

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
September 28, 2017**

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 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Starrs. Mayor Starrs led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

The Mayor read the following statement in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act":
"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 Star Ledger and /or the Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk's office."

Roll Call

Present: Deputy Mayor Cuntala, Committeewoman Shipps (arrived at 7:20), Committeeman Van Horn and Mayor Starrs

Also present was Township Engineer Ted Rodman and DPW Supervisor Brian Peck

Absent: Committeeman Farber

EXECUTIVE SESSION Motion to go into Executive Session: Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried by an all-in-favor at 7:03.

Resolution 2017-109

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
 - A. Litigation

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and carried by an all-in-favor vote to come out of Executive Session at 7:07p.m. and return to Regular Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Brad Day asked for an update regarding the Music Ordinance and if there will be noise regulation. Mayor Starrs explained that Township Attorney Richard Cushing prepared a draft for the new music ordinance and at the last committee meeting the committee members went through it line by line. Mayor Starrs had said that this is a very difficult ordinance and the committee is trying to make the ordinance fair to residents and business owners.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Engineer Ted Rodman

Six bids received for salt shed. Lowest bidder was Dutchman Contracting out of Denver, PA, in the amount of \$168, 292 including alternative 1, which is a waterproof sealant added to the concrete floor. Discussion took place regarding the specs of the salt shed. Resident Bill Clifford and Bob McNinch are concerned with the height of the new salt shed and accidents occurring. DPW Supervisor Brian Peck explained he supervises all salt deliveries and took this into account when requesting the height and roof style.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Farber—absent, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—no, Starrs—yes to accept the bid from Dutchman Contracting with alternative 1.

DPW Supervisor Brian Peck

Mr. Peck gave an update on various road projects.

Cook Rd. is almost complete, still waiting on Tilcon to pave 3 sections.

Hemlock Rd. is almost ready for Tilcon to overlay.

Mr. Peck received a phone call regarding the new plow truck that was ordered and due next month saying that the Ford factory cancelled the order. Mr. Peck explained that they will give the township a 2018 truck and honor the 2017 price that was given.

Roadside mowing will continue after Hemlock is paved.

PROCLAMATION

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2017

WHEREAS, in 1991, the New Jersey Legislature found and declared that domestic violence is a serious crime against society; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects people of all ages, races, genders, income levels, and sexual identities; and

WHEREAS, survivors of domestic violence must deal with the effects of physical injuries, psychological damage, financial barriers, and trouble finding safe housing; and

WHEREAS, everyone should be free from violence; and

WHEREAS, no one should feel unsafe in their own home; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence will not be eliminated without a concerted effort amongst the community at large; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Adele Starrs of Knowlton Township, in conjunction with the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County, hereby proclaim:

October 2017 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Knowlton and urge residents to work together to raise awareness of this important issue and support those who have been victimized.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-

favor vote for Proclamation for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month October 2017

RESOLUTIONS

2017-110 Resolution of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren Expressing Opposition to Legislative Proposal Bills 1045 and 1046

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee took action on Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, which amend the Open Public Meetings Act and Open Public Records Act, respectively, on June 29, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Committee released the bills to the full Senate without recommendation because the bills are unnecessary, unpopular with the public, and would result in significant financial and administrative burdens on municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bills fail to adequately protect taxpayers, municipalities and municipal clerks from abusive, harassing, and purposefully confrontational individuals who submit voluminous requests for no legitimate reason; and

WHEREAS, the legislation encourages litigation against municipalities by awarding litigant attorney fees incurred in bringing actions against municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the legislation would expand the Open Public Meeting Act to create impractical and burdensome requirements with respect to subcommittees and working groups established by the entire governing body, which would effectively limit the ability of small groups of local officials discussing issues of public concern for the purposes of informing the governing body; and

WHEREAS, under the bills, the responsibilities of municipal clerks, who the Legislature has already loaded with responsibilities beyond the scope of their office, would be stretched even further than current law requires without a single dollar of additional resources provided to, or authorized to be collected by, municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the bills would impose a financial burden on municipalities that would not be offset by a revenue source other than the property tax, making the bills unfunded mandates prohibited by the New Jersey Constitution; and

WHEREAS, some municipalities are more equipped than others to meet the burdens that would be imposed by Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046, however, without assistance of any kind from the States or the courts, every municipality would be on its own to meet the myriad new requirements of the law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton strongly urges the Legislature to reject Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and draft new legislation to modernize OPRA and OPMA while providing municipalities and clerks with the resources to effectuate these changes for the benefit of the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be filed with the legislative

sponsors of Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 and Assembly Bill Nos. 2697 and 2699, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the President of the Senate, and the Governor, and all parties are urged to listen to the concerns of local officials and prevent Senate Bill Nos. 1045 and 1046 from becoming law.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor to Resolution 2017-110

2017-111 Resolution in Support of Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva Awareness

