

**TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON**  
**COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 24, 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, Ted Rodman, Township Engineer and Christine Rolef, CFO. 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve the March 27, 2014 Township Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – abstain, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve the April 14, 2014 Township Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**PROCLAMATION: Designating May 2014 Older Americans Month** (copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Starrs to proclaim May Older Americans Month. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**PUBLIC HEARING: 2014 Municipal Budget**

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to open the public hearing on the 2014 municipal budget. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Mrs. Rolef explained the municipal tax rate remains the same as 2013. Bill Clifford, Koeck Road, asked if it is possible to reduce the tax rate. Mrs. Rolef stated it would not be prudent to reduce the tax rate due to the state imposed 2% cap.

Bob McNinch, Vail Road, asked for the municipal tax per capita. Committeeman Mathez said Knowlton is roughly in the middle of the Warren County towns.

Mr. McNinch also asked if the Township Committees' salaries were increased. Mrs. Rolef

reported all employees will receive a 2% increase. Mayor Farber explained the Township Committee's salaries are approximately \$2,500; a 2% increase has little effect on the overall budget.

There being no further comment, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**Resolution 14-52**  
**Resolution Authorizing Self Examination Of The 2014 Municipal Budget**  
(copy attached)

A motion to approve Resolution 14-52 was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to adopt the 2014 municipal budget. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**ORDINANCE:**

**Ordinance 14-02**  
**An Ordinance Granting Municipal Consent To The Issuance Of A Franchise To Service Electric Cable T.V. Of New Jersey, Inc., To Construct, Own, Operate, Extend And Maintain A Cable Television System In The Township Of Hope, Hardwick, Knowlton and Frelinghuysen, County of Warren, Setting Forth Conditions Accompanying The Grant Of Said Municipal Consent & Providing For The Regulation And Use Of Said System**  
(copy attached)

Committeewoman Starrs explained the ordinance was tabled to allow for communication with Service Electric regarding internet needs at the elementary school.

Mayor Farber explained the contract is non-exclusive. He is also pursuing internet service from Comcast and Century Link.

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to introduce Ordinance 14-02. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 14-53**  
**Resolution Approving Historic Commission Submission of 2014 NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant**  
(copy attached)

Candice Nattland, Route 46, reviewed the progress at the site and explained the NJDOT TAP Grant Application will address a porches, windows, doors, electrical installation, and plumbing at the main structure. The application has a June 30 deadline and will request \$311,000 for the improvements. She stated the project has a 20 year long range plan for community activity.

Committeeman Odorizzi asked for the total spent on the project. Tom Drake, Columbia, said \$750,000.

Committeewoman Cuntala questioned the uses of the transportation grant. Mrs. Nattland explained the historical significance of the transportation hub of river trade.

Committeewoman Starrs asked about the history of historic grants. Mrs. Nattland explained there have been no glitches.

Discussion took place regarding open grants. Committeeman Odorizzi stated he concerned with when the project will end. Tom Drake said it doesn't end.

Ken Metcalf stated they have tried to keep costs down by utilizing volunteers. He reviewed the community value and stated the site is open to the public for fishing, educational opportunities etc.

Committeewoman Starrs said some in the community may not have an interest in Ramsaysburg.

Dennis Melillo stated the project is a 1000% improvement from the burned out building that was at the location.

Karen Lund stated that the Township entered into a lease with the state in 2006 in order to apply for grant funds for the site. Mrs. Lund introduced an eagle scout who will construct benches and a fire pit.

Debbie Shipps also stated the project has improved. She noted that the site will increase tourism and improve the Route 46 corridor.

Clayton Taylor, Mt. Pleasant Road, said he is concerned about the 20 year lease. He questioned if the lease is renewable and noted that a lot of taxpayer money and effort is going into the site.

Karen Lund said the location is on the New Jersey Historic Sites register. The building cannot be torn down. Additionally, only car top boats can be used to protect the area from a boat ramp being constructed.

Guy Walton stated that the grant application would get the building into usable condition.

