

**WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
November 14, 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 7:01 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: Committeewoman Cuntala, Committeeman Farber, Committeeman Mathez, Committeewoman Shipp (arrived at 7:04 pm) and Mayor Starrs

Also present: Township Engineer Ted Rodman, Township Attorney Dick Cushing, Esq.

**Executive Session:**

Motion to go into Closed Session: Mayor Starrs. Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried at 7:05.

**Resolution**

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L.1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from that portion of this meeting
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:
  - A. Hopkins VS. Allamuchy Township-litigation
  - B. Resolution 2016-118- Resolution Clarifying and Confirming Settlement

As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed at this time will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to come out of Closed Session at 7:40 and return to Regular Session.

Mayor Starrs made a motion to approve a payment of \$5,500.00 to pay Joe Layton in order to revise Knowlton Housing Plan to comply with the new COAH settlement. Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried with a roll call vote: Cuntala - yes, Farber - yes, Mathez - yes, Shipp - yes, Starrs - yes

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, Seconded by Committeewoman Shipp and carried to approve Resolution 2016-118- Resolution Clarifying and Confirming Settlement  
Cuntala - yes, Farber - no, Mathez - yes, Shipp - yes, Starrs - yes

**RESOLUTION 2016-118 RESOLUTION CLARIFYING AND CONFIRMING SETTLEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton filed tenure charges against the then Township Clerk, Lisa Patton, seeking her removal; and

WHEREAS, the tenure charges were scheduled for a hearing before the Office of Administrative Law; and

WHEREAS, the matter was settled during the second day of hearing on April 15, 2016 and was later reduced to writing; and

WHEREAS, Patton's then attorney agreed to the terms of the written settlement agreement (Settlement Agreement); and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement was subject to the ratification of the Township Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement was ratified by the Township Committee on April 28, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2016, both Patton and the Township representatives signed the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2016 the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the case, the Hon. Danielle Pasquale, A.L. J., approve the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Township has complied with all the provisions of the agreement, including making all the requisite payment required under the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2016 relying on the Settlement Agreement, the Township replaced Ms. Patton; and

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2016, Timothy J. Cunningham, Director, Division of Local Government Services issued his final decision adopting Judge Pasquale's recommendation to approve the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on August 16, 2016, for the first time since signing the Settlement Agreement, Patton wrote to the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs, Local Finance Board, objecting to the Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2016, Patton's new attorney, William J. Courtney, Esq. , filed Patton's appeal to the Local Finance Board requesting that the Board "find that the Settlement Agreement was not satisfied by the Township and that no settlement exists;" and

WHEREAS, Patton, through her attorney, argued that the Township did not satisfy the terms of the Settlement Agreement because:

- a. the Agreement was that Patton was to resign her position with the Township "in good standing;"
- b. the claims made against Ms. Patton in the Complaint would be withdrawn;
- c. the \$45,000 paid to Ms. Patton would be for non-economic damages; and

WHEREAS, the Township opposed Patton's appeal, asserting that there was a valid Settlement Agreement and that the Township satisfied all the terms of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2016, the Local Finance Board made the following decision concerning Patton's appeal:

1. It affirmed Director Cunningham's decision which had adopted Judge Pasquale's recommendation that:
  - a. the parties voluntarily agreed to the settlement;
  - b. the settlement fully disposes of all issues in controversy and is consistent with the

law;

c. approving the settlement and ordering that the parties comply with the settlement terms;  
and

2. If desired by the Appellant, remanded the matter to Judge Pasquale to consider Patton's claims that the Township has not complied with the Settlement Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Township has complied with all the terms of the Settlement Agreement, and states that no inquiries have been made by anyone, including any prospective employers concerning Patton's employment with the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township is desirous of ending this litigation and wishes to affirm its compliance with the Settlement Agreement in this matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Patton's resignation from her employment with the Township was and is in good standing and Patton's Personnel File shall reflect same and all responses to inquiries concerning Patton shall so advise;

2. The tenure Complaint was withdrawn as part of the Settlement Agreement and Patton's Personnel File shall so reflect;

3. The Settlement Agreement provided that the \$45,000 paid to Patton is for non-economic damages and Township records shall so reflect; and

4. To respond to Patton's concerns about her resignation being considered in "good quote standing" the following shall be placed in Patton's Personnel File.

