

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022
REGULAR SESSION - 7:00 P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Mayor Rubenstein called the meeting to order.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Both adequate and electronic notice of the meeting has been provided, specifying the time, place. In addition, a copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk, posted on the main door, the bulletin board of the Municipal Building, on the Township website at: https://www.byramtwp.org/index.php/town_hall/township_council, and has been forwarded to those persons requesting notice.

ROLL CALL OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – Councilman Bonker here; Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, here; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Church

Also in attendance was: Judy Thorton, Lisa Plevin, Kelley Curran & Herbert August of the Highlands.

FLAG SALUTE

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING - The presentation focused on Lake Management Plan and opportunities available should the council decide to move forward. Lisa Plevins provided a presentation “Partnering with the NJ Highlands Council”. Focused on Lake Management Plans and a background of the Highlands Council. Ms. Thorton said they have been working with Byram since 2007. Mr. August presented a list of funding that Byram Township Received through the Highlands over the years, at a total of \$383,420.00. An additional \$210,740 in grant funding is approved and available to the township, including recently approved \$150,000 for Lake Management Planning. Ms. Curran explained what Watershed and Lake Management Planning consists of. A completion of a watershed management plan will position Byram for future NJDEP and USEPA funding. Byram has 4 primary subwater sheds. Stream impairments include mercury and total phosphorus. Lake impairments include total phosphorus and fecal coliform. High levels of phosphorus can lead to Harmful Algal Blooms. Mr. August explained that the grant award can be broken into phases and can be reimbursed as the project moves along. Deliverables would need to be submitted for review.

Councilman Roseff – Expressed concerns that the Lake Management Plan presented is very broad. Asked if the township is in total control of the project. Ms. Curran said it is completely Byram’s Plan and the council will decide what is important and what is a priority. Ms. Plevins said the scope of work is done together with the Township and the technical staff of the Highlands. The Township can put emphasis on whatever area they feel is important. The Lake Management plan is basically to identify the problems and make recommendations on how to solve them. The next steps are how to fund them. Mr. August explained that the discovery of a solution would be eligible for reimbursement under this grant. Ms. Thorton said the implementation of solutions can take many different forms. Cannot fund bricks and mortar. Can fund engineering aspects of the project.

Councilman Bonker – Reiterated back that there is \$150,000 for this project, the Highlands Council has done this process with many other municipalities, and has the language already developed to help municipalities like Byram to facilitate the selection of a vendor. Asked if this plan would be 100% funded or would Byram need to put in funds as well. Mr. August said that the intention of the Highlands Council is to pay for it in its entirety. They would work with Byram Township to develop these documents. There are several consultants out there who can go out for RFP. Ms. Thorton said she is not aware as to how many RFPs would come into an individual municipality.

Councilwoman Franco – Asked if the Highlands Council can suggestions vendors to handle the project. Mr. August said that they cannot recommend vendors. Byram can look to see who other municipalities have used. Suggested looking into Rockaway, Ringwood, and Greenwood Lake.

Councilman Gallagher – Asked about the funding. Ms. Plevins said they can fund the soft costs, and the study can help leverage the funds as well. Can also seek funding from other sources for the hard costs.

Mayor Rubenstein – Has a concern about the costs involved with the bricks and mortar. Asked if the grants offered are limited to municipalities. Ms. Plevins said that the plan conformance grants are limited to municipalities and counties. Ms. Curran explained that the nine elements in the plan give suggestions on funding. Ms. Plevins said they have investments to make sure the plans are implemented. They will work with the township to get the plan done.

Mr. Roseff asked if urban areas contribute to the funding as they benefit from Byram being in the Highlands region. Ms. Thorton said that is not know for sure.

Mr. Bonker asked if there is a difference since some lakes are state owned, and some are privately owned. Ms. Plevins said the mission is the protection of the lakes and are applicable to both private and public lakes. Highlands does not identify a distinction between the two. All the water in the region is all connected in the end.

Mr. Sabatini clarified that the lakes are stakeholders in this project and would encourage them to get involved in with finding funding as well. Many lake communities have expressed an interest in pursuing this. The procurement process is the townships process. Expects to receive direction from the council on what they want to do to move forward.

Discussed other things that the Highlands Council can fund, including historical, cultural preservations, and Master Plan reexams.

Opened to the Public for comment.

John Garrity – He has been asking the state to do a baseline study of Cranberry Lake. Reached out to Princeton Hydro and the Highlands and grant money being available. Urges the council to move forward to get improvements done.

Closed to the Public.

Ms. Curran will send Mr. Sabatini the tailored scope of work with the basics as to what goes into a watershed plan.

Mr. Sabatini asked for direction from the Township Council on next steps.

Councilman Roseff feels it is premature to decide tonight.
Councilman Gallagher feels they need to reach out to the stakeholders.
Mayor Rubenstein feels it is time to get this done and move forward.
Councilwoman Franco feels they should reach out to the other towns.

Mr. Sabatini will provide the scope of work to the Township Council and will ask for the council's comments allowing them to move forward.

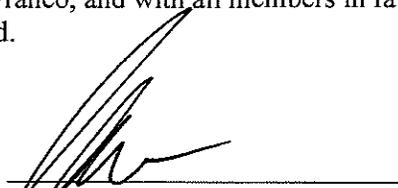
Mr. Sabatini provided a background on the process of going out for RFP. The alternative would be to bring in professionals and interview them on their qualifications and appoint them through a PSA, or higher a vendor that is out there and has done this work before. Mr. Sabatini said if they want to look at vendors, please provide him with names.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor