

BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING - JANUARY 17, 2012

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Oscovitch called the Township Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting has been made in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4-6.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Luaces, here; Councilwoman Raffay, here; Councilman Olson, late, Councilwoman Kash, here; Mayor Oscovitch, here; Township Manager Joe Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Municipal Clerk Doris Flynn were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilman Olson, seconded by Councilwoman Raffay to approve the revised agenda. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- **Tourism and What it Means to Sussex County** – Tammie Horsfield, President of Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and the Sussex County Economic Development. The Sussex County Chamber has been designated by the State of New Jersey as the Sussex County Destination Marketing Organization, which has made them eligible to receive grant funds. They were one of three in the State who have received over \$100,000 for the last three years. This has put them in a position to promote tourism to the community and be able to bring more visitors in. Through grant money, they were able to hire a consultant to assist in doing an economic impact study relating specifically to Sussex County.

Spending by travelers in Sussex County totaled \$222 million in 2010. Travelers spent \$90 million on lodging, \$66 million on food and beverages, \$30 million on shopping, \$30 million on entertainment and recreation, and \$6 million on transportation. Of every tourism dollar spent in Sussex County in 2010, 73 cents stayed local. Traveler spending supported 3,228 jobs and \$60 million in wages. Travelers generated federal, state, and local tax revenue totaling \$51.4 million in 2010.

Seasonal 2nd homes are a significant part of the total accommodations spent in Sussex County and rank 5th in the State. Travel and tourism is Sussex County's 3rd largest private sector employer.

Marie Raffay asked which sector is lacking. Tammy stated that mid-range lodging is needed in Sussex County. Tourism will continue to grow.

Tammy stated that the purpose of the Andover/Byram Chamber is to bring together business and government to promote and solve issues. Sussex County Chamber will be speaking at the next local chamber meeting regarding setting up a workshop between the businesses and government to talk about local issues. The questions that will be asked by business to government will be pre-screened so that the municipality can answer them appropriately. It is important that we all work together. The local chamber does a lot of ambassador visits, welcoming the new businesses. This is a nice welcoming tool.

The Mayor and Council thanked Tammy for coming to the Council.

- **New Route 206 Bus Route through Byram** – John Jackson, Coordinator of the Sussex County Transit and Carol Novrit, Director of Sussex County Division of Social Services – Changing from a human services transportation system to a whole community transit system. They can get people out of the County and people from the outer edges into other areas of the County. Sussex County Skylands Ride (formerly Sussex County Transit) has been serving Sussex County residents for almost 30 years. They provide public transportation for passengers on a deviated fixed route. This past April they hired through a grant a transportation consultant to formulate a game plan for Sussex Transit to look at. Now the run will traverse the corridor and it's called Skylands Connect. They transport from the Walmart in Hampton and traverse through Route 206 into Newton, and go out Newton Sparta Road, Route 517, Route 23 and end at the Sussex-Wantage library. They increased the trips from 4 per day to 11 per day. They added a new piece called the Skylands Request, which is a demand type system. This is the general public, included seniors and the disabled. This system will allow people to come from Newton and travel the Route 206 corridor down to the Netcong Train Station. They will stop at all the stops that Lakeland Bus stop at. There are 56 stops south and north. This will enable Byram residents to access this transportation. The Connect is \$1.00 for each ride and the Skylands Request is \$2.00.

Scott Olson applauds what they are doing, and stated that he would rather see money put into this program instead of the millions of dollars being spent to put in 7 miles of train tracks.

Carlos Luaces asked if they would make this same presentation to the Byram Seniors. Carol Novrit said they would definitely come to the senior meeting to talk the Skylands Connect and Skylands Request.

The Mayor and Council thanked the presenters for coming to the Council.

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

Manager's Report:

- At the February 7th meeting, our Township engineer will be present. We will be discussing the junkyard renewal licenses and the renewal of the quarry license. Cory Stoner will also discuss the road resurfacing plan for the Township and the three year capital program.
- The Smart Growth America Workshop has been scheduled for the evening of May 17th and during the day on May 18th. Both meetings are open to the public. Byram is one of 15 winners of this grant out of 90 applicants nationwide. The Council may want to invite key members of the community; i.e. business leaders, property owners, etc.

Councilman Luaces will be attending the Recreation Committee meeting on January 18th and the Board of Health meeting on January 24.

Councilwoman Marie Raffay

- The Planning Board meeting has been cancelled for this week. The Master Plan Sub Committee will meet at 8 p.m. to continue working on the reexamination report. Our next Planning Board meeting is February 2nd at 8:00 p.m.
- Marie spoke to Paul Palek, Superintendent of Lenape Valley, to let him know that Marie was going to be the liaison. Since the LVR BOE meeting is on the same evening as our Council meetings, she will be meeting with him monthly to talk about the agenda and any issues that she should be aware of.

Councilman Scott Olson

- Attended the Friends of Waterloo annual meeting and spoke with Amy Cradik and John Trontis from the Parks regarding the trail head at the parking lot at Salt. It's been a long, slow process but we are moving closer to getting that accomplished. We will be able to access the Sussex Branch Trail and the Highlands Trail from this trail head.
- The Environmental Commission meets on January 26th at 7:30 p.m.
- Open Space meets Monday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Nisha Kash met with the Ed Abato, Principal of the Byram Lakes School, to let him know that she is the Council liaison. She is looking forward to forging a relationship between Byram BOE and the Council. Nisha will be attending the Youth Guidance Council, which will be meeting in February.