#### NOTICE

"All inquiries concerning Ms. Patton shall reflect that she resigned in good standing.

As part of the Settlement Agreement, all of the Township's Complaints against Patton were withdrawn. The Settlement Agreement called for the understanding that the \$45,000 paid to Patton was for non-economic damages."

5. Special Counsel is authorized to file any and all documents with the administrative Law Judge necessary to confirm the foregoing.

#### **No Public Comment**

#### **Department Head Reports:**

##### **Dennis Lembeck- Recreation**

Addressed the Committee regarding the budget and whether or not Recreation should be giving money to KAA. He is asking that there be a separate line item for money to go to KAA. Mr. Lembeck also questioned why some of the bills are being paid from recreation budget-- for example, well service at the recreation building and the mower repairs.

The committee agreed to have a separate line item out of the Recreation Budget to go to KAA. Committeewoman Cuntala is going to talk to CFO Christine Rolef regarding getting money to KAA and what other entities should be paying for the well service at the recreation building and mower repairs.

Mr. Lembeck would like to have a Christmas Party next year for the community and maybe also have a Knowlton Township Day. Committee agreed to have Mr. Lembeck and Committeewoman Shipp look into if they can get donations and how much it would actually cost the township to have a community day.

Mr. Lembeck would also like to have an ice skating rink next year.

Committeewoman Cuntala asked Mr. Lembeck about the spraying on the fields. The Committee decided to keep weed control on the baseball field infields but cancel weed treatment on the rest of the fields and fertilize on an as-needed basis.

### **Ted Rodman-Township Engineer**

Mr. Rodman received an email from NJ DOT and that there is going to be a delay on Route 46 with the paving. He is not sure how long the delay will be.

Joe Popalucca of the DOT has still made no progress on the catch basin.

Mr. Rodman meet with Art Hanse, owner of Hanse construction in Washington, NJ, who builds Salt Sheds. Hanse Construction Company is a member of the NJPA which is a nationwide purchasing agreement. Mr. Rodman needs to check with CFO Christine Rolef to see if they can be used.

Mr. Rodman talked to several contractors and is trying to get a contractor to build a salt shed in the short time that is available, which is hard.

Hanse construction will provide all the permit drawings and take care of everything. Mr. Hanse is going to put together a quote for the township.

Attorney Dick Cushing advised the committee to see a written contract before making any decision and schedule a special meeting if needed. The meeting was tentatively scheduled for November 30, 2016.

### **Resolutions:**

#### **RESOLUTION 2016-112-RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR THE NJ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE NJ GEOLOGICAL AND WATER SURVEY**

WHEREAS, the residents of Knowlton Township brought significantly elevated concentrations of sodium and chlorides in their drinking water to the attention of the Knowlton Township Committee most recently in May 2015; and

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township requested the expertise of the NJDEP to help determine the source, extent, and remedial options for the contamination; and

WHEREAS, the NJDEP and the NJ Geological and Water Survey (NJGWS) created, advertised, and executed a well sampling plan offering free water testing to Knowlton's private well owners in conjunction with the Warren County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the NJGWS coordinated with the Warren County Health Department to create a press release and informational materials to help notify Knowlton residents; and

WHEREAS, the NJGWS conducted numerous subsequent geophysical tests of the soil over the course of a year; and

WHEREAS, the NJGWS recognized the potential for high chloride water to be corrosive and leach lead from plumbing and therefore conducted additional testing for well water lead contamination; and

WHEREAS, the NJGWS concluded the study with a well-documented presentation to all the agencies that may be affected by the contamination including the Knowlton Township Committee, the Department of Transportation, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, Warren County, and the Travel Centers of America; and

WHEREAS, Knowlton is a small and rural community and without the expertise and resources provided by the NJDEP, Knowlton would not have unraveled this problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Knowlton Township Committee commends the scientists at the New Jersey Geological and Water Survey for the high level of communication and professionalism that they have displayed from the inception of the study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Knowlton Township Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the team at the NJ Geological and Water Survey for their exceptional commitment, coordination, and contribution of time and resources to solve the well water contamination issue affecting our residents.

