

TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
August 25, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held on this date at the Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey. This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Adele Starrs.

The Mayor read the following statement in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act." In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of publication with the Star Gazette and/or the Express-Times, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in the Knowlton Municipal Building.

Mayor Starrs led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Present: Committeeman Mathez, Committeewoman Cuntala and Mayor Starrs

Also present: Township Engineer Ted Rodman

Absent: Committeeman Farber, Committeewoman Shipps

Executive Session: No executive session

Mayor Starrs thought that the update for *Township of Knowlton v. Patton* could be discussed in Public session. The Division of Local Government Services had to approve the settlement decision that was reached back in April; two weeks ago it was approved. Ms. Patton had ten days to appeal, which she did not appeal, so the matter is now officially closed.

Public Comment:

Resident John Anderson addressed the committee regarding who has access to the dirt road at the end of Mt. Pleasant Road. Engineer Ted Rodman stated that the tax map shows an easement from the township line of Blairstown to the corner of resident John Anderson's property. Mr. Rodman does not know who the easement belongs to or who has legal access to that easement. Mr. Rodman said he will contact the Warren County Clerk's office to find who the easement is assigned to.

Department Head Reports:

Brian Peck, DPW Supervisor-- Mayor Starrs said the committee asked Mr. Peck to come to the meeting to have a better communication system so the committee knows what projects are being worked on. This way if residents were to ask the committee, the committee members can give specific answers. Mr. Peck said that they could always contact him directly. Committeewoman Cuntala asked if there is a time line for when cutting and trimming starts. Mr. Peck said that it usually starts the same time every year. The department is about a week late this year. The department has been down to one mower for about 6 years and for 4 years they have been down a man. If the department had another mower it would make things go quicker, especially come fall with the big clean up, which should be near the end of September or October. Mayor Starrs explained that the township would not be able to purchase a new sickle bar mower this year but that they could rent a sickle bar mower by the hour from Warren County to help with clean up. Mr. Peck said that the department is way behind in getting roads ready for paving. Mr. Peck then gave the committee an update on paving. Wishing Well is done. Station Road is in the

works. Cook Road will be next, which is patching and sections will be paved. Polkville Road is on hold because it is funded by the DOT Grant, and Governor Christie has frozen all of those projects indefinitely. Mr. Peck agreed to give the committee an update on projects each month. Drains should also be done sometime in October.

Ted Rodman, Township Engineer-- addressed the committee regarding New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Application. Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to motion for Mayor Starrs to sign New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Application.

Mr. Rodman also addressed the committee regarding a consent letter that was sent from Crown Castle, which needs to be signed by either the Mayor or Municipal Clerk. It is stated in the lease with Crown Castle that they need to ask the committee permission prior to doing any work on the cell towers. They are required to still get all the permits that are necessary once the consent letter is signed. There is a resolution that needs to be approved with the committee which is on the agenda for this meeting.

Mr. Rodman also stated that there will be proposals ready for the salt shed at the next meeting.

Resolutions:

2016-87 Knowlton Elementary School PTO Tricky Tray

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to approve resolution 2016-87 as follows:

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Elementary School PTO has applied for a raffle licenses to conduct a raffle on October 6, 2016 at the Knowlton Elementary School consisting of New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission application #16-012; and

WHEREAS, the proper fees have been filed with the application, and the Findings and Determinations by the Municipal Clerk have determined that this organization is qualified to conduct raffles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that approval is hereby given for the issuance of raffle licenses#16-012 to the Knowlton Elementary School PTO.

2016-88 Knowlton Elementary School PTO 50/50

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to approve resolution 2016-88 as follows:

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Elementary School PTO has applied for a raffle licenses to conduct a raffle on October 6, 2016 at the Knowlton Elementary School consisting of New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission application #16-013; and

WHEREAS, the proper fees have been filed with the application, and the Findings and Determinations by the Municipal Clerk have determined that this organization is qualified to conduct raffles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that approval is hereby given for the issuance of raffle licenses#16-013 to the Knowlton Elementary School PTO.

2016-89 Authorizing Mayor to execute letter allowing T-Mobile to perform modification work on cell tower pursuant to lease agreement.

Tabled for next meeting for Mayor Starrs to research the equipment being proposed.

ORDINANCE

2016-11- Energy Aggregation Ordinance 1st Reading

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to introduce ordinance 2016-11 as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY AND NATURAL GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM

IN THE TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON, COUNTY OF WARREN, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has been engaged in a process to establish a competitive market place through deregulation and restructuring the electric utility market and natural gas market; and

WHEREAS, the Government Energy Aggregation Act, N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq., (the "Act"), governs the establishment of a government energy aggregation program ("GEA Program"), which is a government-operated purchasing cooperative through which multiple energy consumers purchase energy together under the auspices of a government aggregator; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has promulgated rules, N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq., for the implementation of GEA Programs ("BPU Rules")

WHEREAS, the Act and BPU Rules permit the Township of Knowlton (the "Township") to participate in a GEA Program in order to provide electric generation service for use by residential and non-residential customers within the municipality's geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a government aggregator and an energy aggregation program to purchase electric generation service and natural gas pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-93.1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 14:4-6.1 et seq. will increase competition for the provision of electric power and natural gas to residential and non-residential users, thereby increasing the likelihood of lower electric rates and natural gas rates for these users without causing any interruption in service; and

