

BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING - MARCH 5, 2019

**CLOSED SESSION – 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION – 7:30 P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting was included in the list of meetings in our annual notice sent to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Gray, late 6:45 p.m.; Councilwoman Kash, here; Councilman Olson, here; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joe Sabatini, Township Attorney Tom Collins and Municipal Clerk Doris Flynn.

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:

- a. Attorney Client Privilege Communication
 - General
 - Cablevision Lightpath NJ LLC
- b. 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

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd		x			
Yes		x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent	x				

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on March 5, 2019.
Doris Flynn, Municipal Clerk

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to approve the agenda as presented. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

SWEARING IN OF NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS – Mayor Rubenstein performed the swearing in of new Firefighters Derek Plantamura & Shawn Pond

RENEWAL OF LICENSES - 2019

- **Raimos** -Frank Nemeth, sole shareholder of Raimos, and Attorney James Byers were present for Raimos. Byram Special Counsel Megan Ward along with Township Engineer Cory Stoner were present for Byram.

Frank Nemeth has been the owner for a little more than a year. They have modified the site to some degree and have made application before the Planning Board. Within the next month, the Council will see a proposal for Raimos to acquire a portion of the right-of-way. The Mayor asked Cory Stoner to give the Council a preview. Cory has worked with the applicant’s engineer to modify the Township’s right-of-way so that Raimos could acquire part of the road to eliminate and/or reduce several encroachments. The Township will still have a right-of-way, but it will be shifted to the south. The new owners have done a number of improvements to the site to clean it up. The site plan that Raimos will be coming forward with to the Planning Board will clean the site up even further.

Cory reviewed his February 5, 2019 report which outlined all the conditions. Frank Nemeth stated that there has been a lot of clean up of equipment on Lot 36/37 on the south side of Netcong Avenue which will continue. It should be totally cleaned up over the next two years.

The house that is boarded up which had a fire in it a few years ago will be taken down. Trees will be planted in the front. Cory has been involved with the site for 14 years. David stated that he can see from Cory’s report that there have been major steps towards improvement. He thought Cory did an excellent report. Scott Olson also stated that he is happy with the clean up and commended Frank Nemeth for the improvements.

Open to the public for questions or comments. No comments. Closed to the public.

Motion by Councilman Gray, second by Councilman Olson to approve the license.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

2019 BUDGET INTRODUCTION – Township Manager Joe Sabatini submitted his budget message:

Every year the Township Council is called upon to establish municipal policy through the adoption of the Municipal Budget. While the Manager and staff prepare recommendations in the form of a draft document, the Council must ensure that the adopted budget adequately satisfies the needs of the community and serves the best interests of the Township.

The 2019 municipal budget including the Capital Improvement Program and Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues totals \$11,679,370.41.

The budget is divided into several categories as follows: Anticipated Revenues, Appropriations and the Capital Improvement Program. Also, the approval and adoption of the Municipal Budget includes the budget for the Open Space Tax and the Sewer Utility.

REVENUES

Municipal Operations and the Capital Improvement Program are supported by a variety of revenues. These sources include current property taxes, miscellaneous revenues generated by municipal operations, and fund balance.

The following compares the proportion of budgeted revenues from 2010 to 2019 excluding public and private revenues.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Current Property Taxes	74.39%	74.47%	74.85%	75.39%	75.58%	75.11%	75.41%	75.82%	75.08%	74.16%
Misc. Revenues	14.20%	13.76%	13.29%	12.95%	12.82%	12.44%	12.20%	11.95%	11.99%	12.03%
Fund Balance	11.41%	11.77%	11.86%	11.66%	11.60%	12.45%	12.39%	12.23%	12.93%	13.81%

Fund Balance:

Fund Balance is generated by several sources including cancellation of budget reserves from 2017, revenues in-excess of anticipated amounts, receipts from delinquent taxes from 2018 and added and omitted taxes collected for when construction improvements are deemed complete by Tax Assessor.