Mayor Farber stated that other sites have volunteer groups to fundraise and maintain the property.

Bill Clifford, Koeck Road, stated that he feels the money has been misused and opportunity for local contractors to bid on work has not developed. He asked why work is not progressing and also asked for a timeline of the completion date.

Candice Nattland and Tom Drake said the property will be presentable by labor day.

Mayor Farber asked when the work will begin.

Candice Nattland outlined the recent work to the barn.

Committeeman Mathez stated that all improvements will be lost if the application for grant funding is not approved. He suggested that the DOT should decide if the application has merit.

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve the grant application. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Mrs. Rolef requested to be kept informed of details regarding the application. She also requested that one historic commission contact person be designated to handle financial issues.

**Resolution 14-54**  
**Resolution Approving Recreation Committee Submission of 2014**  
**NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program Grant**  
(copy attached)

Committeemen Odorizzi explained the grant could be utilized for installation of a bike/walking path, beautification project, restoration of rail bed or other needed project.

Discussion took place regarding recreation site improvements and the NJDEP settlement expected later this year.

Committeeman Mathez suggested that approval of an application may be premature. Committeewoman Starrs said she would like to request documentation then would consider approval of an application.

Township Committee members present were in consensus to table Resolution 14-54 to allow for further research and review.

**Resolution 14-55**  
**Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers**  
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala to approve Resolution 14-55. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**Resolution 14-56**  
**Resolution Approving 2014 Recycling Tonnage Report**  
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala to approve Resolution 14-56. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**Resolution 14-57**  
**Resolution Regarding Lack Of Interest Service For The Residents Of Knowlton Township**  
(copy)

Mayor Farber explained the Township is working with cable providers and Century Link to expand service areas in the Township. Township Committee members requested that 24<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Representatives and The League of Municipalities be added to the mailing list.

A motion was made by Committeewoman Starrs and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to approve Resolution 14-57. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – yes, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**PRESENTATION:** Open Space Preservation Contract – Anderson, Mt. Pleasant Road

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were present to sign the open space preservation contract for their property on Mt. Pleasant Road.

Committeeman Mathez reviewed the history of the open space application. Mayor Farber and Township Committee members congratulated the Andersons.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ambulance Service

Committeeman Mathez reported he is obtaining proposals from Hackettstown, Hackettstown Regional Medical Center, and Phillipsburg ambulance services. Belvidere has agreed to continue to provide mutual aid during evening hours.

Committeewoman Starrs reported that Suburban is obtaining licensing to work in New Jersey.

New Jersey State Police

Committeeman Mathez and Committeewoman Starrs reported they will be meeting with the Hope Barracks Commander regarding communication issues.

Debbie Shipps, Station Road, reported a burglary occurred on Hoagland Road.

Recreation Backhoe

Committeeman Mathez determined \$2,000 to \$4,000 would be needed to repair the 1970's front end loader. Discussion took place regarding options for the equipment. Committeeman Mathez will follow up to determine the value of the equipment.

### Anderson Survey Bid Opening

Committeeman Mathez reported he will open bids for the survey of the Anderson property on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### NJ Comptrollers Letter

Committeeman Mathez reviewed recommendations provided by the NJ Comptroller's Office regarding overtime. Discussion took place regarding overtime and comp time. The CFO was requested to provide DPW overtime hours. Mayor Farber noted that he does not see any compliance problems.

The CFO also stated she will review DPW capital purchases and communicate with the DPW Supervisor and the Township Committee. The CFO was requested to provide a debt schedule and capital improvement fund outline. Discussion took place regarding an energy audit in anticipation of installation of a new heating and air conditioning unit at the municipal building.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Becky Day, Delaware, reported hearing gunshots around the town of Delaware. She inquired if the township has an ordinance relating to discharge of weapons. Members of the public and Township Committee stated they would be opposed to such an ordinance. Mrs. Day was referred to the state police to look into the issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Committeeman Odorizzi to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm.. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Farber. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Patton  
Municipal Clerk