

**TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON
COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
December 12 , 2022**

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

Mayor Starrs led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Starrs read the following statements "This meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: P: 1975, Chapter 231, noting that notice of all regularly scheduled meetings has been published in the *New Jersey Herald* and/or Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk's office."

**Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.
Also present: Township Attorney Leslie Parikh**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Tara Mezzanotte advised the committee that the retroactive permit the NJDEP was seeking has been approved. Ms. Mezzanotte also noted that 611 will be closed for a minimum of 2 months. Ms. Mezzanotte mentions these delays could affect emergency management performing their duties efficiently. Mayor Starrs suggests Fire Chief Alex Weber write a letter of concern for emergency management and Knowlton Township will support.

ORDINANCES

Public Hearing/Adoption

2022-12 An Ordinance to Provide for the Installation of a Reverse-Osmosis Filters of Approved Affected Residences Within the Township of Knowlton and to Provide 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:

Installation of a Reverse Osmosis Filters	\$ 575,000.00
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BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the financing for the above is as follows:

AMERICAN RECUSE PLAN GRANT	\$ 287,500.00
COUNTY OF WARREN MATCHING GRANT	\$ 287,500.00

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 Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

RESOLUTIONS

2022-103 Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioner

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township 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 Kathy Cuntala is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2023**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kailene Molion is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2023**; 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 made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to approve Resolution 2022-103

2022-105 Resolution Approving "Application Letter" to The State of Agriculture Development Committee for the 2024 Funding Round

Whereas, Knowlton Township has an active Farmland Preservation program, funded by the Township Open Space Fund, The County Open Space Fund and State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC); and

Whereas, the Township submitted a Farmland Preservation Plan that was approved by the SADC in January of 2022: and

Whereas, The SADC will accept an "Application Letter" in lieu of an Annual Application Form and Project Area Inventory when a Farmland Preservation Plan was recently submitted; and

Whereas, the Application Letter contains the follow required information:

Contact Information Updates.

Information on the status of municipal funding.

Amendments to Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) policies.

Updates on farms preserved in the past year.

Any minor target farm amendments.

Copies of minutes of the Knowlton AAC showing that it has met at least twice in the last year and that the AAC supports the Application Letter.

A resolution from the Knowlton Township Committee approving the Application Letter.

NOW, THEREFORE , BE IT RESOLVED that the Knowlton Township Committee supports the Application Letter for the 2024 funding round.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipp—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-106 Credit Interest Paid to Taxes

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Township of Knowlton reports and advises on various properties located in the township on an array of issues, including, but not limited to overpayments of real estate taxes, or reimbursements or credits due because of erroneous or duplicate payments, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended a property tax credit in the amount of \$2828.96 to the owners of Block 40, Lot 9.18 otherwise known as 4 Poppys Court, given the uncertainty as to the validity of a noted delinquency which dates back to 2010 and further, which has now resulted in a delay of the closing on the sale of said property; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended that the governing body approve application of the interest paid by the owners over the years to the taxes due along with the \$2828.96 payment from May 2010.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of, the Township of Knowlton, that the aforementioned *recitals* are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton that the appropriate official may apply the interest paid by the owners of Block 40, Lot 9.18 over the years to the taxes due along with the \$2828.96 payment from 2010.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shippis—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-107 Cancel 2022 Taxes-Veterans Exemption

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Township of Knowlton reports and advises on various properties located in the township on an array of issues, including, but not limited to overpayments of real estate taxes, or reimbursements or credits due because of erroneous or duplicate payments, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has been advised by the Tax Assessor that he has approved an application for total exemption due to wartime injury for the owner of Block 62, Lot 6.12 located at 31 Centerville Rd. effective October 20th. It is necessary to cancel the taxes due from that date to end of the year as the property became tax exempt. The property will be tax exempt in the 2023 tax duplicate.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is requesting the Township Committee cancel 2022 taxes in the amount of \$2049.06 on this property due to a total exemption approved by the Tax Assessor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton the tax collector's request to cancel 2022 taxes in the amount of \$2049.06 is hereby approved.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shippis—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-108 Credit Interest Paid to Taxes

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Township of Knowlton reports and advises on various properties located in the township on an array of issues, including, but not limited to overpayments of real estate taxes, or reimbursements or credits due because of erroneous or duplicate payments, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector had recommended a property tax credit in the amount of \$439.38 to Block 61, Lot 13.06 otherwise known as 58 Lime Kiln Rd, given the uncertainty as to the validity of a noted delinquency which dates to 2010 and further, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended that the governing body approve application of the interest paid by the owners over the years to the taxes due along with the \$439.38 payment from May 2010.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, that the aforementioned *recitals* are incorporated herein as though

fully set forth at length.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton that the appropriate official may apply the interest paid by the owners of Block 61, Lot 13.06 over the years to the taxes due along with the \$439.38 payment from 2010.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shippis—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-109 Cancel 2022 Taxes-Veterans Exemption

