

TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2014

A regular meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held at the Knowlton Township Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Farber, Deputy Mayor Cuntala and Committee Members Mathez, Odorizzi and Starrs. Also present were Dick Cushing, Municipal Attorney and 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 at 7:10 pm by Mayor Farber with a salute to the flag and roll call.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Resolution 14-43 (copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to enter executive session for discussion of contract negotiation. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

The Township Committee returned to public session at 7:25 pm.

PRESENTATIONS:

Trooper Goetz, NJSP

Trooper Goetz reported that no further burglaries have occurred since December 2013. He stated that burglaries are weather related; residents should remain vigilant about locking doors and windows and reporting suspicious activities.

Committeewoman Starrs asked for information regarding communication of a recent Pennsylvania incident. She asked if criminals regularly cross from Pennsylvania to New Jersey via abandoned railway bridges. Trooper Goetz said it is not a regular occurrence.

Committeeman Mathez asked if any information was available about a stolen recreation trailer. Trooper Goetz stated information is not currently available.

Committee members Mathez and Starrs will contact the Hope Barracks commander to improve communication.

Knowlton Fire & Rescue

Rob Peterson, Alex Weber and Eric Weber were present to review ambulance service concerns. Alex Weber, Rescue Chief, stated he is concerned with the feasibility of outside agencies providing mutual aid for the Township. Mr. Weber noted there were 37 ambulance calls last month with 9 of the calls being from out of town.

It was recommended that the Township Committee reach out to other municipalities for regionalization solutions. Meetings with Hackettstown, Belvidere, Phillipsburg and Washington Rescue Squads will be scheduled. Committeeman Mathez noted that other towns don't oversee fire and rescue services. Alex Weber reported that Pete Summers, Warren County Health Department, suggested a shared services study for rescue services. Committeeman Mathez will contact Mr. Summers, Committeewoman Starrs will contact Frank Wheatley, Warren County Emergency Management.

Eric Weber stated that Pocono Medical Center is usually the most appropriate choice of local hospitals. He reviewed ALS vs BLS rescue systems. Committeeman Mathez will follow up with legislators to enable service across state lines.

Ron Ricken – NJDOT Route 46 Rock Mitigation Project

Mr. Ricken reported that his truck was totaled when a 3 to 4 foot boulder fell into the roadway. He was unable to avoid the hazard with no shoulder available on either side of the road. Discussion followed regarding lack of proper signage and lighting, extensive potholes and traffic management problems contributing to safety concerns.

Bob McNinch, Vail Road, suggested that the Township provide a letter outlining previous safety complaints.

Attorney Cushing provided the state web site address to file a tort claim notice. He also advised that a small claims suit may be filed in Belvidere. Committeeman Mathez will prepare a resolution outlining safety issues on the Route 46 construction project.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 14-44 Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers (copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve payment of vouchers with the exception of DPW vouchers to allow DPW approval signatures. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Resolution 14-45 Resolution Approving Grant Application For NJDOT 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program (copy attached)

Discussion took place regarding progress at the Ramsaysburg site. Mayor Farber questioned what the funds would be used for. Bill Clifford, Koeck Road, stated that no municipal funds were to be used at the site. Committeewoman Starrs will follow up with the historic commission. Township Committee members were in agreement to table Resolution 14-45.

Resolution 14-46
Resolution Supporting NJDOT No Passing Zone On Route 46
In Knowlton Township, Warren County
(copy attached)

Township Committee members were in agreement to table Resolution 14-46.

Resolution 14-47
Resolution Supporting NJDOT NO Passing Zone On Route 94
In Knowlton Township, Warren County
(copy attached)

Resolution 14-47 was tabled.

Resolution 14-48
Resolution Supporting NJDOT NO Passing Zone On Route 163
In Knowlton Township, Warren County
(copy attached)

Township Committee members were in agreement to table Resolution 14-48.

Resolution 14-49
Resolution Approving Preservation of Anderson Farm
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Odorizzi and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to approve Resolution 14-49. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Resolution 14-50
Resolution Requesting That 2014/2105 And Future
Warren County Health Department Licensing Fees Not Be Increased
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Starrs to approve Resolution 14-50. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Service Electric Cable TV

Attorney Cushing reviewed changes to the North Warren Service Electric ordinance. Bethany Summers, Knowlton Elementary Board of Education, asked if the ordinance addresses service at the elementary school. Committeewoman Starrs said only Frelinghuysen School is addressed.

Discussion took place regarding Century Link internet service. Mayor Farber is working with Century Link to establish priority areas for high speed internet. Committeewoman Starrs will contact Service Electric and Comcast representative for attendance at a township meeting. Township Committee members were in agreement to table the Service Electric Ordinance.

Paulinskill Viaduct

Mayor Farber reported that Mrs. More, Station Road, has requested that shrubbery be planted in front of the viaduct to prevent graffiti. The request will be forwarded to NJDOT.

Street Lights

Committeeman Mathez provided a list of street light locations which are along county and state highways but are currently being billed to the Township. The cost of the lights is approximately \$1,000 per month. Stan Prater, JCP&L has offered to contact the county and state to determine which street lights they will pay for. If the county or state will not take responsibility, the lights will be discontinued until further notice from the municipality, county or state.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bob McNinch, Vail Road, requested that the Township Committee disclose the subject matter of Contract negotiations in executive session. Mayor Farber explained discussion of negotiations took place regarding Warren County Health Department, ambulance service and shared municipal court contracts.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Committeeman Odorizzi to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Patton
Municipal Clerk