The fund balance as of December 31, 2018 totaled \$2,726,694.08. The amount of Fund Balance committed to the 2019 budget is \$1,610,500. Overall this is an increase of \$140,398 from 2018.

Based on the regeneration of Fund Balance at the end of 2018, it has been recommended to increase the dependency on Fund Balance by \$140,000 with the additional \$140,000 being put into Capital Improvement Fund. This will be used in 2019 to offset capital purchases and can be used in 2020 to offset debt service for the municipal building project or remove if not regenerated.

Miscellaneous Revenues:

Miscellaneous revenues are the revenues that are generated by fees & permits, uniform construction fees, municipal court, interest on investments, interest and costs on taxes, receipts from delinquent taxes, grants, and State Aid. The forecasting of these revenues is based upon the performance of each category in the previous year. State statute prevents the Township from anticipating more than what was realized in the prior year.

The budget anticipates that the State Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposes level aggregate funding for Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid (CMPTRA) and Energy Tax Receipts (ETR). The proposed State Aid CMPTRA and ETR for 2019 totals \$575,475. Also, we are anticipating the Garden State Trust PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funding at the same level as 2018 totaling \$41,920. State Aid accounts for 5.29% of the Township's revenues.

Miscellaneous revenues comprise 6.74% of the revenues. These anticipated revenues include Court Fees, Uniform Construction Fees, Interest on Investments, Interest and Costs on Taxes, Fees and Permits and Receipts from Delinquent Taxes. Overall, the anticipation of miscellaneous revenues was increased by \$55,500. Anticipation of Fees and Permits was increased to \$45,000, and the anticipation of Interest on Investments was increased to \$45,000.

Property Taxes:

This budget plan has property taxes totaling \$8,649,092, 74.16% of revenues. This is a 1.32% or \$112,904.60 increase of the tax levy.

APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations are the platform that allows local government to deliver services to its residents. The expenditure side of the budget is assigned by department and divided within each department into “Salary and Wages” and “Other Expenses.” Also, there are categories of expenses that are not assigned to the departments. All appropriations are presented in a line-item budget format.

Overall, this budget plan is presenting an increase in appropriations totaling \$308,802.60 after excluding Public and Private Programs which are Offset by Revenues (net zero).

General Government, Public Safety, Public Works and Community Programs include all the Salary & Wages and Operating Expenses for each of the Township’s departments. These categories of expenses resulted in a \$122,737 increase. Summary of changes include:

- *Applied Changes to Departmental Salary and Wages:*
 - *Salary and Wages have been populated with contractual obligations (steps and longevity) and anticipated changes for staffing.*
 - *Police Officers:*
 - *2 employees will receive increased longevity.*
 - *2 employees in steps.*
 - *Adjusted salaries to include 2% increase for both 2018 and 2019.*
 - *Made minor adjustments for recently licensed employees.*
 - *No change to overtime budgets for Police or DPW.*
- *Staff Changes:*
 - *Administration:*
 - *Included new Full-time Position – This position did not include the need for new funding. It was supported by moving funds around in the budget including the salary and wage for the PT Recreation Director and funding allocated to a Grant Writer. The individual hired for this position will have the primary responsibilities of the PT Recreation Director and will be the facilitator to the Recreation Committee to assist with Township events. Additionally, they will be responsible for recreation administration including facility applications, recreation procurement and requests for proposals. This individual will be designated as the Township’s Public Information Officer to manage Township Communications: Social Media, Website, Nixle, etc. Finally, they will assist with special projects, economic development, planning, and grant writing.*
 - *Construction Department:*
 - *In 2018, Construction Official and Sub-code employee retired. This individual had all sub-codes. Increase in salaries was offset with funding that had been moved from Construction Salary and Wage account to Capital Improvement Fund account in 2016 when prior staff resigned.*
 - *New staffing includes.*
 - *Part-time Construction Official*
 - *2 – Part-time Sub-code Officials*
- *Changes to Departmental Operating Expenses:*
 - *General Administration:*

- Computer services increased to support police department server and workstations.
- Includes \$50,000 for research and development for a new building solution.
- Includes \$5,000 for QPA services.
- Planning:
 - Included an additional \$5,000 for work on the Township's Zoning Ordinance to address signs and cannabis legalization.

