

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Public Session Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2020**

The meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held on this date at the Knowlton Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey. This meeting was held by electronic means via ZOOM as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and various executive orders in connection with same and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Starrs.

Mayor Starrs led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Starrs read the following statements “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 *New Jersey Herald* and/or the *Star Gazette* as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk’s office.”

ELECTRONIC MEETING STATEMENT:

In addition, as a result of the State of Emergency issued by Governor Murphy and the various executive orders limiting social gatherings, the Township has provided a link and dial-in number for residents to participate in, or listen to, this meeting electronically. The public will be able to participate and provide comment during the public comment section of the meeting. In addition, residents have been encouraged to submit any additional comments via email. Those emails will be read into the record during the public portion of the meeting.

Roll Call

Present: Committeewoman Cuntala, Committeeman McNinch, Deputy Mayor Shipps, Committeeman Van Horn, and Mayor Starrs.

Also present was Township Engineer Ted Rodman, DPW Supervisor Brian Peck (for Executive Session only) Recreation Director Dennis Lembeck and Township Attorney Leslie Parikh

Executive Session

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve to go into Executive Session at 7:01 p.m.

2020-98- Resolution Authorizing Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognized exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the N.J.S.A. 40:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Knowlton Township,

County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic (s) as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40:4-12:

- A. Attorney Advice
- B. Personnel

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee hereby declare that their discussion of the subject (s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Township Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Township or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Motion made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve to go back to Public Session at 8:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT—No Public Comments

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Engineer Ted Rodman

No change with Bruglar Road problem statement. Linaberry overlay is tentatively to start September 2nd. Mr. Rodman had a recommendation on the Ordinance being introduced at tonight’s meeting on changing the wording from the river to Decatur St. under Columbia St. Discussion took place regarding changing the fees for penalties to \$100.00 and for misuse \$150.00. Mr. Rodman talked to the committee regarding a well on Valley St. Mr. Rodman does not feel that it is a township issue.

Recreation Director Dennis Lembeck

Regarding Columbia Beach, there seems to be a piece of land that is well taken care of that might be township owned and if it is Mr. Lembeck would like to make a path from Columbia Beach to that piece of land. Mr. Rodman asked if there is a survey for that area and he will speak to DPW Supervisor Brian Peck. Mr. Lembeck recommends installing a gate and having the same lock for both Columbia Beach and Delaware Beach. He also suggested only using Delaware Beach for kayaks and tubing and using Columbia Beach for boat launch. There was discussion that there is no swimming allowed at either one of the beaches. Committee agreed to order new signs for the beaches that state “No Swimming.” Committeeman McNinch suggested that everyone should read section 69 of the Ordinance which if followed a lot of the issues will be taken care of. Mr. Lembeck explained to the committee how he can make the Columbia Beach nicer which will bring more people in. Mr. Lembeck has a call in to see if he can use the Clean Communities for adopt a beach to see if he can get funds from that for the beach.

Mr. Lembeck also explained that Clean Community Day can still happen as long as it’s in groups of 10 and they must wear masks and gloves.

Mayor Starrs asked the committee for approval to take funds from the Community Day to help pay for beach costs. Committee agreed to use the 2020 funds set aside for Community Day, which is now cancelled, to purchase riprap to improve the gullies and ruts at Columbia Beach.

ORDINANCE

Introduction

2020-06 – An Ordinance of the Township of Knowlton Amending Chapter Section to Require that certain parking location to be subject to regulation 3(G)(9)

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton have determined that it is necessary to require that certain parking locations be subject to regulation; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton have further determined that it is necessary to regulate such parking by requiring permits to be obtained and to establish reasonable restrictions regarding same; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton Ordinance § 174-14.1 provides a schedule identifying such areas where parking permits are required; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton wish to revise and update said schedule so as to add Columbia Street and a portion of Washington Street to said schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Code of the Township of Knowlton is hereby amended by revising Chapter 174, Section 14.1 to read as follows:

§ 174-14.1 Schedule IA: Permit Parking.

