

**MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
Public Session Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021**

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 7:01 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.”

Open Public Meetings Act:

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 *Star Gazette* as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk’s office.

ELECTRONIC MEETING STATEMENT:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on in-person public gatherings by executive orders of the Governor of New Jersey, meetings of the Knowlton Township Committee will be held remotely via Zoom. The Zoom platform allows for members of the public to participate via computer, mobile device, or telephone. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:39-1.5(g): Both adequate and electronic notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing a revised annual notice in the two official newspapers designated by the Township, posting such notice on the door of the municipal building, and posting such notice on the municipal website. Such notice specified the time of this meeting and provided instructions on how to access the meeting remotely.

The following is an explanation of the procedures and requirements for making public comment as required by N.J.A.C. 5:391.4(h).

Please keep yourself muted until the meeting moderator requests that you unmute yourself. The Township reserves the right to mute or remove disruptive meeting participants after an initial warning. Disruptive conduct includes sustained inappropriate behaviors such as, but not necessarily limited to, shouting, interruption, and use of profanity.

Comments will be accepted in writing. Written comments must be no more than 450 words and must include your name and address. This equates to about 3 minutes of speaking, which is the amount of time allowed for each public comment. Such comments will be read into the record at the appropriate time. However, please be advised that the Township reserves the right to summarize duplicative comments consistent with N.J.A.C. 5:391.4(f). Comments can be emailed by 3:00 p.m. the day of

the meeting to: Knowltonpubliccomments@knowlton-nj.com. Written comments may also be submitted via mail or dropped off at the municipal building by such day and time.

Comments will also be accepted during the appropriate times of the meeting via Zoom. If you wish to make a comment during the meeting please use the “raise hand” button on your screen if you are signed in via Zoom. If you are accessing the meeting via telephone, please hit *9 and the meeting moderator will call on you and identify you by the last few digits of your phone number. You can press *6 to unmute yourself. Please state your name and address before beginning your comment. As always, comments are limited to three minutes per person and there will be two comment sessions during the meeting.

Please be advised that this meeting is being recorded.

Roll Call

Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—late (arrived at 7:15), Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT—There were no comments from the public

ORDINANCES

Public Hearing/ Adoption:

2021-05- Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of KNOWLTON in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2021 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year’s final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$57,189.97 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of KNOWLTON, in the County of Warren, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2021 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of KNOWLTON shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$57,189.97 and that the CY 2021 municipal budget for the Township of KNOWLTON be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion made by Starrs, Second by Cuntala and carried to open public hearing.

Motion made by Starrs, Second by Cuntala and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote:

Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—absent, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to the adoption of Ordinance 2021-05.

2021 Budget

Motion made by Starrs, Second by Cuntala and carried to open public hearing.

Motion made by Starrs, Second by Cuntala and carried to close public hearing.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—absent, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes, the adoption of the 2021 Budget.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mayor Starrs reported on behalf of French and Parello the Township Engineer that they are ready to submit the application for improvements to tunnel field. Discussion took place regarding making some contribution toward the grant which may look more favorable for approval. Committee agreed to a 10% match which will be \$10,000.

ORDINANCES

Introduction(s):

2021-03- An Ordinance Amending Section of the Township of Knowlton Code Regarding Use of

Columbia Beach

WHEREAS, Columbia Beach, located at Block 19, Lot 4 in the Township of Knowlton (the "Township"), is designated as a municipal beach and contains a boat launch owned and maintained by the Township; and

WHEREAS, Columbia Beach is located in the Village Residential (VR) Zone; and

WHEREAS, Section 69-3 of the Township Code permits the issuance of permits to use the boat launch to residents and owners of local campgrounds; and

WHEREAS, commercial activities (such as the use of the boat launch by the campgrounds) are not a permitted use in the VR Zone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of Knowlton as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 69-3 of the Code of the Township of Knowlton (the "Code"), entitled "Permit required for certain activities; fees," shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

A. *The Township of Knowlton hereby declares its beach open to the public for the purposes of recreational use, fishing and picnicking, subject to the following regulations, as promulgated in this Chapter and specifically set forth herein:*

