

**BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING - SPECIAL STRATEGIC WORK
SESSION – FEBRUARY 29, 2012**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

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

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

WORKSHOP GOAL SETTING SESSION

The Mayor and Council held their yearly strategic planning meeting. They reviewed the outline prepared from last year's meeting. Progress was made in many areas and additional comment and recommendations were given.

Civic Center

- Moving forward with auction. Ordinance was introduced on February 21st and the public hearing will be on March 6th. The auction will take place approximately 90 days from adoption of the ordinance.
- Solar was not an option at this location but the Township will keep solar on the list to look at in the future.

Open Space – Tamarack Park/Jones Lane Existing Structure

- Could be used for meeting space
- Could utilize restroom/kitchen – possible concession space
- Look at structural integrity of building – get engineer report - JOscovitch
- Can use open space funds for maintenance
- Could demolish and rebuild on footprint

Boards & Committees

- The annual joint chair meetings have been well received.
- Going to 2 times per year – January and June
- Discuss Highlands issues in June
- Invite Board of Education representatives from Byram and Lenape Valley
- Invite Green Team
- Invite Fire Department and Lakeland Emergency Squad

Post Office

- US Postal Service has allowed Byram Residents who have an Andover zip code (55% of Byram) to now use Byram Township, NJ 07821. The residents who have Stanhope or Sparta zipcode cannot use it because of duplications in street names and the use of P.O. boxes.

Recycling

- The Green Team hasn't been as active lately. The Green Team was formed because it was a requirement of certification with Sustainable Jersey. The group has been having trouble getting a quorum and deciding what projects to put their energies into.
- Check into grants for community composting program – possibly \$15,000 - MRaffay
- The Manager and Adolf have been working on recycling center improvements and some improvements will be rolled out over the next few months (new stairs, platform). They are looking into fencing and cameras.
- Need Board of Health involvement
- SCMUA – can they help?
- Better enforcement with disposal of recycles and solid waste
- Use Partners for Parks
- Continue pressing the sports groups to recycle

- Clean Communities Funding – action item for the Board of Health/Green Team
- Educate the children in the schools

Sign Ordinance

- Due to personal schedules and change in council, the sign committee hasn't met in several months. Carlos Luaces has joined the committee and the group will meet soon to get back to work on the ordinance.
- A draft sign ordinance will be brought to the planning board for discussion in the near future.

Farmer's Market

- Possible mid-week market in Andover parking lot where Salt studio is. Laurie Boyle has been involved with trying to get this off the ground.
- Scott Olson has been working with Food Shed Alliance.
- Considered a municipal property but there are not any municipal parcels along Route 206.

IT Infrastructure

- Township went to Google apps—cost savings to the township.
- This takes care of retention to comply with State laws
- We retired our old server.
- Social Media – The Manager does not recommend moving forward with Facebook – does not have the resources to monitor it.
- Could create our own list serve – people would have to subscribe
- Look at present website – organize – SOlson will met with Manager and staff to assist.
- Look into partnering with the schools with Honeywell System – NKash & JSabatini
- Look at company “Town Planner” and what it could offer Byram - JOscovitch
- Quarterly newsletter possibly sent out by email – bring back a community feel.

Council Office Hours

- The Saturday office hours were implemented during the winter – some felt it was useful but it did not get a lot of public participation.

Annual Recognition Day

- The Mayor would like to see this happen. It promotes community involvement.
- Consideration given to quarterly meetings on Saturday mornings.
- Police are having a recognition day in May during Police week – does the Township want to join in on that?
- Need a place and process to nominate people – website? Byram Day? Work with schools?

Waterloo Village

- Revitalization is continuing – to date raised \$32,000
- State has put aside money
- A business is set up at Waterloo now for tours, etc.
- Remodeling meeting house

Brand Identity for Byram

- Welcome signs for Route 206 area similar to signs in Andover Township – working with Chamber of Commerce – will go forward with this when Route 206 improvements are done – JOscovitch
- Lynn's Nissan has added 'of Byram' to their name – they have been very active in the Chamber.
- Scott Olson has been talking with the Highlands Council – there is money leftover in Conformance Grant for marketing – will work on this after Route 206 improvements are done.

Smart Growth America

- Byram was awarded a grant to participate in a workshop May 17 and 18, 2012. There will be a joint meeting during a regular planning board meeting on May 17th with the Council, Environmental Comm., Open Space and Planning Board. Businesses in Byram will also be invited. This is the first part of the workshop and the second part is an all day event on May 18th. We will be doing a press release and reaching out to the businesses to promote attendance.

Consolidated Services

- Progressing – always looking for new opportunities.
- Discussion has taken place with the school regarding IT.
- Byram Schools and the Township already share some services informally.
- Construction shared services with Netcong have just been renegotiated.
- Dispatch services with Sparta expires the end of this year.

Byram Day

- September 8th at Neil Gylling Field
- Theme is Volunteers Build our Community.
- The Byram Day Committee had their first meeting.

Cell Phone Tower

- It was investigated a few years ago – no viable location.

Village Center

- Property owned privately.
- Byram is charged with zoning not building.
- The entire village center zone is from Acorn Street to Shop Rite Plaza.
- We are paying for sewer gallons even though land is not developed.
- We are exempt from the Scarce Resource Order.

Best Practices Check List from DCA

- Manager does not feel it is fair to tie the final 5% payment of State Aid to the best practices.

PAC/SWAC Representatives/Committee/Board Membership Concerns

- Council feels that the PAC representative falls to Board of Health. Carlos Luaces will discuss this at the March 27th BOH meeting.
- Some committees are having trouble making quorums.
- Suggested joint meetings – allows groups to work together – EC/REC – EC/BOH

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay to open to the public. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

Skip Danielson, 18 Hunter Lane, stated that the use of solar should stay on a planning list. Doris Flynn added it to the discussion topic of the Civic Center.

With a motion by Councilman Olson, seconded by Councilman Luaces, Mayor Oscovitch closed to the public. All members were in favor.

ADJOURN

On the motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Raffay, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Doris Flynn, RMC

James Oscovitch, Mayor