sent a letter to the NJDEP asking for an emergency closure of the spur of Bruglar Road. There has been no response from NJDEP yet.

Fall Community Clean up Date—It was stated that Knowlton Township's Community Clean Up will be on October 23, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Knowlton Roads Paving Date: October 5, 2021—Mayor Starrs stated that paving will occur October 5, 2021. Committeewoman Cuntala will work with DPW Supervisor Brian Peck to notify the schools.

CenturyLink Buyout—Lumina, which is a parent company of CenturyLink, has been bought out by Apollo Fund. Lumina is putting their application into the NJBPU. Mayor Starrs was contacted by CenturyLink management asking if Knowlton would be approaching with the NJBPU with any requests. As of now, no details have been released about the acquisition so it is unknown what questions or

requests should be asked.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Starrs received an email from Upper Mt. Bethel Supervisor John Bermingham asking if Knowlton wished to speak regarding a warehouse project in Upper Mt. Bethel and the impact it might have on Knowlton. Committee agreed to have Mayor Starrs to speak on behalf of the township.

Discussion took place regarding a request that Committeeman Frank Van Horn received to allow a rededication and improvement to the NJ State marker honoring the members of the 94th Infantry regiment of World War II. The rededication and improvement will be done by an Eagle Scout. Committee will pass a resolution at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tara Mezzanotte commented on the Upper Mount Bethel warehouse complex. Mrs. Mezzanotte stated that the Lehigh Valley planning commission produced a report on traffic impacts on warehouse in Lehigh Valley. Mrs. Mezzanotte came up with a conservative number of 10,000 tractor trailers on westbound I-80.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -Did not take place at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:06 pm