

TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
October 27, 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 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Adele Starrs.

Mayor Starrs led the public in the pledge of allegiance.

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."

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Committeewoman Cuntala, Committeeman Farber, Committeeman Mathez and Mayor Adele Starrs

**Also present:** Township Engineer Ted Rodman, CFO Christine Rolef and Attorney Tara St. Angelo (arrived at 7:15)

**Tardy-** Committeewoman Shipps arrived at 7:08 p.m.

**Resolutions:**

**2016-111 Resolution to Award Contract-Morris County Co-Op (Dump Body and Chassis)-State of New Jersey Snow Plows**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for purchase of Dump Body and Chassis; and

**WHEREAS**, both Tony Sanchez LTD, Ledgewood, New Jersey has been awarded Contract #15-D Service/Truck Bodies and Browns Hunterdon Mack Bloomsbury, New Jersey has been awarded Contract 15-F Cab/Chassis through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

**WHEREAS**, Tony Sanchez LTD, Ledgewood, New Jersey has been awarded Contract T-0085 for snow plow equipment through the State of New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property Procurement Bureau; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey Browns Hunterdon Mack PO Box 98 Bloomsbury, NJ be awarded the contract for Chassis in the amount of \$95,211 and Tony Sanchez LTD 1685 US Rt. 56 Ledgewood, New Jersey 07852 be awarded the contract for 2016 Dump Body, Snow Plow and Salt Spreader in the amount of \$64,315.00

Motion was made Committeeman Mathez, Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve by Roll Call Vote Resolution 2016-111

Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps absent, Starrs yes

**2016-89 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Execute Letter Allowing T-Mobile to Perform Modification Work on a Cell Tower Pursuant to a Lease Agreement**

**WHEREAS**, the township leases certain property located at 648 State Highway 94, Columbia, New Jersey to Omni point Communications, Inc. (now T-Mobile USA Tower, LLC) for the operation of a cell tower pursuant to a Lease Agreement date May 1, 1998;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Paragraph 8© of the Lease Agreement dated May 1, 1998 between the T-Mobile (through CCTMO, LLC) has requested permission to perform modifications to the New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC'S cell tower equipment as set forth in a letter dated August 28, 2016, which is attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, T-Mobile has requested that the Township indicate its consent to such modifications being performed by signed the above-referenced letter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposal and find that it does not conflict with the Lease Agreement;

**WHEREAS**, once the Township signs the above-referenced letter, T-Mobile must still apply for and receive engineering review, all applicable zoning permits, and all applicable building permits; and

**WHEREAS**, if equipment of a subtenant or co-locator is added to the cell tower, any such sublease agreement shall be subject to review by the Township Attorney.

**NOW , THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that they Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the attached letter consenting to modification by T-Mobile of cell tower equipment at 648 State Highway 94, Columbia, New Jersey

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to approve by Roll Call Vote Resolution 2016-89. With the added language that Attorney Tara St. Angleo provided.

Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps yes, Starrs yes.

**2016-94 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor To Execute Letter Allowing T-Mobile to Perform Modification Work on a Cell Tower Pursuant to a Lease Agreement (New Cingular Wireless)**

**WHEREAS**, the township leases certain property located at 648 State Highway 94, Columbia, New Jersey to Omni point Communications, Inc. (now T-Mobile USA Tower, LLC) for the operation of a cell tower pursuant to a Lease Agreement date May 1, 1998;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Paragraph 8© of the Lease Agreement dated May 1, 1998 between the T-Mobile (through CCTMO, LLC) has requested permission to perform modifications to the New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC'S cell tower equipment as set forth in a letter dated August 29, 2016, which is attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, T-Mobile has requested that the Township indicate its consent to such modifications being performed by signed the above-referenced letter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Engineer has reviewed the proposal and find that it does not conflict with the Lease Agreement.;

**WHEREAS**, once the Township signs the above-referenced letter, T-Mobile must still apply for and receive engineering review, all applicable zoning permits, and all applicable building permits; and

**WHEREAS**, if equipment of a subtenant or co-locator is added to the cell tower, any such sublease agreement shall be subject to review by the Township Attorney.