(1) *Resident Parking Permits for Watercraft Launching at Columbia Beach.*

(a) *Resident Parking Permits and watercraft badges for Columbia Street. Only residents, owners of local campgrounds and public entities shall be eligible to receive parking permits and badges to use Columbia beach for the purposes of watercraft launching. Any and all persons utilizing the Columbia Beach for this purpose may obtain a current, valid Township issued watercraft launch badge and parking permit for Columbia Street from the Municipal Clerk*

(b) *Upon issuance of a parking permit to a resident for Columbia Street pursuant to Ordinance Section 174.14.1, the Municipal Clerk shall, upon request by such resident, also issue a badge(s) for watercraft launching purposes. Parking permits must be affixed to a resident's dashboard and visible while parked on Columbia Street. Additionally, Township issued watercraft launch badges must be worn or kept on the resident's person at all times while engaging in watercraft activities at Columbia Beach.*

(c) *Pursuant to Ordinance Section 174.14.1 there shall not be a fee for a resident parking permit for Columbia Street. However, residents requiring a badge for the purposes of watercraft launching shall provide a non-refundable deposit in*

the amount of \$20.00 and shall fill out an application that includes the following information:

- [1] The resident's name, address and phone number in Knowlton Township; and*
 - [2] The license plate number of the vehicle to be used for watercraft launching; and*
 - [3] A description of the type of each watercraft to be launched;*
 - [4] A copy of any required licenses or permits needed to operate each watercraft; and*
 - [5] A hold harmless agreement in a form to be provided by the Township.*
- (2) Permits for Users of Local Campgrounds.*

(a) Owners of licensed campgrounds located in Knowlton Township may obtain up to three (3) annual Columbia Street parking permits for each passenger van/vehicle used to transport camp visitors to and from Columbia Beach. Each permit will require a non-refundable payment of \$500.00.

(b) Each transport vehicle issued a parking permit may also obtain up to ten (10) watercraft launch badges per vehicle permit at a cost of \$20.00 per watercraft launch badge. Watercraft launch badges must be used solely by camp patrons transported to and from Columbia Beach for watercraft launching activities subject to the following conditions:

[1] Any parking permits issued to a campground transport vehicle must remain affixed to the dashboard of that vehicle and visible at all times. Watercraft launch badges may be temporarily issued by the campground owners to its patrons and used by the patron only while engaging in watercraft activities at Columbia Beach via transport by a permitted vehicle. Watercraft launch badges will allow the patron access to the beach for the purpose of watercraft launching and must be affixed to and/or maintained by the patron at all times during watercraft use.

[2] Prior to the issuance of any permit[s] and badges, the campground shall enter into an agreement (in a form drafted by the Township) with the Township, which among other things, may establish certain maintenance responsibilities, insurance obligations and hold harmless obligations in favor of the Township for any and all injuries and damages caused as a result of the use of the watercraft launch by the Campground and its patrons.

[3] The Township reserves the right to limit the amount of times per day a transport vehicle may visit Columbia Beach for the purpose of daily patron watercraft launches.

[4] Each patron of a campground shall be required by the campground to abide by all applicable laws and regulations during watercraft activities and must sign a waiver of liability absolving the Township of any liability for death, injuries, or property damage incurred while participating in the commercial operation. Copies of the waiver forms must approved by the Township and be submitted to the Township monthly basis or upon request.

(c) Permits and badges shall be valid for one year starting January 1 of the year in which the permit was purchased. Fees for lost badges in need of replacement will be \$20.00 per badge.

3. Permits for Governmental and Other Public Agencies.

B. Fishing and picnicking. The public shall be permitted to use Township beaches for fishing and/or picnicking.

SECTION 2. Section 69-4 the Code of the Township of Knowlton (the “Code”), entitled “Additional Rules and Regulations” shall be amended as follows (Additions indicated in boldface and italics ***thus***; deletions indicated with strike-through ~~thus~~):

§ 69-4. Additional rules and regulations.

It shall be unlawful for any person or persons utilizing the beaches, whether by permit or without, to commit any of the following offenses:

A. There shall be no parking or standing on the boat ramps except in the course of actual launching or retrieving of watercraft from the Delaware River. No motor vehicle, except emergency vehicles being operated in the course of emergency operations or a Knowlton Township vehicle, shall be permitted past the gates onto the beaches without either a resident sticker or a campground dashboard identification sticker.