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve resolution 2016-122

#### **RESOLUTION 2016-113- STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND RESOLUTION APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER**

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township (hereinafter "Local Unit") is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Fund's Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of Knowlton that Adele Starrs is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the year 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kristin Shipps is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the year 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Local Unit's Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve resolution 2016-113

#### **RESOLUTION 2016-114- RESOLUTION APPOINTING RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township (hereinafter "Local Unit") has joined the Statewide Insurance Fund (hereinafter "Fund"), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws require participating members to appoint a Risk Management Consultant, as those positions are defined in the Bylaws, if requested to do so by the "Fund"; and

WHEREAS, the Local Unit has complied with relevant law with regard to the appointment of a Risk management Consultant; and

WHEREAS, the "Fund" has requested its members to appoint individuals or entities to that position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of "Local Unit", in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Knowlton Township hereby appoints Sharon Cooper its local Risk Management Consultant.

The Acting Clerk (*authorized representative of the public entity*) and Risk Management Consultant are hereby authorized to execute the Risk Management Consultant's Agreement for the year 2017 in the form attached

hereto.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Farber and carried to approve resolution 2016-114.

**RESOLUTION 2016-115- BLOCK 12, LOT 11.01 REFUND OF OVERPAYMENTS FROM TAX COURT STIPULATION**

WHEREAS, HPT TA Properties Trust filed direct appeals to Tax Court regarding the assessment of the above property for 2014, 2015 and 2016 and a stipulation of settlement was agreed to by the owner and township which has reduced the assessment on the property for 2014, 2015 and 2016 tax years. Tax Court has agreed and a judgment was entered by the court which requires refunds of the taxes overpaid when the assessments were reduced for 2014, 2015 and 2016. No interest is due if refunded within 60 days of the court judgment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, New Jersey on this fourteenth day of November 2016, approves the refunds of the following overpayments: 2014-\$23,390.36, 2015 - \$11,626.12 and 2016 -\$11,766.99. The CFO is hereby authorized and directed to prepare checks payable to "Archer & Greiner, P.C. as Trustee for HPT TA Properties Trust" in the above amounts. The checks will be returned to the tax collector who will forward them to Archer & Greiner.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, Seconded by Committeeman Farber and carried by Roll Call vote Cuntala - yes, Farber - yes, Mathez - yes, Shipps - yes, Starrs - yes, to approve resolution 2016-115

**RESOLUTION 2016-116-RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE WARREN COUNTY FREEHOLDERS, WARREN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE WARREN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

WHEREAS, the residents of Knowlton Township brought significantly elevated concentrations of sodium and chlorides in their drinking water to the attention of the Knowlton Township Committee most recently in May 2015; and

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township requested the assistance of the Warren County Health Department to help determine the source, extent, and remedial options for the contamination; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Health Department worked with the NJ Geological and Water Survey (NJGWS) to create, execute, and fund a well sampling plan offering free water testing to Knowlton's private well owners; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Health Department coordinated with the NJGWS to create a press release and informational materials to help notify Knowlton residents; and

WHEREAS, the resulting study identified double salting of roads in and around Columbia as a contributing factor to the problem; and

WHEREAS, prior to the study, the Warren County Department of Public Works had already recognized the hazards of road salting and used non-salt-based reapplication treatments when possible; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County Department of Public Works has worked cooperatively with Knowlton Township to renegotiate winter salting routes and has supported the creation of new and clearer mapping of roads in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Knowlton is a small community and without the expertise, resources, and cooperation provided by

Warren County, Knowlton would not have unraveled this problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Knowlton Township Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the Warren County Freeholders and the teams at the Warren County Health Department and Department of Public Works for their exceptional commitment, coordination, and contribution of time and resources to assist in Knowlton's well water contamination issue.

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, seconded by Committeeman Farber and carried to approve resolution 2016-166.

#### **RESOLUTION 2016-117- RESOLUTION APPROVING 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 was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried by roll call vote Cuntala - yes, Farber - yes, Mathez - yes, Shipps - yes, Starrs - yes to approve resolution 2016-117 with the exception of the mileage/phone bill for the Fire Official so that documentation can be added.