**NOW , THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that they Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the attached letter consenting to modification by T-Mobile of cell tower equipment at 648 State Highway 94, Columbia, New Jersey.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to approve Resolution 2016-89. With the added language that Attorney Tara St. Angleo will provide.

**PRESENTATION: Steve Spayd, NJDEP Bureau of Water Resources and Geoscience, Results of Salt Study**

In summer of 2015 there was a meeting with various agencies that do road salting in Knowlton. NJDEP put together a plan wanting to sample some wells before the salting season began last winter, focusing on Columbia, which they did the week of November 9, 2015. The purpose of the sampling was first to confirm if salt was the problem, find out the extent of the problem geographically and determine what homes may benefit from water treatment and try to determine the source or sources of the salt contamination.

Approximately 80 wells were tested. Sodium results showed that the Knowlton Municipal Building and some homes in the village showed five times higher than the allowed standard for Sodium. Chloride was three times higher than the standard. During the investigation the DEP discovered an open well in the clover leaf of Rt. 80, which they believed to be a well that was used for trailers when Rt. 80 was being built. DEP also tested that well and discovered it was also high with sodium and chloride.

Many tools and techniques were used in order to determine the cause and the sources of the salt contamination and the DEP study has determined that the Municipal Salt Shed was one of the factors that contributed to the salt contamination. The salt shed has some leaks coming from the roof. In front of the salt shed, where salt was discovered, there are cracks in the pavement which is where salty water can get into those cracks and run underground into wells. Another contributor to the salt contamination is double salting. There are several roads in Columbia that get double salted by overlapping of the Knowlton DPW, New Jersey Department of Transportation, Warren County Road Department and the Delaware Joint Toll Bridge Commission. Truck Stops of America also is a contributor; they have a large parking lot that they salt. The water flows right into the village. Homeowner water softeners are also a contributor to the salt water contamination.

DEP provided the committee and residents with options which include the Township getting new salt shed, pumping water from the wells, establishing a municipal water supply which would be connected with the Portland municipal water supply, eliminate double salting in Columbia, , drilling deeper wells, replacing water softeners and finally installing Reverse Osmosis systems in residents' homes.

After the presentation Mr. Spayd took questions from the residents and committee. The committee thanked the NJDEP as well as the Warren County Health Department.

Michael Kinney from Portasoft Systems of Morris County demonstrated how a Reverse Osmosis System (RO) is installed and how it works.

The system is user friendly and a resident can replace the filters on their own.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**2016-108 Resolution for Salt Shed Emergency**

**WHEREAS**, an emergency has arisen with respect to the integrity of the Township’s Salt Shed and no adequate provision was made in the 2016 budget for the aforesaid purpose, and NJS 40A:4-46 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose mention above, and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the emergency appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$125,000 and three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2016 is \$57,004.37 and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing appropriation together with prior appropriations exceeds three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations (including utility operation appropriations) in the budget for 2016,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with NJS 40A-49, petition be made to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for permission to exceed the statutory limitation of 3 percent for the creation of an appropriation for the purpose set forth in the preamble in accordance with following:

1. An emergency appropriation shall be made for Replacement of the Township’s salt shed and concrete pad in the amount of \$125,000
2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2016 Current Operating Budget
3. That an Emergency Note not in excess of the above amount be authorized pursuant to NJS 40A:4-51
4. That such note shall be executed by Christine M. Rolef
5. That such note shall be dated \_\_\_\_\_, may be renewed from time to time, and such note and any renewals shall be payable on or before December 31, 2017
6. That two (2) certified copies of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services
7. That the statement required by the Local Finance Board has been filed with the clerk and a copy transmitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

After discussion between the committee, Engineer Ted Rodman, and DPW Supervisor Brian Peck, regarding the current Salt Shed, motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and approved by roll call vote to approve resolution 2016-108.