Mayor Jim Oscovitch

- January 10th attended Sussex County Chamber of Commerce monthly breakfast.
- January 14th attended Friends of Waterloo annual meeting.
- January 13th attended the Andover/Byram Chamber meeting at Shop Rite.
- The Mayor spoke about Executive No. 84 enacted by the Governor which ordered flags at half staff for Ron Wildrick on January 12th. The Mayor asked us to keep his family in our prayers and thoughts. It was suggested by one of the members of the Armed Forces suggested recognizing him in some way one year from now.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I - Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay, to open to public. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

Joann Smith, 57 Lake Drive, commented on the last budget meeting. She stated that although the budget is a very small part of the taxes, she feels 4-1/2% is a huge increase. She was disappointed that there wasn't a lot of discussion by the Council members. She thought they would have reviewed each line item that evening. She felt that the Council did not ask enough questions. Carlos stated that he has been going over the budget nightly since the meeting and has a list of questions for Joe. He didn't ask many questions on January 10th because he didn't fully understand it at the time. He will be getting together with Joe to review.

There was discussion about the health care costs and Carlos asked if we could change brokers to see if we can a discounted price. Joe Sabatini reviewed the background of health care in Byram and the high costs.

Joann asked if there is a greater contribution for family coverage. Joe explained Chapter 78 and the increases in the contributions based on the premiums. Joanne asked if Joe has considered asking the police department to open up their contract and not take raise.

Nisha asked for clarification regarding the employee contributions for health care.

Councilwoman Raffay made a motion, seconded by Councilman Olson, to close to the public. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 3, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes–Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay to approve the minutes as presented.

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion			X		
2nd		X			
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

- January 10, 2012 Budget Workshop Minutes – Motion by Councilwoman Kash, second by Councilman Olson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion				X	
2nd			X		
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ORDINANCE - Introduction

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance entitled “Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to establish a Cap Bank” be read by title on first reading. Motion by Councilwoman Raffay, second by Councilman Olson to introduce the ordinance.

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion		X			
2nd			X		
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Byram on February 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 10 Mansfield Drive, Byram Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

CONSENT AGENDA - These items are considered to be routine by the Members of the Township Council and will be enacted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion unless a citizen or Council member so requests in which event the item may be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda. Motion by Councilwoman Raffay, second by Councilman Olson, to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Resolution No. 27-2012 – Resolution consenting to the proposed Byram Township chapter of the Sussex County Wastewater Management Plan and amendment to the Sussex County Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan
- B. Resolution No. 28 – 2012 – Resolution authorizing the Tax Collector to Cancel Certain Tax Sale Certificates
- C. Resolution No. 29 – 2012 – Final Acceptance of Road Improvements – Roseville Road Phase II and Tomahawk Trail

- D. Resolution No. 30 – 2012 – Resolution Authorizing the Offering of Alternative Health Benefit Plans to the Employee Health Benefits Program
- E. Resolution No. 31 – 2012 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Documents Associated with the Purchase of Electricity for 2012
- F. Resolution No. 32 – 2012 – Resolution authorizing the Execution of Documents Associated with the Custodial Contract with SCARC Inc. for the Byram Township Municipal Bldg.
- G. Resolution No. 33 – 2012 – Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a 2012 GMC Sierra 3500HD 4WD Extended Pickup Truck with Optional Equipment for the Township of Byram Department of Public Works
- H. Resolution No. 34 – 2012 – Resolution Approving and Ratifying an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services Contract with MSI Services, Inc. (aka Navitend) for Providing Web Site Hosting Computer Services to Byram Township not to exceed \$1,200.00
- I. Resolution No. 35 – 2012 - Resolution Approving and Ratifying an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services Contract with MSI Services, Inc. (aka Navitend) for Providing Computer Support to Byram Township not to exceed \$9,966.00
- J. Resolution No. 36 – 2012 – Resolution of Sale of a 1998 Ford Expedition Wagon to the Byram Township Fire Department That was Donated to the Township of Byram for use by the Byram Township Fire Department

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion		x			
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

BILL LIST OF JANUARY 17, 2012 - Motion by Councilman Olson second by Councilwoman Raffay to approve the bills.

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion			x		
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilman Luaces would like to discuss the electric, oil and phone system bills with regard to use and cost and possible measures for cost savings at an upcoming meeting. Joe Sabatini stated that the February 7th meeting is extremely full. We can add it to the second meeting in February or a meeting in March.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Motion by Councilman Olson second by Councilwoman Raffay to open to the public for discussion. All members were in favor. Motion carried. No comments were made.

Motion by Councilman Olson, seconded by Councilwoman Raffay to close to the public. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay, to go into executive session at 8:42 p.m. and adopt the below resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P. L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram, that the public shall be excluded from discussion of the following matters:

- **Attorney Client Privilege Information** – Outside Employment
- **Anticipated/Pending Litigation** – Tax Appeals
- **Contract Negotiations - BARKS**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be kept on file in the Municipal Clerk’s office, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes shall be made public.

BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on January 17, 2012.

Doris Flynn, Municipal Clerk

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion			X		
2nd		X			
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilman Olson to return to open session at 9:37 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay, to accept the recommended settlements for Byram Self Service, SC Realty, and Gordon Byram Associates and to authorize the assessor and township attorney to accept the settlements.

COUNCIL MEMBER	Councilman Luaces	Councilwoman Raffay	Councilman Olson	Councilwoman Kash	Mayor Oscovitch
Motion			X		
2nd		X			
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

The Council has decided to have the budget meeting on January 26th at 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

On the motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Doris Flynn, RMC

James Oscovitch, Mayor