

TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 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 7:10 pm by Mayor Farber with a salute to the flag and roll call.

PRESENTATION: Jim Gillmore, Gallagher Bollinger Insurance

Mr. Gillmore reviewed insurance renewal proposals and explained options in appointing a risk management consultant.

Committeewoman Starrs asked when a decision on a risk management consultant should be made. Mr. Gillmore said the optimal time would be by the next meeting.

The Township Committee thanked Mr. Gillmore for his presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. & Mrs. LaFalce

Mr. LaFalce stated Limekiln Road residents experience frequent power outages. He cited there have been five outages this year.

The municipal clerk will have a JCP&L representative contact Mr. LaFalce. Mayor Farber suggested residents may also contact legislators or the Board of Public Utilities if the problem continues.

Tammy Terpstra noted that service has generally improved for Limekiln Road residents. Two years ago equipment was replaced and the tree trimming schedule was changed from a 20 year cycle to a 3 year cycle.

Alan DeCarolus, Animal Control Officer, stated that Frelinghuysen's emergency management director handles power outage problems.

Committeeman Mathez will follow up with Frank Makowski, Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mayor Farber reminded residents of the need to have every home affected call JCP&L if an outage occurs.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Alan DeCarolis, Animal Control Officer

Mr. DeCarolis reviewed Knowlton Township Ordinance Section 64-12 which limits the number of dogs allowed. He explained the problems with enforcement of the ordinance.

Committeeman Mathez asked Mr. DeCarolis to draft a recommendation considering the Township Committee's interest in animal welfare.

Mr. DeCarolis also recommended a dog census in 2015. Committeewoman Starrs asked for the cost of the census. Mr. DeCarolis said between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Dennis Lembeck, Recreation Director

Mr. Lembeck recommended additional lighting at the rear of the recreation area to improve safety and security. Discussion took place regarding JCP&L installing the lights vs. recreation installing the pole and light. JCP&L would install the light at no cost; there would be a \$45 to \$70 a month fee. Deputy Mayor Cuntala will meet with Committeeman Mathez and Mr. Lembeck for further discussion.

Mr. Lembeck also requested approval for payment of \$790 to KAA for the purchase of bats. Township Committee members present unanimously approved the payment.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 14-88

Resolution To Award Contract – Morris County Co-Op (Road Resurfacing) (copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve Resolution 14-88. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Resolution 14-89

Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation NJS 40A:4-87 (copy attached)

Committeeman Mathez explained funds from the Portland Generating Station settlement will be disbursed by the NJDEP for recreation projects in the township. A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to approve Resolution 14-89. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Resolution 14-90

Resolution Requesting Approval For Emergency Appropriation (copy attached)

A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve Resolution 14-90 contingent upon the Mayor's approval of roads to be resurfaced. The motion was seconded by Committeewoman Starrs. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes

OLD BUSINESS:

NRC Energy

Committeewoman Starrs explained the Portland energy company is converting two stacks to burn diesel. The plant is expected to be used only 70 hours per year at peak generating times. Concerns with diesel are sulfur, nitrogen and particulate matter. The company will hold public tours of the facility on September 15th.

Bob McNinch, Vail Road, said the question to ask NRC Energy is what the emission numbers are in pounds per million btu.

Chris Donoghue, Limekiln Road, stated there are probably more emissions at the truck stop that are emitted by the power plant.

Committeewoman Starrs will check the NJDEP air monitoring website. She noted the air quality has improved since the plant has been closed.

Hainesburg Bridge

Committeeman Mathez announced the Hainesburg bridge construction should be completed by October 7th.

Road Right of Ways

Mayor Farber asked the municipal clerk to follow up with the township engineer on research of road right of ways for clearing brush.

NEW BUSINESS:

Riverside Estates Tax Overpayment

A memo from the tax assessor explained a tax overpayment has been made by the owner of Riverside Estates. The municipal clerk will ask the tax collector to prepare a resolution to approve the refund of the overpayments.

Municipal Building Security

T&R Alarms supplied a proposal for improved security at the municipal building. Township Committee members present agreed to purchase maglocks for the front doors of the building. T&R quoted the cost to be \$1,750. Committeeman Mathez requested two additional quotes on the locks. A motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to install the locks pending approval of quotes by the Mayor. The motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala. Roll Call: Mathez – yes, Cuntala – yes, Odorizzi – absent, Starrs – yes, Farber – yes.

Municipal Court

Committeewoman Starrs reported that the ballistic door will be installed on September 10th.

Township Signatories

Discussion took place regarding township signatories. Mayor Farber suggested that another signer be added to banking signatories in January after the mayor and deputy mayor are appointed. It was decided that the mayor, deputy mayor and Committeewoman Starrs will be designated signers with the municipal clerk and cfo.

Ambulance Service

A letter regarding ambulance response time at the WNTI Music Festival was reviewed. Melanie Thiel, Festival Director, reported that Hackettstown Ambulance Service took over 30 minutes to respond to an accident at the event.

Committeeman Mathez will follow up with Gene Gast from Hackettstown Ambulance Service. He also suggested that events should plan to pay for service. Bill Clifford, Koeck Road, stated residents are not aware of the coverage situation.

Joey Sprague, Limekiln Road, questioned the township's liability with respect to first aid service. Committeeman Mathez stated the township is not required to provide rescue service.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Candice Nattland, Historic Commission, gave a progress report of at the Ramsaysburg site. She also reported that the Riverside Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 10th.

Sharon Cooper, Public Entity Associates, reviewed the insurance comparison plan and will provide three or more quotes prior to the PAIC renewal deadline. The township will be provided with financial analysis, coverage analysis and assets vs. liabilities of each plan. She noted that 97% of municipalities are in a joint insurance fund. She will also provide the schedule for heavy equipment operator training courses for the recreation department.

Bill Clifford, Koeck Road, stated that the Route 46 construction project is causing traffic delays due to single lane traffic. The original NJDOT plans called for no single lane traffic closures. Mr. Clifford also suggested that the DPW should attend an 811Call Before You Dig seminar.

Tammy Terpstra, Limekiln Road, requested a Nixle message to remind residents to call JCP&L to report power outages. Committeewoman Starrs will follow up.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Patton
Municipal Clerk