

MINUTES OF KNOWLTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
August 14, 2017

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 7:05 p.m. by Mayor 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":
"This meeting of the Knowlton Township Committee is being held in compliance with Open Public Meetings Act: P: 1975, Chapter 231, noting that notice of all regularly scheduled meetings has been published in the Star Gazette and/or the Star Ledger and /or the Express Times as well as providing said schedule in the Municipal Clerk's office."

Roll Call

Present: Deputy Mayor Cuntala, Committeeman Farber, Committeewoman Shipps and Mayor Starrs
Also present was DPW Supervisor Brian Peck, Township Engineer Ted Rodman, and Township Attorney Tara St. Angelo
Absent: Committeeman Van Horn

EXECUTIVE SESSION Motion to go into Executive 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. Potential Litigation
 - B. Litigation
 - C. Personnel

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and carried by an all-in-favor vote to come out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and return to Regular Session.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and carried by Roll call vote: Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to hire an alternate zoning officer to handle any issues that have potential conflict of interest for our present Zoning officer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Engineer Ted Rodman

Salt shed is ready to go out for bid. Question regarding when bids should be accepted took place with

the committee and attorney.

Stormwater management is a program that NJDEP is asking all townships participate in. Mr. Rodman said that Knowlton Township has 9 points out of 12 that are needed to fulfill NJDEP requirements

State aid is due October 6th for Station/Kill Rd.

Mr. Rodman received a phone call from NJDOT regarding engine breaking on Route 46. Mr. Rodman asked where the engine breaking is happening. Committee said that the complaint was from Hunter's Lodge so it must be near there.

Mark Houston from NJDOT will be putting signs on Route 94 for no truck turn around near Brook Hollow Winery.

No update regarding Washington Street.

DPW Supervisor Brian Peck

No updates from Mr. Peck.

Deputy Mayor Cuntala inquired about the no truck turnaround sign on Mt. Pleasant. Mr. Peck said a larger sign has been ordered.

Committeewoman Shipps took a tour in the DPW building and explained to the committee that there is a truck that can only be used for plowing not salting. Mayor Starrs had mentioned that the new auditor asked for the committee to come up with a Capital Wish list to prioritize what the township's needs will be. Deputy Mayor Cuntala will get that list together. Committeewoman Shipps also said that the auditor also mentioned on having a list of when equipment should be repaired and or replaced.

Mayor Starrs asked Mr. Peck when the 2nd roadside trimming would be happening. He said not until October. Mayor Starrs asked if they gave part-time DPW worker Geoff Littlehale extra hours would that help in order to get the trimming done he said it would.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Shipps, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by roll call vote Cuntala--yes, Farber--yes, Shipps--yes, Van Horn--absent, Starrs-- yes to have part-time DPW worker work additional 30 hours spread out through the next few weeks so roadside trimming can be done earlier. Hours to be arranged so that overtime is not incurred.

Fire Official Glenn Wilson

Division of Fire Safety

Mayor Starrs had asked Mr. Wilson to come to tonight's meeting because she recently discovered that the Division of Fire Safety offers a free service and would like to discuss the pros and cons of having our own Fire Official.

Mayor Starrs stated that we get a LEA rebate which fluctuates every year depending on the number of applications that come in, but the township does get approximately \$3,000 to \$3,500, which pays for part of Mr. Wilson's salary.

Mr. Wilson explained to the committee the currently that the township is not losing money. Last year the township received \$6,062.74 in fees. Mr. Wilson's annual wages are \$6,060.00. Mr. Wilson makes himself available to residents to do the inspections on weekends so that residents do not have to take off from work for a 20-minute inspection. Knowlton Township has a lot of time sensitive

WHEREAS, Kristin Shipps has the qualifications to serve as the Acting Municipal Clerk, has served as the Acting Municipal Clerk since her appointment, and the Township Committee seeks to extend her appointment.

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs approves the appointment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of Knowlton Township in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, that Kristin Shipps is hereby reappointed to serve as Acting Municipal Clerk commencing on July 11, 2017 and continuing through July 10, 2018, pending the approval of the NJ Department of Community Affairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to renew the attached Professional Services Agreement with the Acting Clerk.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—abstained, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-87.