Other Expenses of the Township that are not tracked by department include utilities, insurances, statutory expenses, pension expenses, garbage, debt service, deferred charges, capital improvements and the reserve for uncollected taxes. Overall, Other Expenses increased \$222,239. Significant dollar changes were seen in the following appropriations:

○ Pension Payments (PFRS):	<i>Increased</i>	\$48,803
○ Pension Payments (PERS):	<i>Increased</i>	\$23,234
○ Garbage Contract:	<i>Increased</i>	\$12,000
○ Purchase of Vehicles	<i>Increased</i>	\$16,000
○ Debt Service	<i>Increased</i>	\$63,860

Group Insurance:

- The Township will be transitioning both active and retired employees to the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) effective June 1, 2019. There will be an open enrollment period for both active and retired employees that will conclude mid-April. The summary below is using the rates available from North Jersey Health Insurance Fund and are based on actual employee and retiree enrollments.
- Public Law 2011, Chapter 78 was effective June 28, 2011 that increased the share of health benefits coverage paid by public employees and retirees who receive employer paid health benefits. The percentage of employee contribution (derived from salary and type of coverage tables) is multiplied by the total premium due for each employee and deducted from base salary. The Group Insurance budget is less employee contributions.
- The Group Insurance budget includes medical insurance, prescription drugs, dental, Medicare reimbursements, payment for waiver of medical benefits, life insurance, and long-term disability which is assessed based on each employee's salary. The 2019 obligation for Group Insurance is \$1,724,422.
- There is a total of fourteen employees that are waiving health benefits at a total cost of \$67,308.15. This is an annual savings of \$306,168.15 after considering cost of waivers.
- The following table summarizes the cost of medical insurance, prescription drugs and dental benefits less employee contributions.

Employee Group	Total Cost: (Health, Dental & RX)	Employee Contributions	Total Net Cost to Township
<i>Clerical Active</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<i>Clerical Retired</i>	\$43,032.00	\$392.04	\$42,639.96
<i>DPW Active</i>	\$275,172.00	\$64,812.60	\$210,359.40
<i>DPW Retired</i>	\$185,436.00	\$1,009.32	\$184,426.68
<i>Police Active</i>	\$301,488.00	\$93,816.84	\$207,671.16
<i>Police Retired</i>	\$415,980.00	\$0.00	\$415,980.00
<i>All Other Active</i>	\$133,344.00	\$34,479.60	\$98,864.40
<i>All Other Retired</i>	\$80,844.00	\$2,503.68	\$78,340.32

<i>Medicare Reimbursements</i>	<i>\$20,460.50</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$20,460.50</i>
<i>Waivers</i>	<i>\$67,308.15</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>	<i>\$67,308.15</i>
<i>TOTALS:</i>	<i>\$1,523,064.65</i>	<i>\$197,014.08</i>	<i>\$1,326,050.57</i>

Capital Improvement Fund:

- *The Capital Improvement Program is the vehicle that allows the Township to plan and prioritize large expenditures.*
- *The capital improvement fund is used as a means of financing down payments for bond ordinance appropriations. Also, the Governing Body can decide to partially or fully fund a capital ordinance from the Capital Improvement Fund.*
- *Total for 2019 = \$426,393 which includes \$25,000 that is raised annually to fund the Capital Improvement Fund.*
 - *\$45,500 moved back to Construction Department S&W.*
 - *Capital Improvement Fund decreased from \$398,453 to \$286,393 before increasing by \$140,000 which was offset by an equal increase in Fund Balance. This increase can be used in 2020 to offset debt service for municipal building project.*