WHEREAS, under the aggregation process the residential and non-residential ratepayers may likely receive a direct reduction in their electric bills and gas bills; and

WHEREAS, residential customers shall be able to "opt-out" of the GEA program if they do not wish to participate (with no effect on any existing agreements they may have with an electrical generation service), and non-residential customers shall be able to "opt-in" if they wish to participate; and

WHEREAS, the realization of energy costs savings is in the economic and social interests of the Township residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township hereby finds that it is in the best interests of residential and non-residential electric ratepayers for the Township to create the opportunity for them to enter into an aggregation agreement in order to seek substantial savings on electric rates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton in the County of Warren, New Jersey, duly assembled in public session, as follows:

The Township publicly declares its intent to become an aggregator of electric power on behalf of its residential and non-residential users of electricity pursuant to the Government Energy Act of 2003, N.J.S.A. 48:3-91.3 to - 98, and implementing regulations.

2. The Township will utilize approved vendor Concord Engineering's d/b/a Concord Energy Services Reverse Energy Auction Platform pursuant to the NJ E-PROCUREMENT Pilot program (P.L. 2001, c. 30) under the NJ Department of Community Affairs. The Reverse Energy auction will seek bids from licensed and appropriate third party suppliers. If such winning bid is selected and agreement executed, individual residential consumers would retain the option not to participate and to choose any alternatives they desire, while non-residential ratepayers would also have the right to participate.

3. The Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute any documents necessary to carry out the purpose of the Ordinance.

4. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

5. If any portion of this ordinance shall be deemed invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall survive in full force and effect.

6. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption and publication in accordance with law.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above entitled ordinance was introduced on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton August 25, 2016, and will be considered for final reading and adoption at the Regular Meeting of the Township Committee to be held on September 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., or so thereafter as the Township Committee may hear this Ordinance at the Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of Said Ordinance.

Kristin Shipps
Acting Township Clerk

Lisa Gibbs from Commercial Utility Consultants (CUC) and Wendy Molnar from Concord Energy Services (CES) were present at this meeting and answered questions from the public.

Old Business

Flood Insurance Update

Frank Makowski met with members of CRS regarding the CRS application, a program to decrease flood insurance rates for residents. Acting Clerk Shipps explained that there is going to be a long process that could take up to a year or more.

23 Decatur Street

Committeeman Mathez asked how much money the Township has received in fines. Mayor Starrs said that she has not received the exact number from Rosanne McPartland, CMCA, but she believes it is over \$10,000.00. Mayor Starrs has been to court personally 6 times and is going again. The house has been demolished but was not done properly. It was not leveled evenly. Warren County Mosquito Hazard came out to the property and said that there is a mosquito hazard. The bank that owns the house is being charged with contempt of court repeatedly, which is a \$2,500.00 fine.

New Business

15 Decatur Street

Mayor Starrs explained that this house has been a mess. Warren County Health Dept. and the Animal Control officer have been called on this house. The owner who rented the home has passed away and the committee can not hold renters responsible. Acting Clerk Shipps discovered that the home was foreclosed on and that the bank Freddie Mac is the new owner.

Resignation of Bea Koenneke

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to accept the resignation of office assistant Bea Koenneke with regret.

Warren County Shared Service Agreement between the County of Warren and Municipalities with the County Sharing Public Works Equipment

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs and seconded by Committeeman Mathez to accept the Warren County Shared Service Agreement

Roll Call: Mathez- yes Cuntala- yes Starrs –yes Shipps-absent Farber- absent

Volunteer Fireman Application

Committee reviewed and accepted the application from Noah C. Wilder.

Front of Municipal Building

The building code inspector informed Mayor Starrs that the bottom step to the emergency exit is not to code. This matter is going to be mentioned in the next meeting when the town attorney is present.

Mayor Starrs would also like to have landscaping done in front of the building and asked the committee if there was any interest in getting quotes. Mayor Starrs along with Committeewoman Cuntala will get quotes and some ideas and see what would be the best and least expensive way to update the landscaping in front of the building.

Correspondence

Hackettstown Medical Center

A letter was sent to the township to notify them that Hackettstown Hospital will be closing the maternity department. All referrals will be sent to Newton Memorial Hospital and Morristown Hospital.

Committeeman Farber, who was not present at the meeting but whose correspondence was relayed by the clerk, is going to have a company give a free estimate regarding the moisture in the basement.

Minutes

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, seconded by Mayor Starrs and carried to approve the February 25, 2016, Public Meeting Minutes.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to approve the August 8, 2016, Executive Session Minutes.

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala, and carried to approve the August 8, 2016, Public Meeting Minutes.

Public Comments:

Resident Pam Russweiler asked if there was any more information regarding the Route 46 and Interstate 80 resurfacing project. Mayor Starrs explained that everything is on hold because of the governor's order to put all Transportation Trust Fund projects on hold. The information meeting for the public that had been scheduled for September will not occur.

Committeeman Mathez also asked if there as been any information on the fencing project on 80. Mayor Starrs said that was also on hold.

John Anderson asked for an update on the *Casser vs. Knowlton* lawsuit. Mayor Starrs suggested that he wait till the next meeting so it can be addressed with the Town Attorney.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Shipps
Acting Municipal Clerk