#### **ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE 2016-12-** ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 127-3 ENTITLED "UNLAWFUL NUISANCES; EXEMPTIONS" OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON, COUNTY OF WARREN, AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY **2nd Reading Adoption/ Public Hearing**

WHEREAS, some properties within the Township pose a threat to the public's health and safety due to the presence of abandoned storage tanks, construction materials, and unsanitary conditions presenting a hazard to the public; and

WHEREAS, certain properties within the Township allow those portions of the property visible from the public road or sidewalk to become so littered with trash, residue, abandoned items, like discarded items, items no longer useful or other items not reasonably related to the customary and usual use of the property which has the effect of making the property in question appear to be either abandoned or no longer properly maintained; and

WHEREAS, properties which appear to be abandoned or give the appearance that they are no longer reasonably and properly maintained, adversely affect the property value of the subject property and also surrounding properties and neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, the Township desires to remedy such dangerous, ill-kept conditions by regulating such conditions in a manner that minimally infringes on the rights of the affected property owners; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton that Section 127-3 entitled "Unlawful Nuisances; Exemptions" of the Code of the Township of Knowlton ("Code") is hereby added as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Section 127-3-21 of the Code of the Township of Knowlton entitled "Unlawful Nuisances;

Exemptions” is hereby amended and supplemented as follows (Additions indicated in boldface and italics *thus*; deletions indicated with strike-through ~~thus~~):

§ 127-3. Unlawful nuisances; exemptions.

A. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**LITTER** - Any used or consumed substance or waste material which has been discarded, whether made of aluminum, glass, plastic, rubber, paper or other natural or synthetic material, or any combination thereof, including but not limited to any bottle, jar or can; or any top, cap or detachable tab of any bottle, jar or can; any unlighted cigarette, cigar, match or any flaming or glowing material; or any garbage, trash, refuse, debris, rubbish, grass clippings or other lawn or garden waste, newspaper, magazines, glass, metal, plastic or paper containers or other packaging or construction material, but does not include the waste of the primary processes of mining or other extraction processes, logging, sawmilling, farming or manufacturing.

**SOLID WASTE TRANSPORT VEHICLE** - *Any device used to carry solid waste (excluding hazardous waste) off-site or to a solid waste facility. A solid waste vehicle includes, but is not limited to, a solid waste single-unit vehicle, solid waste cab and/or solid waste transport unit.*

**UNSANITARY CONDITION** – *Condition that is likely to become a breeding place for rodents, flies, mosquitoes, and germs harmful to human health and safety.*

**UNSIGHTLY CONDITION** – *A condition of a property visible from the public street or public sidewalk that arises from the property owners or occupants permitting the collection of abandoned and/or unsightly items not currently stored in the portion of the property reasonably visible from the public property, including items left over after demolition, abandoned auto parts, abandoned vehicles, abandoned plumbing items, or un-kept household items not customarily stored in a front yard. These conditions do not include items that are stored or kept behind fencing or screening or kept a reasonable distance from the public street so as to sufficiently disguise the item from the view of a reasonable passerby. These conditions shall not include the storage by businesses or permitted commercial operations from storing their equipment, inventory, vehicles or other items reasonably and frequently used in their business or occupation.*

- B. Littering prohibited. It is unlawful for any person to throw, drop, discard or otherwise place litter of any nature upon any public or private property, other than in a litter receptacle.
- C. Illegal dumping. It is unlawful for any person to discard, throw, cast or dump along any street or road, on or off any right-of-way or other public place, any household or commercial solid waste, rubbish, refuse, junk, vehicle or vehicle parts, rubber tires, appliances or furniture; nor any wrecked or abandoned or unlicensed motor vehicle not carrying current New Jersey inspection approval tags; or unusable machines or parts of machines or metal trash on private property, open fields, woods and in any place not specifically designated for the purpose of solid waste storage or disposal.
- D. Motor vehicles. No person shall keep, store, abandon or leave upon any parcel of land or street in the Township of Knowlton any motor vehicle not currently being used for transportation and not being licensed for the current year or which cannot be readily operated under its own power; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall be determined to prohibit the placing, keeping or storing of any such motor vehicle in a garage or other building within the township.