2019 PROPOSED Capital Improvements – funded from Budget:

- *Capital Improvement Fund:* *\$426,393*
 - *\$25,000 is raised to fund Capital Improvement Fund to support down payments on capital ordinances.*
- *Drainage Improvements:* *\$5,000*
- *Supplement for Streets and Roads:* *\$100,000*

- *Budget Appropriation (Streets-n-Roads)* *\$225,500*
- *Budget Appropriation (DPW Equipment)* *\$100,000*
- *Budget Appropriation (Purchase Vehicles)* *\$45,000*

- **NOTES:**
 - *In 2019, the Township now has 14 active employees that waive health benefits. The Township remains liable to provide health benefits if the employee becomes ineligible for coverage from the independent source.*
 - *Moved \$100,000 to DPW Equipment and \$120,000 to Improvements to Streets and Roads from the Group Health Insurance account. This will reduce unexpended balances which is a source of regenerating fund balance.*

Capital Budget:

- *The Capital Budget represents the current year of a three-year capital improvement program.*
- *The Capital Budget does not in itself confer any authority to raise or expend funds.*
- *The 2019 Capital Budget includes proposed projects totaling \$1,304,800. Following is summary by department:*
 - *Streets and Roads* *\$840,000*
 - *DPW* *\$279,000*
 - *Fire* *\$90,800*
 - *Police* *\$65,000*
 - *Drainage* *\$5,000 – funded by budget (see above)*
 - *Capital Improvement Fund* *\$25,000 – funded by budget (see above)*

TAX RATE

The 2019 municipal budget calls for an estimated municipal rate increase of .012 for each \$100 of assessed value using the net valuation of \$926,211,000. This increase represents an estimated \$29.95 annual municipal tax increase for the average assessed home of \$253,491.

Estimated Municipal Taxes and Open Space Taxes for 2019 for the average assessed home:

	2019	
<i>Average Assessed Home</i>	253,491	<i>Estimated Increase/Decrease</i>
<i>Tax Rate</i>	.934	
<i>Open Space Tax Rate</i>	.011	
<i>Municipal Taxes</i>	\$2,367.60	\$29.95
<i>Open Space Taxes</i>	\$27.88	\$0.00
<i>Total Municipal Taxes</i>	\$2,395.48	\$29.95

ALLOCATION OF TAX DOLLAR

	2018
Municipal Tax with OS Tax	26.62%
County	17.14%
Schools	56.24%

The approval and adoption of the Municipal Budget includes the budget for the Open Space Tax and the Sewer Utility.

Open Space

The Township's Open Space Dedicated Trust Fund is funded through the dedication of an Open Space Tax that is not to exceed \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation of each annual tax levy. For 2019, the Township again anticipates raising \$110,430 or approximately \$.011 for each \$100 of assessed valuation. The Open Space Tax cannot be eliminated as future receipts were committed to cover the debt service of Open Space Bonds that were issued in 2005 and are scheduled to expire in 2024. The Open Space Trust Fund may be utilized for the development of recreation fields, improvements to indoor recreation facilities located on lands utilized for recreation; improvements to an existing structure on lands devoted to recreational purposes to enhance its suitability for such purposes; and funds expended in connection with ordinance regarding maintenance of lands utilized for recreation and conservation purposes. As defined by ordinance, open space trust funds can be used to acquire or develop vacant land, as well as land which has improvements upon it at time of acquisition, or to acquire development rights, where the principal purpose of the acquisition is to preserve open space, recreation, farmland preservation and historic preservation.

