

**TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON  
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 2022**

The meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee was held on this date at the Knowlton Municipal Building, 628 Route 94, Columbia, New Jersey 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 Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk’s office.”

**Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes Starrs—yes.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tara Mezzanotte provided the committee with a coalition update that the archaeological study is starting soon on the rock wall. The Warren County commissioners agreed a draft resolution to be written by Tara regarding the difference between the visual impact assessment on how the mountain will look from the perspective of section 106 historic preservation act and a visual impact assessment as per national Preservation Environmental Act.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

CFO Christine Rolef emailed the proposed budget to the committee prior to the meeting. Christine advised the committee that the Township’s surplus has increased the senior citizen contribution has gone back to pre COVID level of \$9,000. The contribution to the fire company remains the same from the previous year.

This year, the remaining NJDOT grant from the previous year will be used to complete the paving of Mount Pleasant Road. A new grant has been received that will partially fund the repaving of Honey Run Road.

CFO Rolef provided the committee with the projected payment schedule on the bond anticipation note for the Township, she predicts this bond note will be paid off in 2027.

The committee agreed on a 1-cent tax increase for this year’s municipal budget and a 4% cost-of-living increase for all Township employees. Mayor Starrs noted that inflation is currently 8% and provided the Committee with the cost-of-living increases of surrounding towns in Warren County.

**RESOLUTIONS**

2022-35- Contracting for Professional Services Without Competitive Bidding in Accordance with the Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A 40A:11.1, Et.Seq)

**Motion made by Cuntala, second by Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—yes, Starrs—yes**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Approval for Fireman's Application  
Applicant Frank A Pennell.

**Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to approve Fireman's application**

Community-project "Fix the S Curves"

Mayor Starrs discussed with Congressman Gottheimer regarding community funded projects. Congress is allowed 10 projects per year. Municipalities submit project requests to congress for approval of funding. Committee agreed to submitting an application to fix the S curves for the committee's review.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The committee submitted comments to the NJDOT regarding replacing the bridge on Route 46 over the Paulins kill. They asked if the NJDOT can use precast bridge pieces as that will shorten the duration to complete the project. If they cannot, why not?

NJDOT's responded that precast bridge pieces will be considered to shorten the duration of impact on the traveling public. The committee also raised concerns that there will be multiple projects going on in the same vicinity at the same time. NJDOT responded that they will coordinate with other project where there may be any conflict and work accordingly.

NJDOT will be doing a slurry seal on Route 46 from Walnut Road to Walter Street in White Township in fall to winter 2023. Work will be done at night and ramps may need to close at night only.

Columbia Wildlife Management Area update- JCP&L completed their work on the substation in the area. It is up to NJDEP to reopen the area to the public. Mayor Starrs will follow up with NJDEP to get a time frame of when the area will be reopened.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tara Mezzanotte updated the committee with correspondence with the NJDOT Office of Inspector General's representative. She was advised that the process has moved forward ~~for the S~~ with interviews that are required to be conducted for thoroughness and completeness of the study.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to go into Executive Session at 8:28 2022-36 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session**

#### **A. Personnel**

**Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to close Executive Session at 8:44 pm.**

**Adjournment**

**Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:02**