- E. Uncovered vehicles. It is unlawful for any vehicle to be driven, moved, stopped or parked on any public roadway unless such a vehicle is constructed, covered or loaded to prevent any of its load from dropping, shifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom. Any person operating a vehicle from which any materials which constitute litter have fallen or escaped, which could cause an obstruction, damage a vehicle or otherwise endanger travelers or public property, must immediately cause the public property to be cleaned of all such materials and must pay the costs thereof.
- F. Construction Sites. It is unlawful for any owner, agent or contractor in charge of a construction or demolition site to permit the accumulation of litter before, during or immediately following completion of any construction or demolition project. It is the duty of the owner, agent or contractor in charge of a construction site to furnish containers adequate to accommodate flyable or nonflyable debris or trash at areas convenient to construction areas and to maintain and empty the receptacles in such a manner and with such a frequency as to prevent spillage of refuse. Salvaged building materials neatly stored on the owner's premises shall not be considered refuse or debris.
- G. Commercial Establishments and Residences. It is the duty of the owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or person in charge of any structure to keep and cause to be kept the sidewalk and curb abutting the building or structure free from obstruction or nuisances of every kind and to keep sidewalks, areaways, backyards, courts and alleys free of litter.
- H. *Unsanitary Conditions. All unsanitary conditions shall be remedied or removed where necessary to eliminate such conditions with reasonable dispatch upon their discovery. It shall be the responsibility of owners and operators to take reasonable steps to discover any such unsanitary conditions which may exist on their premises.*
- I. *Storage Tanks. No person shall place, deposit, keep, have, or leave in or upon any premises any abandoned or unused above-ground storage tank unless such tank shall be screened from view. Such screening shall consist of either storage within or behind a structure, an impermeable fence or impermeable vegetation.*
- J. *Solid Waste Transport Vehicles. Unless an emergency, such as inclement weather, equipment breakdown or accident warrants, no solid waste shall be allowed to remain or be stored in any solid waste transport units in excess of 24 hours. No solid waste vehicle shall be used for transportation if the design of the solid waste vehicle is such that any solid waste material will spill, leak or cause emissions therefrom. No solid waste vehicle used for transportation, shall be used beyond its design capabilities or in such a manner that littering, leakage, spillage or emissions therefrom of solid wastes will occur.*
- K. *Unsanitary Conditions. Unsanitary conditions defined herein shall be illegal.*
- L. Exemptions. It is further provided that this section shall not be construed to prohibit the placing of such materials as are removed from the township by the person or corporation authorized by the township through contract to remove the same when placed in suitable containers for that purpose, or recyclable materials. Farm machinery kept on the farmer's own premises is excluded from the provisions of this section. Organic gardening materials used on premises where stored are also excluded.
- M. *This Ordinance may be enforced by the Zoning Officer or Health Code Officer.*
- N. *The Zoning Officer shall not issue a summons to any property owner or occupant before he has*

*issued to the property owner or occupant a Notice of Violation providing the property owner or occupant with at least twenty (20) days opportunity to cure any deficiencies found by the Zoning Officer.*

SECTION 2. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed as to such inconsistencies.

SECTION 3. 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 4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to go into public hearing.

Resident Bob McNinch asked Acting Clerk Kristin Shipps which newspaper or newspapers the Ordinance/Public hearing was published in. Mrs. Shipps replied that it was published in both the *Express Times* and *Star Gazette* and provided Mr. McNinch with the dates.

Mr. McNinch mentioned to avoid confusion there should be a reference in the ordinance explaining that on farms when you have a nuisance complaint, the complaint should be filed with the Warren County Agriculture Dept. Committeeman Mathez explained that was only for commercial farmers and that most of the farmers know that they are to refer complaints with the Warren County Agriculture Dept. Mayor Starrs suggested sending a memo to the Zoning Officer making him aware of this in case he does not know where to send commercial farm nuisance complaints.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs and seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to close public hearing.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs and seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to adopt. Roll call vote Cuntala - yes, Farber - no, Mathez - yes, Shipps - yes, Starrs - yes

### **Voting at Knowlton Municipal Building**

Mayor Starrs asked Acting Clerk Shipps to explain how the day of election went. Acting Clerk Shipps explained that two machines broke down, which caused a huge delay. Write-in votes for both the Knowlton Township and North Warren School board members caused extra delays.