Sewer Utility

The Township's Sewer Utility is supported by fees collected from users of the system. The Sewer Utility has its own separate budget. For 2015, the Operating Budget was restructured to support a five percent reduction of user fees. The Operating Budget remained flat for 2016 and the legacy debt obligations for the establishment of the utility were fully paid. Mainly due to the reduction of debt service, the Township was able to support an additional five percent reduction of user fees for the 2017 budget. The 2019 Operating Budget increased \$50,000 from 2018 to help offset future debt issuance in relation to the ongoing capital improvements to the sewer utility. User fees remained flat from 2018 to 2019. The Township is continuing in 2019 with capital improvements to the sewer utility with a plan to replace the generators at the two pump stations located on Route 206 and the one located at the Municipal Complex

SUMMARY

In summary, the challenge with this budget and future budgets is to maintain the same level of services for the Township residents while costs continue to increase, the growth of the Township’s ratable base remains restricted, and miscellaneous revenues remain flat resulting in a reliance on property taxes. The Township continues to hold the line on departmental operating expenses with the objective of preserving services in accordance with the expectations of the Township’s residents.

The 2019 municipal budget plan has been constructed to fund more capital projects through the budget. The combination of shifting money between line items and increasing the amount of Capital Improvement Fund is reducing the dependency on incurring debt to pay for capital projects.

Comments:

The Mayor asked if there were any questions or comments from the Council.

Harvey stated that he presented at our budget workshop that he thought we could hit “0” increase if we wanted to. He is disappointed that we are adding a new executive assistant position to our overhead.

Scott Olson felt that the budget subcommittee did due diligence with working on the budget. He is happy with the budget the way it is and thanked Joe, staff and budget committee for doing a thorough job.

David Gray stated that striking a balance between needs and wants has been an ongoing subject. It is a balancing act. With regard to the capital subcommittee and budget subcommittee, there has been a lot of time spent whittling down numbers. He has seen school and county budgets raise and feels that we have done a great job in holding the line on our budget. David stated that as a tax payer you don’t want to pay more taxes, but we have to give the Township offices the ability to operate. David thanked his fellow council members, Joe and Ashleigh for all the work that has went into this. David is supportive of this budget.

Scott stated that he and David have been on the capital committee for several years and this year we are putting the most into capital improvements than we have over the past several years.

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to introduce the 2019 budget.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x		x
No				x	
Abstain					
Absent					

COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager

- 3/12/19 will be the first public meeting on the Parks and Recreation Plan. Greener by Design will be here to give a presentation.
- 3/14/19 – 7 pm joint meeting with Township Council and Building Subcommittee

- Rough week for the DPW – out 4 nights in a row. Lost 3 vehicles – all can be repaired. They spent many hours out on the road, and he commended the DPW for a fantastic effort. He also commended the emergency services for all their assistance – it was a great team effort.
- 3/6/19 – Hidden in Place Sight – presentation to adults – 7 p.m. at Byram Intermediate School

Mayor Rubenstein

- 3/28 – Recreation meeting – Greener by Design came to discuss the Parks and Rec Plan to this committee. It was a great informational session and GbD spent about 2 hours reviewing the tasks of the grant and answering questions.
- The Mayor announced the passing of Joyce Bambach. She battled cancer. Joyce was a long-time resident of Byram and a photographer. She was a part of many people’s lives in Byram and will be missed.

Councilman Gray

- Joyce came to many council meetings and took pride in Byram Township. She will be missed.
- David also commended the DPW on the fantastic job they do on the roads. He stated that you can always tell when you cross the line going from Sparta into Byram because the roads are down to black top in Byram and snow covered in Sparta.

Councilman Roseff

- Attended the Environmental Commission on February 28. They are planning to apply for the ANJEC grant. The group would like the Forester to join them on the trail clean up day.
- Attended building subcommittee meetings on February 26 and March 4. There will be another meeting on March 14 at 7 p.m., at which time the Nader Group will come back again with a revised report.