2017-94- Resolution Consenting to the Distribution of Certain Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Monies for Municipalities Hosting Federal Park Land

WHEREAS, the Federal Government provides funding to municipalities that host federal park land, as that property is tax-exempt, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has been paying these monies to the County of Warren; and

WHEREAS, Federal park land in Warren County totals 9,222 acres, and

WHEREAS, of that 9,222 acres, 979 acres, or 11% is located in Knowlton Township, and

WHEREAS, 7,804 acres ,or 85%, is located in Hardwick Township, and

WHEREAS, 439 acres, or 4%, is located in Blairstown, and

WHEREAS, the Township has agreed that the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes, which is normally in the range of \$21,000 to \$22,000 annually, shall be distributed among the affected Municipalities by the County of Warren based upon the above-captioned percentages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of Knowlton, that the Township agrees that the percentages set forth above are equitable, and agrees to accept 11% of the annual PILT money provided to the County of Warren by the Federal Government.

Motion was made by Committeeman Farber, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn— absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-94.

2017-95- Resolution to Award Contract – Morris County Co-Op (Road Resurfacing)

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Resurfacing of Cook Road; and

WHEREAS, Tilcon New York, Inc. Wharton, New Jersey has been awarded Contract #6 for Road

Resurfacing. This contract has been awarded through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that Road Resurfacing services for Cook Road not to exceed \$39,650 is awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc. 625 Mt. Hope Road Wharton, New Jersey 07885.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Farber and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipp—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-95.

2017-96 - Resolution to Award Contract – Morris County Co-Op (Road Resurfacing and Line Striping)

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Resurfacing of Polkville Road; and

WHEREAS, Tilcon New York, Inc. Wharton, New Jersey has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing, Denville Line Painting, Inc. Rockaway, New Jersey has been awarded Contract # 36 for Line Striping on Roadways and Eastern Concrete Materials, Inc Saddle Brook, New Jersey has been awarded Contract # 9 for Crushed Stone, Gravel and Sand. All noted contracts have been awarded through the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that Road Resurfacing services for Polkville Road not to exceed \$139,510 is awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc. 625 Mt. Hope Road Wharton, New Jersey 07885. Line Striping services for Polkville Road not to exceed \$4,320 is awarded to Denville Line Painting, Inc. 2 Green Pond Road Rockaway, New Jersey 07866 and Crushed Stone, Gravel and Sand services for Polkville Road not to exceed \$40,275 is awarded to Eastern Concrete Material, Inc. 250 Pehle Avenue, Suite 503 Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Farber and approved with a roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipp—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-96.

2017-97- Resolution to Award Contract – Morris County Co-Op (Road Resurfacing and Line Striping)

WHEREAS, the Township of Knowlton is a member of the Morris County Cooperative Pricing System and wishes to utilize the contract for Road Resurfacing for Resurfacing of Hemlock Road; and

WHEREAS, Tilcon New York, Inc. Wharton, New Jersey has been awarded Contract #6 for Road Resurfacing and Denville Line Painting, Inc. Rockaway, New Jersey has been awarded Contract # 36 for Line Striping on Roadways. Both contracts have been awarded through the Morris County

Cooperative Pricing Council of which the Township of Knowlton is an active participant; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, and State of New Jersey that Road Resurfacing services for Hemlock Road not to exceed \$98,210 is awarded to Tilcon New York, Inc. 625 Mt. Hope Road Wharton, New Jersey 07885 and Line Striping services for Hemlock Road not to exceed \$3,200 is awarded to Denville Line Painting, Inc. 2 Green Pond Road Rockaway, New Jersey 07866

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeeman Farber and approved by roll call vote

Roll Call Vote: Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-97.

2017-98- Resolution Approving the Issuance of Raffle Licenses to Knowlton Elementary School PTO to Conduct A 50/50 on October 13, 2017

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Elementary School PTO has applied for a raffle license to conduct a raffle on October 13, 2017 at the Knowlton Elementary School consisting of New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission application #17-010; and

WHEREAS, the proper fees have been filed with the application, and the findings and determinations by the Municipal Clerk have determined that this organization is qualified to conduct raffles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that approval is hereby given for the issuance of raffle license #17-010 to the Knowlton Elementary School PTO.

Motion was made by Committeeman Farber, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by a roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-98.

2017-99 Resolution Approving the Issuance of Raffle Licenses to Knowlton Elementary School PTO to Conduct a Tricky Tray on October 13, 2017

WHEREAS, the Knowlton Elementary School PTO has applied for a raffle license to conduct a raffle on October 13,2017 at the Knowlton Elementary School consisting of New Jersey Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission application #17-011; and

WHEREAS, the proper fees have been filed with the application, and the findings and determinations by the Municipal Clerk have determined that this organization is qualified to conduct raffles.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Knowlton, Warren County New Jersey, that approval is hereby given for the issuance of raffle license #17-011 to the

Knowlton Elementary School PTO.