In accordance with the provisions of § 174-3G, no person shall park a vehicle at any time upon any of the following described streets or parts thereof, unless the vehicle shall bear a valid permit:

Name of Street	Location
Station Road	For a distance of 2,785 feet from Route 94 to its intersection with Kill Road on both sides of the roadway
Columbia Street	From the River to Decatur on both sides of the roadway
Washington Street	From Columbia Street to Green Street on both sides of the roadway

Section 2. The Code of the Township of Knowlton is hereby amended by revising Chapter 174, Section 3(G)(9) as follows:

§ 174-3(G) Parking only on Certain Streets

(9) Any vehicle parked in violation of the parking permit regulations will be subject to a fine of \$100.00 or removal pursuant to this section. Persons in possession of parking permits who misuse them, including obtaining them for purposes other than hunting, fishing, biking, and hiking, are subject to revocation of the permits for one year and a fine of \$150.00. Any person(s) found to possess an invalid, expired, or counterfeit permit shall be subject to a fine of \$150.00

Section 3. All prior ordinances that are inconsistent with this ordinance are repealed. All ordinances are hereby amended to be consistent with this ordinance and all ordinances, including this one, shall be construed consistent with the express purpose of this ordinance.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be construed consistent with the purpose stated in section 1 hereof. If any part of this ordinance is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall be saved to the full extent possible. This ordinance amends provisions of the Knowlton Township Code only where stated herein; otherwise this ordinance is amendatory and supplementary to existing provision of the Township of Knowlton Code.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval and publication of notice of adoption as provided by law

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve Ordinance 2020-06.

RESOLUTIONS

2020-99-Resolution Urging Governor Murphy to Reimburse County Governments with Populations of 500,000 Residents or Less with Federal Monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (Cares) Act for the Extraordinary Expenses Incurred in Combating the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis.

WHEREAS, county governments have led the way on the front lines and played a vital role in providing essential services and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of residents across the Garden State during this once in a generation pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, county governments have incurred substantial costs in responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis by operating test centers, purchasing and distributing personal protective equipment, hiring public nurses, implementing mitigation measures, disinfecting county facilities, sheltering homeless and at-risk individuals, managing correctional facilities, administering social services programs, conducting elections, and more; and,

WHEREAS, under the CARES Act, the State of New Jersey received \$2.5 billion in federal CRF monies to alleviate the staggering financial burden imposed by the COVID-19 public health crisis and of which the United States Department of Treasury authorized to provide much-needed relief for local governing bodies that did not receive direct aid because their populations fell below 500,000 residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Treasure of the State of New Jersey allocated \$250.0 million in CRF monies to the Local Government Relief Fund in the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to reimburse local governing bodies for COVID-19 related expenses but has yet to release any funding while county governments continue to spend millions in limited property taxpayer dollars battling the COVID-19 public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Knowlton County of Warren urge Governor Phil Murphy to reimburse counties with populations of 500,000 residents or less with federal monies from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the extraordinary expenses incurred in combating the COVID-19 public health crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution are forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy; the President of the New Jersey State Senate Steve Sweeney; the Speaker of the General Assembly Craig Coughlin; the congressional and the legislative delegations Warren County; the clerks of the board of chosen freeholders in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Mercer, Morris, Salem, Somerset, Sussex and Warren counties; the municipal clerks in each of the municipalities located with Warren County; the New Jersey State League of Municipalities; and , the New Jersey Association of Counties.

Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Mayor Starrs and carried to approve by Resolution 2020-99.

2020-100- Award Contract for the Acquisition of Air Packs for Knowlton Township Fire & Rescue

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton wishes to purchase Air-packs to replace ones that no longer meet state requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to award a contract to Firefighter One, a registered entity in a co-op to which Knowlton belongs; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available thru Capital Ordinance 2020-05 within the General Capital Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey enter into a contract with Firefighter One 34 Wilson Drive Sparta, New Jersey for the purchase of 14 Air-packs, net trade in, not to exceed \$99,935.00.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Deputy Mayor Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala--yes, McNinch--yes, Shipps--yes, Van Horn--abstain, Starrs--yes to Resolution 2020-100.

2020-101- Award of Contract for Road Resurfacing- Hemlock and Starlight Hill Roads

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Resurfacing of Stark; and

WHEREAS, Tilcon New York, Inc., Wharton, NJ has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, Denville Line Striping, Rockaway, NJ, has been awarded Contract #36 for Traffic Striping through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available thru Ordinance 2019-01, 2019-05 and 2019-06.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that road resurfacing services for Hemlock and Starlight Hill Roads is awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc., 625 Mt. Hope Road, Wharton, NJ, 07885, in the amount not to exceed \$212,500, Denville Line Striping, Rockaway, NJ, in the amount not to exceed \$4,300.00.

Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Deputy Mayor Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, McNinch—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2020-101.

2020-102- Renewal of Liquor License for 2020-2021

WHEREAS, the following renewal application has been completed, the proper fees have been paid to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and the Township of Knowlton; and

WHEREAS, the licensee is qualified according to all statutory, regulatory and local government NJABC laws and regulation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, State of New Jersey approves the following NJABC liquor license renewal:

Shree Nathght Corp. t/a Smitty's Liquor Store 2113-44-011-004

Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Deputy Mayor Shipps and carried to approve Resolution 2020-102.