[Amended 3-27-1999 by Ord. No. 99-1]

B. No alcoholic beverages whatsoever shall be permitted at any time upon the municipal beaches of the Township of Knowlton.

C. All persons utilizing the beach area shall be required to contain any and all waste material created or brought with them by using containers provided at the beach areas, if any; or shall carry off any and all

waste material with them to be disposed of properly elsewhere.

D. The beaches shall be deemed closed at 9:00 p.m. each and every evening to all persons, with the exception of those persons engaged in the activity of fishing. No one shall remain upon the beach or beach areas unless actively engaged in the sport of fishing.

E. It shall be prohibited for any person or persons to play loud music or behave in a boisterous or disturbing manner while utilizing said beach. All such conduct shall be prohibited and shall be subject to the penalties described within this chapter herein.

F. Open fires upon the municipal beaches of the Township of Knowlton are prohibited at all times.

G. Swimming is strictly prohibited. Persons engaged in swimming on the municipal beaches shall be deemed trespassers upon said beaches and shall be subject to the penalties described within this chapter herein.

H. A person shall not operate an all-terrain vehicle, dirt bike, trail bike, or "off-road" motor vehicle or motorcycle, scooter or moped on or over the municipal beaches of the Township of Knowlton.

SECTION 3. Section 11-301 of the Code of the Township of Knowlton (the "Code"), entitled "Permitted principal uses," regarding the Village Residential (VR) Zone shall be amended as follows (Additions indicated in boldface and italics ***thus***; deletions indicated with strike-through ~~thus~~):

Permitted principal uses in the VR Zone shall be as follows:

- A. Single-family detached dwellings.
- B. Agricultural uses and farms as provided in Article 50, Right to Farm, and supplemental regulations in this Article.
- C. Parks, playgrounds, firehouses, libraries and municipal buildings.
- D. Community residences for the developmentally disabled.
- E. Community shelters for victims of domestic violence.
- F. Commercial use of beach and watercraft facilities with proper Township-issued permits.***

SECTION 4. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to such inconsistencies.

SECTION 5. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be

deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof.

SECTION 6. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

Discussion took place regarding permits for government and other public agencies and not charging a fee. Committee agreed that except for emergency rescue purposes, other public agencies are not entitled to free access and a key to Columbia Beach and the Committee does not authorize Knowlton’s municipal office to provide them.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—absent, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to the Introduction of Ordinance 2021-03.

2021-06 An Ordinance Prohibiting the Operation of All Classes of Cannabis Businesses within its Geographical Boundaries

WHEREAS, in 2020 New Jersey voters approved Public Question No. 1, which amended the New Jersey Constitution to allow for the legalization of a controlled form of marijuana called “cannabis” for adults at least 21 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2021, Governor Murphy signed into law P.L. 2021, c. 16, known as the “New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act” (the “Act”), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana by adults 21 years of age or older, and establishes a comprehensive regulatory and licensing scheme for commercial recreational (adult use) cannabis operations, use and possession; and

WHEREAS, the Act establishes six marketplace classes of licensed businesses, including:

- Class 1 Cannabis Cultivator license, for facilities involved in growing and cultivating cannabis;
- Class 2 Cannabis Manufacturer license, for facilities involved in the manufacturing, preparation, and packaging of cannabis items;
- Class 3 Cannabis Wholesaler license, for facilities involved in obtaining and selling cannabis items for later resale by other licensees;
- Class 4 Cannabis Distributer license, for businesses involved in transporting cannabis plants in bulk from on licensed cultivator to another licensed cultivator, or cannabis items in bulk from any type of licensed cannabis business to another;

- Class 5 Cannabis Retailer license for locations at which cannabis items and related supplies are sold to consumers; and
- Class 6 Cannabis Delivery license, for businesses providing courier services for consumer purchases that are fulfilled by a licensed cannabis retailer in order to make deliveries of the purchases items to a consumer, and which service would include the ability of a consumer to make a purchase directly through the cannabis delivery service which would be presented by the delivery service for fulfillment by a retailer and then delivered to a consumer.