WHEREAS, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva is an illness characterized by normal bone forming in muscles and connective tissue, forming an extra skeleton that immobilizes the body; and

WHEREAS, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva affects children, usually in the first or second decade of life being diagnosed by the age of ten, depriving them of normal development; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 2,500 people worldwide are afflicted with Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, with 200 diagnosed cases in the United States and 12 cases in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, currently the University of Pennsylvania is the only medical research facility investigating a cure for Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva; and

WHEREAS, numerous states, countries and international organizations have joined together to increase public awareness of this devastating, rare genetic disorder, to promote research to find the cure; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton wishes to help to increase awareness of Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva and to encourage public support to find a cause and a cure for this devastating disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton hereby supports raising awareness of this devastating disease and supports the efforts of those researchers dedicated to finding a cure for Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by an all-in-favor to Resolution 2017-111

2017-112 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 Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Farber—absent, Shipp—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes, contingent upon the CFO confirming that the voucher for the fire hats for Knowlton Township Elementary School should

be paid by the municipality

OLD BUSINESS

Award of Salt Shed Bid—Discussed during Department Reports

Emergency Lighting Upgrade

Knowlton EMT is asking to get new LED lights on the old ambulance. The cost will be \$8,420.00. Committeewoman Shipps will reach out to Dave Neal

CenturyLink Meeting—September 27, 2017

Mayor Starrs had a meeting with CenturyLink and the other Mayors on September 27, 2017. They have negotiated to get substantial improvement in Internet service in Knowlton, Hardwick, Hope, and Blairstown. There will be a town hall meeting at North Warren to share specific results, which will be posted once Mayor Starrs has the date.

Warren County Governing Officials Association Meeting

Warren County Governing Officials Association meet every month on the last Monday. The meeting will be extended to all of the governing officials. Mayor Starrs said that the meetings are very informative.

Knowlton Employment Application

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by an all-in-favor for the new Knowlton Employment application.

NEW BUSINESS

Court Negotiation for Franklin Township

Franklin Township is willing to increase their court fees. Committeewoman Shipps, with the assistance of data from Auditor John Mooney, will go to the other townships in order to negotiate a new contract.

2017/2018 Best Practices

Committee reviewed the Best Practices packets. Mayor Starrs read the two changes that were suggested by CFO Christine Rolef, which the Committee agreed to.

Sarepta Road

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor to not pay the \$1,500 bill that was sent from a resident on Sarepta Road for tree trimming that was not authorized.

2017 Halloween Trick-or-Treat Time: October 31, 2017 from 4:00 -8:00 pm.

Zoning Officer Letter of Resignation

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor to accept the resignation letter of Zoning Officer Joe Rossi.

Professional Service Agreement for Acting Zoning Officer

Resolution 2017-113 Resolution Appointing Acting Zoning Officer

WHEREAS, the Township's Zoning Officer resigned effective October 12, 2017; and

WHEREAS, there exists the need for the professional services of an Acting Zoning Officer in Knowlton Township to serve from October 16, 2017 for a term ending December 31, 2017.

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the parties to appoint the Alternate Zoning Officer for a term beginning October 16, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of Knowlton:

1. Appoints Eric Snyder as the Acting Zoning Officer, effective October 16, 2017 a term ending December 31, 2017 at a salary of \$75 / hour.
2. Authorizes the mayor to execute the attached employment agreement.

Motion made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by a roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—absent, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2017-113

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—absent, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to have Mayor Starrs to sign the Professional Service Agreement for Acting Zoning Officer Eric Snyder

CORRESPONDENCE

Debi Meade from Warren County Department of Human Services has arranged for 2017 National Take Back Day to be held at the Knowlton Municipal Building from 12pm-2pm with Warren County Sherriff's officers on duty at this location. Unused prescription drugs will be collected.

Committeeman Van Horn had mentioned how bad Warren Haven has become and asked if Mayor Starrs could mention it at one of the Warren County Governing Officials Association meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 11, 2017 Executive Session tabled

September 11, 2017 Public Meeting Minutes tabled

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Pam Rusweiler asked about the rabies clinic. Acting Clerk Shipps said that Knowlton Township's clinic is the first Saturday in December, which is December 2nd.

Resident Brad Day congratulated Mayor Starrs on how she runs the meetings and allowing the flexibility of questions being asked during the meeting without it getting out of hand and that he appreciates that.

DPW Supervisor Brian Peck mentioned that the date that Hemlock Rd. is planning to pave is a holiday and would be double time pay for the DPW workers. Mayor Starrs asked if paving could occur on another day and if Deputy Mayor Cuntala could check with the schools to see if they can make arrangements for other bus stops for that day.

Mayor Starrs made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala an approved with an all-in-favor to have Hemlock Road paved on a non holiday if it is feasible with the schools, and if not, then to have Hemlock Road paved on a holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, and carried to adjourn tonight's Township meeting at 9:01 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shipps
Acting Municipal Clerk