Councilman Olson

- Capital subcommittee met last week regarding acquiring a temporary fire truck from Secaucus for \$1. The new truck won’t be ready for at least 7 months, and this temporary truck would fill the gap until the new truck arrived. Chief Rudloff said that it is now in the hands of Secaucus and he hopes to here very soon.
- Commended the DPW and also the Police, Fire and EMS for all the work done during the recent snow events.
- Scott had lunch with Andrea Proctor, Resource Interpretive Specialist for Waterloo Village received a federal grant for over \$3 million to restore 3 of the buildings.
- 3/7 – Planning Board meeting - Tomahawk Lake will be on the agenda.
- 3/18 – EPA superfund meeting 7 p.m. The EPA will review what has happened in the last 7 months.
- 3/20 – Byram Township Historical Society - Wayne McCabe will be the special speaker

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to open to the public. All members in favor. Motion carried. No comments were made. Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to close to the public. All members in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 19, 2019 – Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash, to adopt the minutes as presented.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

- February 26, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes of the Joint Planning Board & Township Council Meeting – Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash, to adopt the minutes as presented.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd				x	
Yes			x	x	x
No					
Abstain	x	X			
Absent					

PROCLAMATIONS

- Read Across America – Motion by Councilman Gray, second by Councilwoman Kash to authorize the Mayor to sign the Proclamation. All members in favor. Motion carried.

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 of these items 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 Councilman Gray, second by Councilwoman Kash to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Resolution No. 060-2019 – Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees for Calendar Year 2019
- B. Resolution No. 061-2019 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder
- C. Resolution No. 063-2019 – A Resolution to adopt the Provisions of Chapter 48 (N.J.S.A. 52:14.17.38) Under which a Public Employer may Agree to Pay for the State Health Benefits (SHBP) and/or School Employees’ Health Benefits Program (SEHBP) Coverage of Certain Retirees
- D. Resolution No. 064-2019 – A Resolution to Authorize Participation in the State Health Benefits Program and/or Employees’ Health Benefits Program of the State of New Jersey
- E. Resolution No. 065-2019 – Approval of Quarry License for Year 2019 for Tilcon New Jersey, a division of Tilcon New York, Inc.
- F. Resolution No. 066-2019 – Resolution Granting North Jersey Auto Wreckers, Inc. a License for 2019 to Operate Facility Pursuant to Chapter 156 of the Byram Township Code
- G. Resolution No. 067-2019 – Resolution to Transfer 2018 Appropriation Reserves – Current Fund

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd		X			
Yes	x	X	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution No. 062-2019 – Resolution of the Byram Township Council Authorizing Execution of an Agreement between Byram Township and Cablevision Lightpath NJ LLC and its Subsidiary 4Connections LLC for the use of the Township’s Public Right-Of-Way for Telecommunication Services

Motion by Councilman Gray, second by Councilwoman Kash to approve the consent agenda.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd		X			
Yes	x	X	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

- Resolution No. 068-2019 – Resolution Supporting Continued Open Space In-Lieu-Of Tax Payment Program for Municipalities to Encourage Open Space Acquisition and Offset Lost Municipal Tax Revenue From These Acquisitions – George Stafford presented a sample resolution at the last meeting. The Mayor asked Councilman Olson to review the sample resolution and revise if necessary so that it was ready for this meeting.

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to approve this resolution

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2nd		X			
Yes	x	X	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

MARCH 5, 2019 BILL LIST

Motion by Councilman Gray, second by Councilwoman Kash to approve the bill list as presented.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

ORDINANCES – 2nd Reading / Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 2- 2019 - Ordinance for Police Salary and Wages for the Years 2018-2021

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to consider this ordinance for adoption. Mayor Rubenstein opened to the public. No comments were made. Mayor Rubenstein asked the clerk to call the vote.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

Be It Resolved that Ordinance 2-2019 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

ORDINANCE 3-2019 - Ordinance for Department of Public Works Salary and Wages for the Years 2018-2021

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to consider this ordinance for adoption. Mayor Rubenstein opened to the public. No comments were made. Mayor Rubenstein asked the clerk to call the vote.

	Councilman Gray	Councilwoman Kash	Councilman Olson	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

Be It Resolved that Ordinance 3-2019 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published in the official designated newspaper according to law.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Municipal Building – Mayor stated that the subcommittee has been moving along in the municipal building process. The Nader Group did not provide pricing information on the open space option, which was an important factor. The architect will come back on March 14 with these figures and other information that was compiled from the March 4 building committee workshop meeting. Alex recommended that people come to the meeting on March 14.

