

**TOWNSHIP OF KNOWLTON**  
**COUNTY OF WARREN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 12, 2024**

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 Shipps. Mayor Shipps led the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Shipps 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: Bates--yes Cuntala—yes, Mazza—yes, Van Horn--yes, Shipps—yes**

**PUBLIC COMMENT- Limited To 20 Minutes With 3 Minutes Per Member Of The Public**

Mr. Fred Bauer addressed Township Attorney Tara St. Angelo regarding the recent property auction held by Max Spann that took place in December. Mr. Bauer requested an update on the status of the closing documents for a property he acquired during the auction. Ms. St. Angelo advised Mr. Bauer that she is moving forward with the closing documents and she will have them sent to Max Spann as soon as possible.

**PRESENTATION**

Commissioner Lori Ciesla

Commissioner Lori Ciesla updated the public regarding resident concerns with truck traffic on Decatur Street. The County has met with the State Police to discuss how they handle these transportation issues which include implementing a gross vehicle weight rating restriction which will allow law enforcement to address trucks by their rating without having to weigh them. Ms. Ciesla addressed the signage issue with the NJDOT commissioner which will be resolved in the near future. Ms. Ciesla answered questions from the public.

Ms. Ann Longyore on Decatur Street advised Ms. Ciesla there were 26 trucks on her road in 1 day. Ms. Ciesla advised Ms. Longyore if she notices the company of these trucks, to forward that information to Mayor Shipps so it can be addressed directly.

Ms. Colleen Hill on Decatur Street stated she has home surveillance that captures trucks speeding which is dangerous as children live and play on that road. Ms. Ciesla advised Ms. Hill she will address these concerns with the County.

Ms. Pam Rusweiler on Decatur Street advised Ms. Ciesla that their power and cable lines have been taken down twice in one month due to truck traffic. Ms. Rusweiler suggested making some side streets one way which could alleviate these issues. Ms. Ciesla advised Ms. Rusweiler she will address these concerns with the County.

Ms. Sharon Valentine on Decatur Street discussed her concerns with the increase of truck traffic due to the warehouse being built in the neighboring town. Mayor Shipps states there is going to be 88 trucks coming from the interchange a day to and from the warehouse.

Ms. Anna Van Wettering on Decatur Street advised Ms. Ciesla that there are large cracks in her home due to weight of the trucks on the road. Her house constantly shakes as trucks pass by. Ms. Ciesla advised this is why the weight limits needs to be enforced.

Mr. Paul Dulaff on Hainesburg River Rd addressed Ms. Ciesla regarding an ordinance related to Route 94 in Knowlton and truck restrictions. At some point in time, the ordinance has changed but he is having difficulty finding the year the ordinance was amended. Ms. Ciesla stated she would look into that date for him.

#### The Nature Conservancy

Ms. Beth Styler Berry, the director of the freshwater program informed the public that the signs have been installed in Columbia regarding historic signs of the dam and the restoration along the Paulins kill.

Elliot Nagele with The Nature Conservancy presented proposed plans for the 9/11 memorial trail which goes through Knowlton Township. The Nature Conservancy recently acquired a 42 acre property in the Township which would provide a protected portion of the trail.

Mr. Rene Mathez suggested placing signage along the trail in memory of Bruce Reynolds, a Knowlton Township resident who lost his life during the 9/11 attacks. Mr. Nagele appreciated the suggestion and looks forward to working with the residents.

Committeeman Bates asked Mr. Nagele who will own the 42 acre lot once the Nature Conservancy completes the trail. Mr. Nagele states the plan would be to sell it to Green Acres.

#### Historic Commission

Mr. Bob McNinch and Mr. Tom Drake presented the new sign for the history of railroads in Knowlton Township which will be located by Knowlton Beach. A copy of the sign will be available at the municipal building for residents to see.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Township Engineer-Denis Keenan

Township Engineer Denis Keenan presented a proposal to the committee to move forward with the mandated MS4 Tier A storm water permitting through the NJDEP. Mr. Keenan suggested updating the stormwater management plan which includes the mapping every storm drain and catch basin located in the Township.

Mayor Shipps made a motion to recess the meeting. The meeting was to reconvene in 30 minutes.

Mayor Shipps made a motion to convene the meeting.