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Township of Knowlton reports and advises on various properties located in the township on an array of issues, including, but not limited to overpayments of real estate taxes, or reimbursements or credits due because of erroneous or duplicate payments, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has been advised by the Tax Assessor that he has approved an application for total exemption due to wartime injury for the owner of Block 47, Lot 5.03 located at 113 Linaberry Rd. effective December 1st. It is necessary to cancel the taxes due from that date to end of the year as the property became tax exempt. The property will be tax exempt in the 2023 tax duplicate.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is requesting the Township Committee cancel 2022 taxes in the amount of \$548.40 on this property due to a total exemption approved by the Tax Assessor.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton the tax collector's request to cancel 2022 taxes in the amount of \$548.40 is hereby approved.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shippis—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-110 Cancel 2022 Taxes-Foreclosure

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Township of Knowlton reports and advises on various properties located in the township on an array of issues, including, but not limited to overpayments of real estate taxes, or reimbursements or credits due because of erroneous or duplicate payments, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton foreclosed on Block 5, Lot 25 located at 2 Mt. Pleasant Road with the final judgment recorded on 1/18/22 which was too late to have the property made exempt in the 2022 tax duplicate it is necessary to cancel the 2022 taxes in the amount of \$2,434.96 since the township does not pay itself taxes. If not cancelled the property would be placed on tax sale in 2023 for unpaid 2022 taxes.

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is requesting the Township Committee cancel 2022 taxes in the amount of \$2,434.96 on this property due to foreclosure which has made the Township of

Knowlton the owner of the property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton the tax collector's request to cancel 2022 taxes in the amount of \$2,434.96 is hereby approved.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.
2022-111 Resolution Approving Knowlton Township 2023 Annual Sewer Rates

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Township Committee has approved the annual sewer rates for 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the 2023 sewer rates are effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the 2023 approved sewer rates are as follows:

	<u>Sewer Allocation</u>	<u>% age of Flow</u>	<u>Monthly Charge to be Billed Quarterly</u>
Travel Center Of America	20,000 gpd	72.2%	\$19,427.85
McDonalds	3,200 gpd	11.55%	\$3,108.46
Simpson Rd. Project	4,500 gpd	16.25%	\$4,371.27

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of Knowlton Township hereby approves 2023 sewer rates.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-112 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute the Interlocal Services Agreement Between the Pollution Control Financing Authority for Warren County and the Township of Knowlton

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, do hereby authorize the Mayor and Municipal Clerk to enter into the Interlocal Services Agreement Between the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Warren County and the Township of Knowlton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that they are authorized to sign and attest on behalf of the township.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

2022-113 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 Starrs, second by Cuntala Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

NEW BUSINESS

Roads to be Paved next 2024 next year- The grant for the second portion of Mt. Pleasant Road has been approved to be repaved. Mayor Starrs suggests discussing with DPW on which roads throughout Knowlton will need repaving in 2024.

Space Farms contract pricing- Space Farms has contracted \$35 per deer pick up in Knowlton Township. The committee agrees on pricing.

Motion made by Starrs Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

Reorganization meeting- The Committee agreed on January 3rd, 2023 at 7 p.m. for the reorganization meeting.

BOA resignation- Mayor Starrs announced the resignation of Karen Lund.

Motion by Starrs, Second by Cuntala and carried to approve BOA resignation.

OLD BUSINESS

Rototiller- Recreation director Dennis Lembeck is seeking reimbursement on repairs to his personal rototiller that was utilized by residents who maintain the butterfly garden at Tunnel field. The committee agreed on a one time reimbursement of \$241.48 to Mr. Lembeck.

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and approved by Roll Call: Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn- yes, Starrs—yes.

CORRESPONDENCE

JCP&L will be taking down trees on Hainesburg River Road and Walnut Road. Walnut Road will closed for up to four hours on approximately December 21st for tree trimming.

MEETING MINUTES

September 22nd Public Session Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve September 22nd Public Session Meeting Minutes

September 22nd Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve September 22nd Executive Session Meeting Minutes

October 27th Public Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Cuntala, second by Starrs and carried to approve October 27th Public Session Meeting Minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Lori Ciesla from the Board of Warren County Commissioners asks the committee to continue to push out the broadband internet survey on social media or Township website for residents to complete. It will help move forward with funding better internet access throughout the County.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Starrs, second by Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:48 pm