Motion was made by Committeeman Farber, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved with an all in favor vote resolution 2017-99.

2017-100 2017 Salary Resolution

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 2017:

	AMOUNT	PER
Mayor	3,677.50	Year
Committee Member	3,140.12	Year
Acting Township Clerk	35,630.00	Year
Registrar	2,545.00	Year
Deputy Clerk	24.80	Hour
Recreation Director	8,372.36	Year
Recreation Laborer (P/T)	15-00-15.42	Hour
Municipal Housing Liaison	32.00	Hour
Tax Assessor	17,794.02	Year
Assist. Tax Assessor	3,958.94	Year
Property List Certification	10.00	as billed
Tax Collector	25,476.03	Year
Deputy Tax Collector	20.21	Hour
Fire Prevention Official	6,251.51	Year
Code Enforcement Official	10,180.00	Year
Code Enforcement Official Court Appearance	43.38	hour
Public Works Manager	30.14	hour
Public Works Assist. Supervisor	25.35	hour
Public Works Driver/Laborer I	19.92	hour

Public Works Laborer II	18.97	hour
Public Works Laborer III	16.04	hour
Public Works Driver/Laborer Part Time	15.00-15.30	hour
Animal Control Officer	7,405.52	Year
Driveway Inspector	30.09	per inspection
Secretary - Board of Adjustment	7,687.25	Year
Secretary – Planning Board	7,687.25	Year
Emergency Management Coordinator	3,759.03	Year
Emergency Management Deputy	1,653.43	Year
9-1-1 Coordinator	1,796.22	Year
Municipal Court Judge	34,205.12	Year
Municipal Court Administrator	73,067.53	Year
Deputy Court Administrator	37,584.70	Year
Call Outs	61.10	as billed
Municipal Court Attendant	216.72	per session
Clean Communities Supervisor	3,130.75	Year
Maintenance Custodian	7,465.57	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, 2017, except as otherwise noted.

Motion was made by Committeewoman Shipps, seconded by Committeeman Farber and approved by roll call vote Cuntala--yes, Farber--yes, Shipps--yes, Van Horn--absent, Starrs--yes resolution 2017-100 with a 1.8% increase for all employees.

2017-101 Resolution Approving Person to Person Transfer of Liquor License for Plenary Retail Consumption License number 2113-33-008-004 From Old Log Cabin Inc. to Minton's Log Cabin Inc.

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a person to person transfer of Old Log Cabin Inc. Consumption License 2113-33-008-004 heretofore issued to Minton's Log Cabin Inc, for premises located at 47 Route 46, Columbia, NJ 07832; and,

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term; and,

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Police Alcohol Beverage Control investigation clearance is complete and the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant has agreed to disclose to the issuing authority the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the licensed business and provided an affidavit of qualification for ownership interest in a New Jersey alcoholic beverage license;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Knowlton, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby approves the transfer of the aforesaid Old Log Cabin Inc to Minton's Log Cabin Inc. for operation under the license.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval is subject to completion of all State of New Jersey, Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-101.

2017-102- Statewide Insurance Fund- Resolution to Join (Renew) the Fund

WHEREAS, a number of local units have joined together to form the Statewide Insurance Fund ("FUND"), a joint insurance fund, as permitted by N.J.S.A 40A: 10-36 et seq; and

WHEREAS, Knowlton Township (" LOCAL UNIT") has complied with relevant law with regard to the acquisition of insurance; and

WHEREAS, the statues and regulation governing the creation and operation of Joint insurance funds contain elaborate restrictions and safeguards concerning the safe and efficient administration of such funds: and

WHEREAS, the LOCAL UNIT has determined that membership in the FUND is the in the best interest of the LOCAL UNIT

WHEREAS, the LOCAL UNIT agrees to be a member of the FUND for a period of three (3) years, effective from January 1, 2018 terminating on January 1, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. standard time; and

WHEREAS, the LOCAL UNIT has never defaulted on claims, if self-insured, and has not been canceled for non-payment of insurance premiums for two (2) years prior to the date of Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LOCAL UNIT does herby agree to join the Statewide Insurance Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESILVED that to the extend required by law the LOCAL UNTI shall provide notice of the Indemnity and Trust Agreement to the Office of the State Comptroller; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LOCAL UNIT will be afforded the following coverage (s):