Township engineer Denis Engineer will work together with Township Attorney Tara St. Angelo on all required ordinances by the NJDEP. Stormwater training is required for all DPW employees. By 2026, all streets with inlets will need to be swept. Committeewoman Cuntala asked if equipment will be provided for the street sweeping. Mr. Keenan suggested the state may provide additional funds but that has not been determined as of yet.

Transportation: I80-611-Amtrak- **Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Meeting**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

2024-24 Resolution Confirming Appointment Of Eric K. Snyder As The Affordable Housing Administrative Agent For The Township Of Knowlton And Confirming The Appointment Of Maggie Faselt As His Assistant

**WHEREAS**, Eric K. Snyder, A.I.C.P, P.P. was appointed as Knowlton Township's administrative agent for the purpose of providing affordability control services for all affordable housing within the Township pursuant to Resolution 2024-02 adopted by the Knowlton Township Committee on January 4, 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Snyder receives a stipend in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in connection with the administrative agent position; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Snyder employs an assistant, Maggie Faselt, to aid him in carrying out his administrative agent duties;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Snyder supervises all of Ms. Faselt's work.

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

1. Maggie Faselt is hereby appointed as assistant to the Administrative Agent.
2. Ms. Faselt shall not receive a stipend from the Township nor will the stipend for the administrative agent position be increased.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup> Township Committee Meeting.**

### 2024-31 Refunding 2023 & 2022 Property Taxes On Various Properties Granted A Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption

**WHEREAS**, Jamarcus Cortez Burton, who is the owner of block 62, lot 6.12 located at 31 Centerville Road, was evaluated by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled because of injuries suffered during active duty service. The Knowlton Township Tax Assessor granted a Disabled Veterans Exemption effective 22 October 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, his mortgage company continued to collect escrow and pay taxes to Knowlton for 2 additional quarters in 2023, namely \$2,633.47 on Feb 10, 2023 and \$2,633.47 on May 10, 2023 through Tax Service provider Corelogic, those funds are due back to the payor, since the property was no longer taxable; and

**WHEREAS**, according to NJSA 54:4-3.30 et seq, as amended by Public Law 2019, Chapter 413 - when a veteran or a surviving spouse of a veteran or serviceperson is determined to have suffered a permanent disability being total, paraplegia, or blindness caused by their active duty service, that the applicant be granted a property tax exemption on their dwelling house and the lot where the house is erected, if they so occupy this property and it is considered their legal residence:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024 by the Mayor and the Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to draw the following refund check:

Corelogic Tax  
Attn: Refunds Dept  
3001 Hackberry Rd  
Irving, TX 75063

In the amount of: \$ 5,266.94  
Re: Jamarcus Cortez Burton  
31 Centerville Road, Columbia, NJ 07832

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

### 2024-32 Resolution Approving Electronic Payment To "uAttend" for Software for Biometric Timeclocks

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Knowlton utilizes biometric timeclock software;

**WHEREAS**, payment for this software must be made by electronic transfer; and

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

1. The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to make monthly payments to uAttend via electronic transfer.
2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Motion made by Cuntala, second by Shipps and approved by roll call vote:  
Bates-no, Cuntala-yes, Mazza-yes, Van Horn-yes, Shipps-yes**

2024-33 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 Shipps and approved by roll call vote:  
Bates-yes, Cuntala-yes, Mazza-yes, Van Horn-yes, Shipps-yes**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

January 25<sup>th</sup> Public Session Meeting Minutes

**Motion made by Shipps, second by Cuntala and carried to approve January 25<sup>th</sup> Public Session Meeting Minutes**

January 25<sup>th</sup> Executive Session Meeting Minutes

**Motion made by Shipps, second by Cuntala and carried to approve January 25<sup>th</sup> Executive Session Meeting Minutes**

*Due to an emergency and for public safety, Mayor Shipps moved to adjourn the meeting at this time.*

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Planting at Tunnel Field  
**Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Township clean up dates  
**Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup>**

FEMA AFG  
**Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup>**

SWAC membership  
**Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic River Management Council – Appoint New Knowlton Representative  
**Tabled until March 11<sup>th</sup>**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT- AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comment

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**2024-34 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act; N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognized exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Committee find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the N.J.S.A. 40:4-12; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Township Committee will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Township Committee of the Knowlton Township, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic (s) as permitted by N.J.S.A. 40:4-12:

A. Attorney Advice

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Township Committee hereby declare that their discussion of the subject (s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Township Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Township or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Township Committee, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

**Executive Session 2024-34 Cancelled**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Shipps, second by Cuntala and carried to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:45 pm**