

**TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON  
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 22, 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 and Starrs. 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 7:05 pm by Mayor Farber with a salute to the flag and roll call.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve the April 24, 2014 Township Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and seconded by Mayor Farber to approve the May 12, 2014 Township Committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**ORDINANCES:**

**Ordinance 14-03**

**Ordinance Amending The Salary And Wage Ordinance Of The Township Of Knowlton,  
County Of Warren, State Of New Jersey For The Calendar Year 2014**  
(copy attached)

Township Committee members present tabled Ordinance 14-03.

**Ordinance 14-04**

**Bond Ordinance Providing For The Payment Of Improvements To Township Roads, By  
And In The Township Of Knowlton, In The County Of Warren, State Of New Jersey;  
Appropriating \$118,000 Therefore And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$112,100 Bonds Or  
Notes Of The Township To Finance Part Of The Cost Thereof**  
(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Starrs to introduce Ordinance 14-04. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber - yes

Discussion took place regarding the DPW's paving schedule. Walnut Road is the 2014 priority. Kill and Station Roads are priorities for 2015. The DPW Supervisor has also requested a dump truck costing approximately \$150,000 and a chipper costing approximately \$25,000 in the capital budget.

Bob McNinch, Vail Road, asked for the amount of total debt of the Township. Committeeman Mathez answered approximately \$1.4 million.

**PRESENTATION:** New Jersey State Police

Sargent Sims explained protocol in emergency situations. The NJSP policy is to wait to release information until the event is concluded. Sgt. Sims also reported that a suspect has been arrested in the burglary on Osmun Road.

Committeewoman Starrs inquired about the discharging of firearms in residential areas. Sgt. Sims explained that firearms cannot be discharged within 300 feet of a residential dwelling.

Also discussed was soliciting. Sgt. Sims stated that any suspicious activity should be reported. Sgt. Sims also said a NJSP representative will attend the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Candice Nattland, Route 46, thanked the Township for inviting the State Police to attend meetings.

**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 Townships Of Hope, Hardwick, Knowlton And Frelinghuysen County Of Warren, Setting Forth Conditions Accompanying The Grant Of Said Municipal Consent And Providing For The Regulation And Use Of Said System**

(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to open the public hearing for Ordinance 14-02. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi-absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Mayor Farber explained that the ordinance changes service area requirements from 30 homes per linear mile to 20 homes per linear mile. Committeeman Mathez stated that the Township is also pursuing Comcast Cable Service. Committeewoman Starrs reported that a resolution addressing broadband service in the Township was sent to legislators and newspapers. The Express Times featured a front page article on the subject.

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

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

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Resolution 14-02c**

**Resolution Approving Compensated Appointments**

(copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Starrs to approve Resolution 14-02c. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**Resolution 14-66**  
**Resolution Supporting The Submission Of Application**  
**For Local Government Energy Audit Program**  
(copy attached)

Committeewoman Starrs explained the grant application includes an energy audit and can provide for up to 70% of upgrades to the municipal building.

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve Resolution 14-66. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

**Resolution 14-67**  
**Resolution Regarding Improvements To The Township Of Knowlton Municipal Court**  
(copy attached)

Committeewoman Starrs explained AOC requirements to add Blairstown to the Knowlton shared court must be completed by the end of the year. A credit card machine will be added. The court administrator or judge will procure a steel door for the judge's chambers. Committeewoman Starrs reported there are \$180,000 in uncollected fines.

Mayor Farber reported that the AOC also suggested a collection agency be hired to address the uncollected fines. Judge Santini recommended that it would not be feasible at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ambulance Service

Committeeman Mathez requested a motion to authorize the mayor and clerk to sign the agreement with Hackettstown Regional Medical Center EMS as soon as it is clarified due to the timing of the original agreement. A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to authorize the mayor and clerk to sign the agreement when clarified. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Committeeman Mathez reported that a meeting is scheduled with Suburban Ambulance Service to formalize a mutual aid agreement.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Recreation Trailer

The Township Committee discussed the recreation director's request for the purchase of a landscaping trailer. A motion was made by Mayor Farber and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to direct the municipal clerk to issue a memo to the DPW supervisor to make the lawn

mowing trailer available to recreation. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes. Committeewoman Cuntala will contact George Trongone to ask him to repair the trailer.

#### Audubon Society Presentation

Committeeman Mathez announced a speaker from the Audubon Society will give a presentation on federal conservation programs at the Mathez residence on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Mathez excused himself from the meeting at 8:30 pm.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Karen Hoeverman stated she is concerned with solicitors canvassing her road. She has no trespassing signs posted. John Anderson, Mt. Pleasant Road, stated that the law allows for a trespassing charge after the owner has notified the trespasser one time to stay off the property.

Mrs. Hoeverman also requested that Nixle alerts be more local. She questioned why an escaped convict with a gun in the area was not an alert. Committeewoman Starrs explained the state police will only release information when the event is concluded.

Candice Nattland, Route 46, announced the Ramsaysburg Memorial Day picnic will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on memorial day. She also reported that the Eagle Scout project has been completed at the site.

Bill Clifford, Koeck Road, asked why the NJDOT project on Route 46 does not include a sign listing the cost of the project. Mayor Farber suggested that the question be referred to Congressman Garrett's office. Discussion took place regarding unsafe driving conditions on Route 46.

John Anderson, Mt. Pleasant Road, asked for the information on discharge of firearms in residential areas. Committeewoman Starrs reviewed that discharge of a firearm cannot be within 300 feet of a residential dwelling. She also stated that the operator must shoot at a backdrop.

**Executive Session:** Resolution 14-68: (copy attached)

A motion was made by Mayor Farber to enter executive session for the purpose of discussion of personnel. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes. Farber – yes. The Township Committee returned to public session at 8:50 pm

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Patton  
Municipal Clerk