Roll Call Vote: Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps yes, Starrs, yes

**2016-109            Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Sign the Department of Transportation Winter Operation Agreement #4786**

**WHEREAS**, 2015 laboratory sampling of well water in the village of Columbia revealed sodium content levels of up to 1980 mg/L, which exceeds the EPA’s recommended limit of 50 mg/L, an increase of 38 times the recommended limit; and

**WHEREAS**, this problem has been ongoing in the area since at least 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJDEP Bureau of Water Resources and Geoscience conducted a study into the extent and causes of contamination and in the fall of 2016 identified double salting of roads in the Columbia interchange area as a contributing factor; and

**WHEREAS**, four agencies share responsibility for plowing and providing ice-control, also known as “winter maintenance,” of this area; and

**WHEREAS**, the 1986 winter maintenance map on record shows a complicated intersection of routes by these four agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, confusion regarding where one route starts and another stops may be less likely to occur with a new and clearer map; and

**WHEREAS**, the DOT has created Winter Operations Agreement #4786, which includes a new map, to clarify the routes and assign responsibility for winter maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the following agreement pertains only to ice-control and plowing occurring between October 1 and April 30 and does not apply to other maintenance or ownership of the streets.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the mayor and clerk of the Township of Knowlton are hereby authorized to sign and execute the DOT's Winter Operations Agreement #4786, which is attached.

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and motion was carried to approve resolution 2016-109. Committeeman Farber voted no this resolution

**2016-110      A Resolution Supporting the Takeover by the Township of Knowlton of the Responsibility to Plow and Salt County Route 676 and 676 Spur in Knowlton during Inclement Cold Weather**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Warren and the Township of Knowlton have engaged in discussions regarding County Route 676 and 676 Spur;

**WHEREAS**, the roads are more specifically describes as:

County Route 676 (0.35 miles) which includes that portion of Decatur Street from Interstate Route 80 Ramp to Green Street and the portion of Green Street from Decatur Street to Washington St.

County Route 676 Spur (0.06 miles) which includes that portion of Columbia street from Decatur Street to Church Street.

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County Health Department has indicated that well-water samples from homes along and near the portion of Route 676 and Route 676 Spur have increased levels of sodium and chlorides, which may be caused by several factors, one of which is roadway salting during inclement weather; and

**WHEREAS**, minimizing the number of entities who treat the roadway in this area during inclement weather may minimize the deposition of salt on the road and corresponding runoff; and

**WHEREAS**, Knowlton Township is already plowing and salting the roads adjoining County Route 676 and 676 Spur in Knowlton ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Knowlton has agreed to take over responsibility for salting and plowing County Route 676 and 676 Spur during inclement weather only; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Knowlton as agreed to accept responsibility for any and all claims, demands, suits, action, expenses, attorney's fee, and all losses and damages of every kind attributable to the Township's salting and plowing of County Route 676 and 676 spur in times of inclement winter weather; and

**WHEREAS**, County Route 676 and 676 Spur shall remain a County roadway under the jurisdiction of County of Warren; and

**WHEREAS**, the county of Warren shall remain responsible for general maintenance of County 676 and 676 Spur: and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of Knowlton accepts the responsibility to plow and salt County Route 676 and 676 spur in Knowlton during inclement cold weather and agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Warren County against any and all claims, demands, suits actions expenses, attorney's fees, and all losses and damages of every kind attributable to Township's salting and plowing of County Route 676 and 676 spur in times of inclement winter weather.

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, Seconded by Committeewoman Shippo and carried to approved resolution 2016-100. Committeeman Farber voted no on this resolution.