WHEREAS, Section 31b of the Act authorizes municipalities by ordinance to prohibit the operation of any one or more classes of cannabis establishments, distributors, or delivery services anywhere in the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Section 31b of the Act also stipulates, however, that any municipal regulation or prohibition must be adopted within 180 days of the effective date of the Act (*i.e.*, by August 22, 2021); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 31b of the Act, the failure to do so shall mean that for a period of five years thereafter, the growing, cultivating, manufacturing, selling and reselling of cannabis and cannabis items shall be permitted uses in all industrial zones, and the retail selling of cannabis items to consumers shall be a conditional use in all commercial and retail zones; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the initial and any subsequent five-year period following a failure to enact local regulations or prohibitions, the municipality shall again have 180 days to adopt an ordinance regulating or prohibiting cannabis businesses, but any such ordinance would be prospective only and would not apply to any cannabis business already operating within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton have determined that, due to present uncertainties regarding the potential future impacts that allowing one or more classes of cannabis business might have on New Jersey municipalities in general, and on the Township of Knowlton in particular, it is at this time necessary and appropriate, and in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the Township of Knowlton and its residents to amend as necessary the Township of Knowlton's zoning regulations and to otherwise prohibit the following marijuana-related land use and development within the geographic boundaries of Township of Knowlton: all Classes.

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

1. Pursuant to Section 31b of the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act (P.L. 2021, c. 16), all Classes are hereby prohibited from operating anywhere in the Township of Knowlton. It is acknowledged that delivery services located in other municipalities shall be permitted to make deliveries in the Township of Knowlton.

2. Section ____ of the Code of the Township of Knowlton is hereby amended by adding to the list of prohibited uses, the following: “All Classes of cannabis establishments as said terms are defined in Section 3 of P.L. 2021, c. 16 (but not the delivery of cannabis items and related supplies by a delivery service which is located in another municipality).”

3. Any article, section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or other provision of the Township of Knowlton inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

4. If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged, and the remainder of this ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

5. This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication and filing with the Township of Knowlton, and as otherwise provided for by law.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—absent, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes, the Introduction of Ordinance 2021-06.

2021-07 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Article 3 of the Code of the Township of Knowlton to Change the Number of Members of the Historic Preservation Commission from Seven to Nine

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey on May 12, 1997 by Ordinance No. 97-04 established a Historic Preservation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 10-16 of Chapter 10, Article 111 of the Historic Preservation Commission establishes that the Historic Preservation Commission consist of seven regular voting members and two alternate members; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-107c states that historic preservation commissions shall consist of five, seven, or nine regular members and may have not more than two alternate members; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Preservation Commission recommends that the number of members of the Historic Commission be increased to nine with one less than the majority being Class A and B members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that Chapter 10, Article 111 of the Codes of the Knowlton Township be amended as follows:

10-16A: First sentence be revised to read: “The Historic Preservation Commission shall consist of nine regular members and two alternate members.”

10-16B: Revised to read: “Four of the regular members shall be drawn from Classes A and B; at least one of those four shall be a Class A member, and at least one of those four shall be a Class B member.

Five of the regular members shall meet the qualification of Class C members, and the two alternate members shall meet the qualifications of Class C members.”

REPEALER

Any ordinance or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to any inconsistencies

EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect upon publication after final passage and approval, as provided by law.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—absent, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to the Introduction of Ordinance 2021-07.

2021-08- An Ordinance to Provide for the Improvement to Mount Pleasant Road Section I Within the Township of Knowlton and to Provided for the Funding Thereof

BE IT ORDAINED the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the following be properly authorized:

Improvements to Mount Pleasant Road Section I - \$ 221,700.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the financing for the above is as follows:

RESERVE FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS \$ 85,000.00

DOT GRANT RECEIVABLE – Mount Pleasant Road \$ 136,700.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the period of usefulness of the improvements is in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Township for this improvement authorization.

The capital budget conforms with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full details of the Capital Budget and Capital Program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Municipal Clerk is available for public inspection.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—absent, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes, the Introduction of Ordinance 2021-08.

2021-09- Capital Ordinance Repairs to Fire Equipment \$100,000

BE IT ORDAINED the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren and State of New Jersey, that the following be properly authorized:

Repairs of Fire Equipment - \$ 100,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the financing for the above is as follows:

RESERVE FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT \$ 100,000.00

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the period of usefulness of the improvements is in excess of the five (5) year statutory requirement, and that no debt shall be incurred by the Township for this improvement authorization.