Committeewoman Shipps addressed that there were residents walking down the roads in order to get municipal building and how extremely dangerous it was.

Committee discussed that other arrangements should be considered for the next presidential election whether it be splitting up the voting polls or using a new location with more parking spaces.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Salt Shed and Salt remediation**

Salt shed was discussed earlier with Engineer Ted Rodman.

#### **Salt Remediation-**

The Committee discussed the options that NJDEP suggested for the salt remediation. Mayor Starrs presented

the Committee with a chart showing possible advantages/disadvantages of each option. The Committee ruled out hooking up to the Portland, PA, water supply. Mayor Starrs stated that NJDEP did rescind their offer in helping with the well pumps. Mayor Starrs asked the committee if they are ok with her getting some quotes from environmental companies for remedial pumping. Mayor Starrs requested that Attorney Dick Cushing be present when the meeting is held with the other agencies that contributed to the salt contamination. Committeeman Farber does not feel that the township should use taxpayers' money and take on all of the expense if the other agency do not agree to split the bill.

## **KAA**

Was discussed with Dennis Lembeck

### **Columbia Dam Referendum**

Election results showed the majority of residents are against the Columbia Dam removal. A resolution will be prepared and introduced at the December 12, 2016, meeting regarding these results.

### **Mobile Monitoring program for diesel vehicles update**

Mayor Starrs reported that the DEP Air Monitoring Unit came on October 27th to check out Knowlton. The cost will be about half a million dollars for the DEP to purchase mobile diesel emissions devices, so they are unlikely to place one at the weigh station in Knowlton now. DEP did think that Knowlton was a good location but nothing definitive came out of them looking.

## **New Business**

### **Rabies Clinic**

December 3rd from 10am -12pm

### **Best Practice Worksheet**

Presented for the Committee's review

### **Snowplow drivers**

All three of the township snowplow drivers have withdrawn their services for the reason of late hours and low pay. Mayor Starrs will advertise in the Treasure Hunt for snowplow drivers. The committee agreed to pay \$17.00 per hour for snowplow drivers, which is closer to the rate paid by Blairstown.

### **Lights at the Municipal Parking lot and Municipal Porch**

Committeewoman Cuntala will follow up with DPW Supervisor Brian Peck with the lights that are broken in the Municipal Parking Lot and Municipal Porch.

### **Reorganization Meeting**

Set for Wednesday January 4, 2017, at 7pm.

### **November 22, 2016, Extra Court Date**

Four trials are being held that day for DWI cases. Attorney Cushing explained that most towns get a DWI fund, which is created from DWI fines, that can be used to pay for DWI trial expenses.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and carried to approve the April 11, 2016, public meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Committeeman Cuntala seconded by Mayor Starrs and carried to approve the April 11, 2016, executive session minutes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Resident Donna Diorio stated that she bought her home in 1992 and at the time of her home inspection her chloride levels were not elevated. She bought her home because it was beautiful and she felt safe. Now there is a problem. Resident Vince Gaeta stated that he bought his home and then found out that there was a salt problem. Committeeman Farber explained that the township was only part of the problem and that is why he feels the township should not be fully responsible for the bill. Committeeman Farber agreed to the new salt

shed and feels that we should use less salt on the road and use other alternatives.  
Committee discussed and agreed to look again into other alternatives to use with salt on the roads.

Resident Bill Clifford commented that the township should be using grit on the roads.

Resident Bob McNinch also questioned why Mayor Starrs has declined to use grit on the road.  
Mayor Starrs explained that when the committee first considered this last year the DPW Supervisor notified them that they did not have a proper brush and they were not willing to purchase it at that time. Now that the Committee has heard the report from NJDEP she is willing to open the discussion again with the Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Shipps  
Acting Municipal Clerk