**2016-101      Fixing the Salaries and Wages of Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Township of Knowlton in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey for 2016**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the salaries of the elected officials, appointees and employees of the Township of Knowlton, in the County of Warren and State of New Jersey, shall be as follows for the year 2016:

	AMOUNT	PER
Mayor	3,612.52	Year
Committee Member	3,084.62	Year
Township Clerk	60,629.50	Year
Acting Township Clerk	30,000.00	Year
Officer Manager	200.00	Per Diem
Grant Administrator	34.42	Hour
Registrar	7,711.20	Year
Registrar (effective April 29, 2016)	2,500.00	Year
Deputy Clerk (effective April 29, 2016)	24.36	Hour
Deputy Registrar/Office Assistant	19.39	Hour
Recreation Director	8,224.32	Year
Recreation Laborer (P/T)	15.00-15.42	Hour
Office Assistant/PT	15.51	Hour
Municipal Housing Liaison	32.00	Hour
Tax Assessor	17,479.39	Year
Assist. Tax Assessor	3,888.94	Year
Property List Certification	10.00	as billed
Tax Collector	25,025.57	Year
Assistant to Tax Collector	19.85	Hour
Fire Prevention Official	6,140.97	Year
Code Enforcement Official	10,150.00	Year
Code Enforcement Official Court Appearance	43.38	hour
Public Works Manager	29.61	hour
Public Works Assist. Supervisor	24.90	hour
Public Works Driver/Laborer I	19.53	hour
Public Works Laborer II	18.63	hour
Public Works Laborer III	15.73	hour
Public Works Driver/Laborer Part Time	15.00-15.30	hour
Animal Control Officer	7,274.58	Year
Driveway Inspector	30.09	per inspection
Secretary - Board of Adjustment	7,551.33	Year
Secretary – Planning Board	7,551.33	Year

Emergency Management Coordinator	3,692.56	Year
Emergency Management Deputy	1,624.19	Year
Emergency Management Assistant	30.00	Hour
9-1-1 Coordinator	1,764.46`	Year
Municipal Court Judge	33,600.31	Year
Municipal Court Administrator	71,776.57	Year
Deputy Court Administrator	36,920.14	Year
Violations Clerk	14.69	Hour
Call Outs	60.20	as billed
Municipal Court Attendant	212.89	per session
Clean Communities Supervisor	3,130.75	Year
Maintenance Custodian	7,333.57	Year

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that other employees' benefits and compensation are set forth in a Personnel Policy, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be retroactive to January 1, 2016, except as otherwise noted.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Cuntala, Seconded by Mayor Starrs and motion was approved by roll call vote to approve resolution 2016-101

Roll Call Vote: Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps yes, Starrs yes

#### **2016- 102 Resolution of Commendation for Eagle Scout William Summers**

**WHEREAS**, Knowlton Township resident William Summers of Troop 140, Boy Scouts of America, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout; and

**WHEREAS**, to do so William passed a two-hour Board of Review with four district-level Boy Scout Committeemen; and

**WHEREAS**, William held positions of responsibility within Troop 140 such as patrol leader and troop historian; and

**WHEREAS**, William spent 216.5 hours on his Eagle Scout project to construct the fence for the Knowlton Presbyterian Church; and

**WHEREAS**, William not only constructed the fence but also designed it, obtained the necessary approvals and supplies, and supervised a team of volunteers; and

**WHEREAS**, William's attainment of the 21 necessary merit badges further demonstrates his commitment ideals that benefit our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the rank of Eagle Scout is the highest award a boy can attain in scouting and is earned by only 5 percent of all Boy Scouts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that on this day, October 27, 2016, the Knowlton Township Committee commends William Summers on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and awards him with this Certificate of Merit.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and motion was carried to approve resolution 2016-102

#### **2016-103 Resolution to Approve the Submission of a Grant Application and Execution of a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation For the 2016 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Project**

**WHEREAS**, the DOT's TAP grant is intended for "Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ramsaysburg Homestead is a historically important transportation hub on the Delaware River and is listed on the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places as a site with important commercial transportation significance through the property's association with Delaware River trade and Durham boat commerce; and