Workers' Compensation & Employer's Liability

Comprehensive General Liability

Automobile Liability and Physical Damage

Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability
Pollution Liability
Property
Inland Marine Boiler and Machinery
Crime-Faithful Performance and Fidelity
Cyber Liability
Non Owned Aircraft

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that M. Adele Starrs (name of ENTITY'S elected official or employee) is hereby appointed as the LOCAL UNIT'S Fund Commissioner and is authorized to execute the application for membership and the accompanying certification on behalf of the LOCAL UNIT; and Kristin Shipps (second ENTITY employee) is hereby appointed as the LOCAL UNIT'S Alternate Fund Commissioner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LOCAL UNIT'S Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement and such other documents signifying the membership in the FUND as required by the FUND'S bylaws and to deliver same to the Administrator of the FUND with the express reservation that said documents shall become effective only upon the LOCAL UNIT'S admissions to the FUND following approval of the FUND by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-04.

2017-103 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 Deputy Mayor Cuntala, second by Mayor Starrs and approved by roll call vote Cuntala—yes, Farber—yes, Shipps—yes, Van Horn—absent, Starrs—yes to resolution 2017-103.

OLD BUSINESS

Community Day-change of date to September 30th

Committeewoman Shipps stated that the date of Community Day has been changed from September 9, 2017 to September 30th due to scheduling conflict. Community Day will be held from 12pm-9pm at the Tunnel field and there are tons of activities scheduled for that day.

Prosecutor Professional Service Contract

Mayor Starrs made a correction regarding the Prosecutor's Contract. At the July 10th Township Committee meeting she said that the prosecutor would be receiving \$700 per session he is actually making \$750.00 per session.

BPU/CenturyLink meeting on August 2, 2017

Mayor Starrs explained that she along with the Mayors of Hope Township and Hardwick Township

were present at this meeting. The Mayor can not give out specifics of the meeting until next month but there are going to be good improvements in Internet service for Knowlton residents.

NJDEP Salt meeting on August 7, 2017

Mayor Starrs met with NJDEP. The next engineering phase is moving ahead and it is at no cost to Knowlton Township. At the end of this process there should be a long term solution set forward for the residents affected by the salt. Knowlton Township is not obligated to accept the proposed solution. Mayor Starrs said her goal will be to find a grant to pay for the longterm solution once the study is complete.

Security System

Mayor Starrs was able to find a security system that is being used in Washington Township and Phillipsburg; It is internet accessible and has a 4-month capacity. The cost for installation is \$699 plus a \$480 annual maintenance fee. If the township went with this system they would save \$800.00 this year and approximately \$1,500 every year after this. The committee discussed some other questions that they had regarding the new system. Mayor Starrs will address those questions with the company and get back to the committee at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Division of Fire Safety—Discussed during Department Head Reports

DPW Generator

Notification from the State of New Jersey was sent four years after the generators were installed that a final inspection was never done. DPW called the State and the inspection failed because of an installation problem. A final permit was never issued. Mayor Starrs prepared a draft letter to send to the contractor who installed the generators.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved with an all-in-favor vote to send out the letter in the Committeemember's packets to the contractor asking him to rectify the problems and provide proof of final successful inspection for all 3 generators.

Fee Ordinance for Tunnel Field

There is an ordinance from 2006 for Tunnel Field and the township has not been charging the correct fees for rental of the Pavilion. What is online is not accurate. Mayor Starrs will make the correction on the website and the Mayor will also send out a memo to CFO Christine Rolef and Recreation Dennis Lembeck regarding the changes.

Blue light permits

Motion was made by Committeeman Farber, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by an all-in-favor vote to fill out and sign Blue Light Permits for three of Knowlton Township's Fire & Rescue Volunteers.

Lights for Ambulance

The LED lights are not working on the current ambulance and F&R would like the township to help upgrade their lights. EMS Captain Dave Neal had not received a quote but is getting one from Strykers.

Fire & Rescue is also asking for the township to purchase a new stretcher that would accommodate

larger patients. The cost of a new stretcher is \$23,629.80. Mayor Starrs asked if St. Luke would be willing to donate a stretcher. Committeewoman Shipps will look into it.