Harvey stated that they discussed how the subcommittee will work going forward. At this point, we narrowed it down to the path of direction. He feels the subcommittee is working well and would be a valuable entity to continue to go forward. He stated that the members of the subcommittee have a wide variety of expertise in many different areas of construction.

Scott stated that he feels the building committee has contributed a significant amount but still has work to do.

David Gray stated that minutes from the 2/26 meeting show that the Nader Group did visit the school 3 times and evaluated it. Although they didn't give figures, there were reasons stated why they did not feel it was a viable option.

Municipal Consolidation – Harvey asked to put this on the agenda.

Harvey Roseff stated that the State went public with the Path to Progress in the last year. Byram has approved a resolution in support of the Path to Progress. He feels we should start a dialogue with our neighboring towns about consolidation. Harvey suggests that we have a subset of the Council engaging with neighboring towns.

Scott asked if there is any funding from the State for this. Harvey stated that there is no concrete funding, but there is support.

David Gray stated that, in general, we have kept an open line of communication with neighboring towns for shared services. We were successful in consolidating our municipal court. It made sense, timing was right, saved the town money and it worked. We have also been successful in several other shared service agreements such as animal control and construction. He stated there could be opportunities for other shared services. He doesn't see that jumping into consolidation would be viable and stated he felt it would not make sense.

Alex referred to Princeton and Princeton Township. He read reports a week ago, and said he looked at how it was done. He said that the residents must agree on both sides. If not, it would not be successful. It would be a major undertaking and numerous aspects to consider.

Alex was in favor of keeping the lines of communication open for shared services. David said that he has heard of towns that have created a subcommittee to explore shared services opportunities and would be supportive of creating this type of committee. When a discussion takes place with other towns at the authorization of the Council, the committee would bring it back to the Council. David says we have discussed shared services at almost every single meeting. We've talked about Byram being a lead agency for a shared service.

Joe suggested setting up a roundtable meeting with Mayors and administrators with local municipalities to have an open discussion about needs and opportunities. Joe stated that this was how the construction shared service agreement came about with Netcong. Scott, David and Alex liked the idea of the roundtable and subcommittees to discuss shared services. David asked if we needed to respond to the Building Subcommittee with regards to consolidation, since that is where the discussion came from. Scott stated that the building subcommittee was charged with looking into the building options and not consolidation. The subcommittee can read the minutes from this meeting for information on our discussion.

Alex asked how we wanted to proceed. Harvey expressed interest in joining this subcommittee, but Alex replied that the Council hasn't decided yet to create it yet. David stated that if he were on this type of subcommittee he would understand that the purpose of the committee was to talk to neighboring towns, at the direction of the Council, about shared services, not consolidation. Alex asked David if he could forward him any names of towns that had shared service subcommittees. David will have to do some research, because he read it on other towns' agendas but doesn't remember which ones. Alex would like to put some thought into this and talk to a few towns that have formed a shared service subcommittee and see how it went, so that we do this smartly. Alex suggested maybe tabling discussion about a subcommittee or roundtable to the next meeting to allow us to gather more information and brainstorm a bit. Scott stated that Keith Armstrong at the County was involved in County shared services, and it may be good to reach out to him to talk to a few people that he spoke with at other municipalities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash, to open to the public.

Todd Rudloff, 9 Whitehall Road, stated that we should be looking at the school consolidation among our neighbors—that is where the tax burden is. Enrollment is down. He feels it could work locally. Alex stated that school population in 2009 was 1280 now it is 830.

David Gray agreed that school consolidation should be looked at. He stated that it is easy to build up a school system but difficult to contract, because of employment contracts, unions, buildings, etc.

Closed to the public.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Councilman Olson, second by Councilwoman Kash to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. All members in favor. Motion carried.