2020-103- Resolution Requesting the Planning Board Draft a Certain Zoning Ordinance Amendment

WHEREAS, Columbia Beach, designated on the Tax Maps of the Township of Knowlton as Block 19, Lot 4, is a public beach owned by the Township of Knowlton (the "Township"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 69-3(a) of the Code of the Township of Knowlton (the "Township Code") residents of the Township may obtain permits to access Columbia Beach for the purposes of boat launching, fishing, boating or picnicking; and

WHEREAS, Section 69-3(b) of the Code of the Township of Knowlton (the "Code") provides for a process to allow owners of licensed campgrounds within the Township to obtain permits for campground patrons to access Columbia Beach for the purposes of boat launching; and

WHEREAS, the Township Code (specifically Article 38) does not permit commercial activities in the VR-Zone; and

WHEREAS, Section 69-3(b) of the Code, which allows use of Columbia Beach for commercial purposes (i.e. boat launching for local campground patrons), appears inconsistent with the Article 38 of the Code governing the VR-

Zone; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee, therefore, requests that the Township Planning Board examine this inconsistency and draft revisions to the Township Code permitting the type of activity contemplated by Section 69-3(b) of the Code (i.e. boat launching by patrons of local campgrounds).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, New Jersey, that the Township Planning Board is requested to review the above-referenced zoning ordinances and propose amendments to the Township Code to permit the activity contemplated by Section 69-3(b) of the Code (i.e. boat launching by patrons of local campgrounds).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township Committee requests that the Planning Board incorporate reasonable conditions into such proposed ordinance, such as a limitation of the number of permits issued, provision of insurance, and / or hours of operation.

Motion made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve Resolution 2020-103.

2020-104 Resolution Appointing Acting Municipal Clerk and Local Registrar– Tabled

2020-105- 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 made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Committeeman McNinch and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, McNinch—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—no, Starrs—yes to Resolution 2020-105.

OLD BUSINESS

Beaches/ Township Recreation Dept. -discussed during Department Reports.

COAH–Committeeman McNinch has been in contact for a new accessory apartments and hope to gets that going.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Clerk Resignation– Tabled to a later meeting

NJDOT Rockwall “Public Advisory Group”–NJDOT is requesting that each town submit names of members of the public to be on a “Public Advisory Group.” That person may not be an elected official nor can the elected officials attend the meetings. Committee discussed if they want a member to be on the “Public Advisory Group.”

Court Financial Update–Ticket count is down from mid March to May. Committeeman McNinch forecast that Knowlton share of the court cost in the \$35, 0000 range.

Rutgers study water quality protection—Committeeman McNinch encouraged the committee to do all they can to preserve open space because of its protective effects on groundwater.

2nd set of Township foreclosures—Mayor Starrs provided the committee with a list of additional lots that can be foreclosed. Discussion took place about putting the smaller lots up for tax lien sale. Mayor Starrs asked Township Engineer Ted Rodman to review 6 new lots and to prepare a report. Mayor Starrs will reach out to Max Spann to see if they are interested on selling Knowlton township properties tax liens.

CORRESPONDENCE

Superheat provided a quote to replace the sub pump line in the basement which was leaking into the vault. Committee agreed to proceed.

Mayor Starrs received a letter regarding speeding on Ivan Rd. The resident is requesting more speed signs on the road. Mr. Rodman will take a look to see where the signs are located and report back. The Committee discussed that residents requesting more speed signs cannot be the sole reason for erecting more signs; state regulations for placing the signs should be observed.

MEETING MINUTES

June 8, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes—Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Mayor Starrs and carried to approve June 8, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

June 8, 2020 Public Session Meeting Minutes—Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Committeeman McNinch and carried to approve June 8, 2020 Public Session Meeting Minutes.

July 13, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes—Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Committeeman McNinch and carried to approve July 13, 2020 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

July 13, 2020 Public Session Meeting Minutes—Motion made by Committeewoman Cuntala, second by Committeeman McNinch and carried to approve July 13, 2020 Public Session Meeting Minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Pam Rusweiler is concerned about the conversation regarding Columbia Beach and worried if the beach is cleaned up too much it is going to draw more people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve to go into Executive Session at 9:59 pm.

2020-107- Authorizing an Executive Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act; N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognized exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the N.J.S.A. 40:4-12; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Knowlton Township, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic (s) as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40:4-12:

- A. Litigation
- B. Contract Negotiations

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee hereby declare that their discussion of the subject (s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Township Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Township or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Motion made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve to come out of Executive Session at 10:12.

Deputy Mayor Shipps provided the committee with an update on Cooper. Coopers owners have relinquished ownership of Cooper. The green dog inn over in Andover agreed to take him for a few days.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, second by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's Township meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Shipps
Municipal Clerk