The capital budget conforms with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full details of the Capital Budget and Capital Program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services as on file with the Municipal Clerk is available for public inspection.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes, the Introduction of Ordinance 2021-09.

RESOLUTIONS

2021-53- Award Contract- Traffic Striping

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize it for Traffic Striping of Starlite Hill Road; and

WHEREAS, Denville Line Painting, Inc. New Jersey has been awarded Contract #36 for Traffic Striping on Roadways. This has been awarded 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 Capital Ordinance 2019-01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the Traffic Line Striping of Starlite Hill Road contract not to exceed \$1,750.00 be awarded to Denville Line Painting, Inc. 2 Green Pond Road, Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Shipps and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes, the Introduction of Resolution 2021-53.

2021-54- Award Contract- Road Resurfacing

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize it for Road Overlay of Starlite Hill Road; and

WHEREAS, South State, Inc. New Jersey has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing. This has been awarded 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 Capital Ordinance 2019-01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that the Road Resurfacing of Starlite Hill Road contract not to exceed \$75,000.00 be awarded to South State, Inc. 202 Reeves Road Bridgeton, New Jersey 08846

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes, the Introduction of Resolution 2021-54

2021-55 Resolution 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 Cuntala second by Shipp and approved by roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to the Introduction of Ordinance 2021-03.

OLD BUSINESS

Rockwall Update—Tara Mezzanotte read a statement that she also read at the NJTPA meeting earlier that day. The topics that were mentioned in the statement were regarding concerns of the proposed plans and how they have changed from a \$5 million, 9-month no-traffic-detour project, which was presented in 2011, to a \$37-200 million, 4-year-plus project with huge traffic concerns. Mayor Starrs explained it was also discovered that Knowlton Township was removed from the public plan so they received no notice for a period of almost five years after a major change of scope occurred. An Environmental Assessment is being done right now which ~~study~~ studies the environmental issues. The report will show if there will significant impacts. Documentation that was received via OPRA showed that 2 years ago that NJDOT told their contractor to come up with a finding of no significant impact. This shows the study is not legitimate; the NJDOT predetermined the outcome, and paid their contractor for that outcome, before the study even started. Mayor Starrs asked the committee if they will be willing to put a request via a resolution for our legislatures to to pursue this huge oversight. The Committee agreed.

Foreclosure on Properties Where the Total Taxes Owed Far Exceeds the Assessed Value—tabled for a later meeting

New Business

Request from Developer to Consider "Area in Need of Redevelopment" Designation

An email was received from a developer who owns 2 pieces of property in Knowtton Township. Both properties have been for sale for a long time and the developers are asking the committee to consider using a designation called an "Area in Need of Redevelopment." Mayor Starrs looked into the process and it would be costly and complicated to the township. It would also involve allowing the developer to rezone the area and the Township to use eminent domain to take ownership of residents' land inside the designated area. The Committee unanimously agreed not to proceed with this designation.

Township ROW on North Terrace

Resident would like to purchase the ROW on North Terrace. Attorney Parikh believed the ROW could be vacated but would like to see the documentation that former Township Engineer Ted Rodman has provided and look more into it.

Historic Commission Kiosk

Historic Commission received a grant to put a Kiosk up near the walking bridge which will be used to display Historic information in Knowtton Township. Current plan is to have the Kiosk on township property on the corner of Washington St. Committeewoman Shipps requested there be additional funding for any repairs. Grant application will be forwarded to the committee and a resolution will be prepared for a later meeting.

Application for Junior Firefighters

1. Jack Moritz
2. Nick Jacobson
3. Alex Wright
4. Kyle Wright

Motion made by Starrs, second by Shipps and carried to approve the application for the above-mentioned Junior Firefighters.

Tom Moritz from Fire & Rescue spoke regarding a program for the Junior Firefighters and requested guidance from the township attorney regarding waivers that need to be signed by the Junior Firefighters parents. Committee agreed to allow Mr. Moritz to speak with the Township Attorney outside of the meeting to get the waivers taken care of.

CORRESPONDENCE —No Correspondence

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralph Campbell from Delaware River Campground asked the committee if a new certificate of insurance was going to be required since they have new owners. Committee requested a new certificate of insurance. Mr. Campbell also asked if there is going to be an application for the boat launch. Attorney Parikh explained the process with the paperwork.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:12 p.m.