Simpson Road

Update from last meeting where a resident wanted to enforce no parking on Simpson Rd. Mayor Starrs reached out to Warren County and there was a resolution passed in 1992 for no parking along Simpson Rd. Knowlton Township DPW has ordered the signs and they will be put up when they are received.

Registry of Abandoned Buildings

Mayor Starrs recently discovered that Blairstown Twp. received almost \$17,000 in bank fees from banks who were not notifying the township of the representative to take care of the property. Knowlton's Committee agreed to amend the vacant property ordinance so that we have a registry and can collect similar fees.

CORRESPONDENCE

Route 46 Route 80 to Walnut Rd., Pavement

Notification from NJDOT that they will be repaving the interchange of 46 to Walnut Rd. NJDOT will be setting up an information meeting at Knowlton Elementary School. No date has been set yet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 12, 2017 Amended Executive Session

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by an all-in-favor for the June 12, 2017 Amended Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

June 28, 2017 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by an all-in-favor for the June 28, 2017 Executive Session Meeting minutes. Committeewoman Shipps abstained.

June 28, 2017 Public Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Mayor Starrs and approved by an all-in-favor for the June 28, 2017 Public Meeting minutes. Committeewoman Shipps abstained.

July 10, 2017 Public Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, seconded by Committeewoman Shipps and approved by an all-in-favor for the June 28, 2017 Executive Session Meeting minutes. Committeeman Farber abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT—No public comments

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala, and carried to adjourn tonight's Township meeting at 9:15p.m.

Motion was made by Mayor Starrs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Cuntala and approved by an all-in-favor vote to return to regular Session at 9:16p.m.

Regular Session was reopened due to residents asking to make public comments.

Resident Myles Bartos had a question regarding how a house obtained a certificate of occupancy (CO) that does not have railings on the front porch or a deck where there is a sliding glass door. Mayor Starrs said that the Construction Code officials, who work for the State of NJ, issue those certificates. Attorney St. Angelo said that a complaint would need to be filed with the State Construction Code official.

Mr. Bartos also asked the Mayor to repeat her comment on hiring a temporary Zoning officer. Mayor Starrs explained that there was a motion made to hire an alternate Zoning officer to handle any issues where the current zoning officer has a potential conflict of interest. The township attorneys decide what is a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Bartos explained that after a Board of Adjustment meeting, Zoning Officer Joe Rossi said to another resident, "Let's agree on how we are going to handle this." Mr. Bartos feels that there is collusion going on.

Mayor Starrs explained that when litigation is involved they are not able to comment, and must leave it to the attorney to handle.

Mr. Bartos understood that and wanted to bring it to the Committee's attention.

Resident Frank DeGroot asked what are the residents of Auble Road supposed to do in the meantime. Mr. DeGroot referenced a letter that was sent out by Mr. Rossi and that they took it as a threat.

Resident Jeanne DeGroot said that it is sad that they need to try to get someone that will give them fair, equal treatment. Mrs. DeGroot also mentioned a letter that Township Attorney Dick Cushing prepared as a draft for Mr. Rossi to review and approve. Mr. Rossi forwarded the letter to Mr. Tombalkian without notifying Mr. Cushing. Mrs. DeGroot said that is collusion and the steps that Mr. Rossi keeps taking are going to put them in litigation with the township.

Mrs. DeGroot asked if there was any resolution with the fence. Mayor Starrs said that they were advised by Township Attorney that they are not an appeal board and that the committee can not weigh in on that situation and if they wished to appeal the decision of the zoning officer, it would need to go in front of the Board of Adjustment.

Mayor Starrs said that the committee took steps tonight because they can see the difficulty and that they are not going to comment publically and put the township at risk of litigation. Mr. DeGroot said, "You are already at risk."

Mrs. DeGroot mentioned that while waiting in the hallway during Executive Session Mr. Rossi was speaking with Fire Official Glenn Wilson regarding his situation with Auble Rd. and Mr. Rossi said to Mr. Wilson, "They are going to be sorry for taking action." Mr. & Mrs. DeGroot said they felt threatened by his comments and the zoning officer's letter that he sent out.

Attorney St. Angelo explained that if a resident feels threatened they should call the state police. The township committee is not a place to complain about crimes and that because of State laws the committee is not allowed to discuss personnel in public session.

Mr. Bartos asked if anyone has driven by to see if the fence is within the Township ordinance. Mayor Starrs explained that the committee can not comment on the fence matter.

Committeeman Farber suggested having a resolution by the next meeting for an alternate zoning officer.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Shipps
Acting Municipal Clerk