**WHEREAS**, Knowlton's Historic Commission has received grant funding support from state, county and local sources, performing restoration work in an orderly and comprehensive manner to stabilize the numerous historic structures on this site with new roofing, windows, doors and siding in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the site has become host to numerous grant-funded annual events that serve to bring Knowlton's community together and is easily accessible to regional visitors being located near Interstate 80 and the Warren County seat of Belvidere; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 TAP grant application, like the previous one, will include letters from local businesses that support the continued restoration of the Ramsaysburg Homestead because it benefits the area economically, encourages tourism and visually improves the environment to the benefit of both local businesses and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the project has the support of Senator Oroho, Warren County Freeholders and other elected officials who are submitting letters of support directly to DOT Commission Hammer; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will help to continue and improve the active and passive use of the site, providing canoe, kayak and fishing access to local and regional residents and tourists, while improving the character and quality of the Route 46 highway corridor, commercial district, and village of Delaware; and

**WHEREAS**, the above mentioned grant will fund interior renovation including the installation of plumbing, which is essential to the continued public use of the facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2016 Transportation Alternatives Grant requires no matching funds from the Township and maintenance of the facility, once constructed, will continue to be assumed by Knowlton Township's Historic Commission.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Committee of Knowlton formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Knowlton Township Historic Commission and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application accompanied by a maintenance commitment letter dated September 22 2016 with application identified as TA-2016-KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP-00021.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of Knowlton and that their signatures constitute acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approve the execution of the grant agreement.

**Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to approve resolution 2016-103**

#### **2016-105 Resolution to Apply Interest to Taxes**

**WHEREAS**, the owners of Block 8, Lot 22.07 believed the information showed on the township web site was incorrect as they believed they were up to date. The tax collector advised he would have to research the account and make corrections/adjustments as needed in the event that a payment was posted to the wrong account or with an incorrect amount paid etc. The owners were concerned that interest had been and was going to be charged for a township error. To address that concern the collector advised interest would not be charged for the time involved in the review. After reviewing the account back to 2012 he determined a payment that the owners believed they had made in December of 2013 had not been received. The owners were provided with the information and agreed to review their records. After review they agreed with the tax collector that the payment had not been made by them. In the event of a missed payment all interest is collected first with the balance applied to the oldest taxes. This continues until the account is paid to date. The owners have paid the missed payment and are requesting some of the interest already paid be applied to the balance due of \$1131.00. Due to the circumstances of this situation the tax collector has suggested \$565.50 of interest paid be applied to taxes with the owners paying the other half. This would bring the taxes current and resolve the matter. One of the owners has reviewed this resolution and paid \$565.50 leaving a balance of \$565.50.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, New Jersey on this twenty seventh day of October 2016, approves the home owner's and Tax



Collector's request to apply \$565.50 of interest paid to the taxes due and that any interest due from July 26<sup>th</sup> has been waived.

Motion was made by Committeeman Farber, Seconded by Committeeman Mathez and carried to approve by roll call resolution 2016-105.

Roll Call Vote: Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps- yes, Starrs - yes

**2016-106 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 approved by roll call vote to approve resolution 2016-106 with the exception Mid State Registrar and T&R Alarm.

Roll Call Vote: Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps yes, Starrs yes

**2016-107 Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Mount Laurel Litigation**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Knowlton has filed a Declaratory Judgment Action in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Warren County, in furtherance of the Supreme Court's March 10, 2015, decision captioned In re Adoption of N.J.A.C. 5:96 & 5:97 by N.J. Council on Affordable Housing, 221 N.J. 1 (2015) (the "Supreme Court Decision"), which was assigned to the Honorable Thomas C. Miller P.J. Cv.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has engaged in good faith settlement discussions with interested party, Fair Share Housing Center ("FSHC"); and

**WHEREAS**, said negotiations resulted in a comprehensive Settlement Agreement between the Township and FSHC which resolves all litigation between the parties and resolves and settles all issues related to the Township' affordable housing obligations defined by COAH for the Third Round; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township recognizes that the settlement of Mount Laurel litigation is favored because it avoids delays and the expense of trial and results more quickly in the construction of homes for lower-income households; and

**WHEREAS**, at this time and at this particular point in the process resulting from the Supreme Court decision, when fair share obligations have yet to be definitively determined, it is appropriate for the parties to arrive at a settlement regarding a municipality's Third Round present and prospective need, instead of doing so through plenary adjudication of the present and prospective need

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes the settlement of the above referenced litigation substantially in accordance with the terms set forth in the proposed settlement documentation which is attached hereto and was reviewed by the Mayor and Township Committee.

**BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that counsel and all other appropriate Township officials and personnel are authorized to prepare any and all related documents and perform all tasks, which will effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Discussion arose between Attorney Tara St. Angelo and committee members.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, Seconded by Committeeman Farber and carried to approve by roll call vote

to approve 2016-107 with the change from Hunterdon County to Warren County

Roll Call Vote: Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps yes, Starrs yes

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Knowlton vs. Patton Update**

Mayor Starrs stated that on October 19th she attended a meeting of the Department of Community Affairs Local Finance Board. Former clerk Lisa Patton was appealing the Director's decision to approve her settlement agreement with Knowlton Township. The Local Finance Board voted to affirm the Director's decision. A question arose regarding Lisa Patton's unemployment which the Committee agreed to discuss during Executive Session.

#### **Natural Systems Utilities invoice for wastewater filter**

Committeewoman Shipps recused herself due to a work relationship that she has with this company. Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez to approve payment for the wastewater filter. Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and approved by roll call vote  
Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps abstain, Starrs yes

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Sept. 26 Incident at Air Liquide (formerly Voltaix)**

Mayor Starrs explained that on September 26th there was a small fire due to the chemical disilane that was left in a container. No one was hurt.

Mayor Starrs also said that Air Liquide donated \$3,500 to Knowlton Fire and Rescue Squad.

#### **Knowlton EMS**

Committeeman Mathez spoke to EMS Chief David Neal to confirm that everything is running smoothly with St. Luke's. Committeeman Mathez also said that the ambulance that they have is almost 17 years old and in the not so far future they are going to need a new ambulance.

#### **League of Municipalities Conference**

Motion was made by Committeeman Mathez, Seconded by Committeeman Farber and carried by roll call vote to have Acting Clerk Kristin Shipps and Mayor Starrs both attend the League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City.

Cuntala yes, Farber yes, Mathez yes, Shipps yes, Starrs abstain

#### **Trick or Treating Time**

Times will be 4pm-8pm, October 31st.

#### **Local Officials Meeting-November 4th, 2016, 10:30 at Independence Township Municipal Building**

Acting Clerk Kristin Shipps read a letter from the New Jersey Legislature Office that invited all elected officials and administrators to attend allowing the legislature office to report on recent happenings in Trenton.

#### **Correspondence**

##### **Comcast-**

Knowlton resident Julie Cicco reached out to Comcast regarding getting service at her house. Comcast has approved the request.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 22, 2016—Public Meeting Minutes

Motion was made Committeewoman Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and carried to approve September 22, 2016 Public Meeting Minutes. Committeeman Mathez was not present at this meeting so he abstained.

#### **Public Comment**

Resident Bob McNinch asked if fixing the current salt shed, paving the pad in front of the salt shed and keeping the salt covered, could fix the problem for this year instead of rushing into purchasing a bigger building.

Resident suggested that in the next month or so that you are not going to be able to get pavers or concrete

companies to complete the job due to weather.

Committee asked Mr. Rodman to look into making the repairs and present at the next meeting.

**Executive Session:**

**Motion to go into Closed Session: Mayor Starrs. Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried at 10:20pm.**

**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. Patton Litigation

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 10:50pm and return to Regular Session.**

**Motions was made by Committeewoman Shipps and Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala to appeal the unemployment claim of former clerk Lisa Patton and carried to approve by roll call vote Cuntala yes, Farber no, Mathez no, Shipps yes, Starrs yes**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, Seconded by Committeewoman Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Shipps  
Acting Municipal Clerk