

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
REORGANIZATION TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 2, 2024
REORGANIZATION MEETING 7:30 P.M.**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER –Mayor Alexander 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.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILWOMAN FRANCO – Mayor Rubenstein sworn in Councilwoman Franco with her daughter Rebecca Franco holding the bible.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER - Mayor Rubenstein sworn in Councilman Gallagher with his daughter Alicia Henry holding the bible.

SWEARING IN OF COUNCILMAN PROCTOR – Township Clerk, Cynthia Church sworn in Councilman Proctor with his sister Brooke Proctor holding the bible.

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

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION by Russel Raffay

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, to approve the agenda All in favor. Motion carried.

SWEARING IN OF BYRAM TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Todd Rudloff – Chief	Casey Margo - President
Shawn Pond – Assist. Chief	Paul Conklin – Vice President
Dave Blakely – Captain	John Hebble –Treasurer
Derek Plantamura – Captain	Andrea Proctor - Secretary
Mark Hopkins – Lieut.	
Frank Dilberto – Lieut.	

SWEARING IN OF NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Matt Kronyak - Mayor Rubenstein sworn in Matt Kronyak with Tim Moylen holding the bible.

Donald Bogardus - Mayor Rubenstein sworn in Donald Bogardus with his wife, Dina Trunzo holding the bible.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR - Motion by Councilman Gallagher to nominate Councilwoman Cris Franco as Deputy Mayor. All in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER’S 2024 MESSAGE – ANNUAL REPORT MESSAGE - REFLECTION ON 2023

Township Manager, Joseph Sabatini read aloud the below statement:

As we entered the new year and begin to embark on our goals and objectives for 2024, I would like to take a few moments and reflect on 2023.

In 2023, everyone worked collaboratively to focus their efforts on the common goal of ensuring the efficient and effective continuity of government while remaining ever cognizant of the fiscal restraints impacting all New Jersey communities.

I am extremely proud of the Byram Township staff to have continued delivering the high level of services that our residents have come to expect with limited interruptions.

In addition, I would like to thank the Township’s many volunteers (Fire, EMS, many Township Committees) and our residents for continuing to remain flexible and exhibiting patience and understanding while we continued to adapt to the many changes necessary to protect everyone and to add to the quality of life in Byram Township, making our ‘Township of Lakes’ a wonderful place in which to live, work and visit.

I am very pleased to announce the following 2023 accomplishments:

Extend multiple Shared Service Agreements:

- *Agreement between Byram Township and Andover Township for Snow Removal Services on the Forest Lakes Section of Road of Andover Township*

- *Agreement between Byram Township and Netcong Borough for Construction Department Services*
- *Agreement with Hopatcong Borough for Animal Control / Shelter Services Agreement*
- *Extended Lease Agreement to Support the Waterloo United Methodist Church (W.U.M.C.) Neighborhood Pantry (2024)*

Received many Grants totaling over \$455,000 which included (but not limited to):

- *Authorizing the Acceptance of an Amended Plan Conformance Grant, Highlands Council Grant Number 09-033-011-1904, Task 14, Stormwater Management Planning, MS4 \$60,000*
- *Highlands Council Grant Number 09-033-01-1904, Task 15A – Open Space & Recreation Plan for Design and Engineering Work in Support of the CO Johnson Park Improvement Plan - \$137,790.00*
- *NJDOT Grant for Manor Drive Resurfacing in the amount of \$142,524.00*

Capital Improvement Projects:

- *DPW Improvements:*
 - *Replacement of Garage Doors*
 - *New Vehicle Life and Clean Air Ventilation system for mechanics bays.*
 - *New Double Wall Containment Tanks for liquid deicer to satisfy MS4 Stormwater requirements.*
- *Completed resurfacing of COJ Basketball Courts, with new backboards and rims. The new color surface and line striping will be completed in Spring of this year.*
- *Completed the rehabilitation of the Salt Dome*
- *Purchase Four (4) Park Benches for COJ Park Tennis Courts*
- *Purchased new bleachers for Neil Gylling & CO Johnson Parks to replace outdated unsafe old bleachers.*

Other Key Accomplishments:

- *Deployment of Natural Gas in Byram:*
 - *Elizabethtown Gas continues to make great progress in their ongoing efforts in the north portions of the Township. Road opening permits have been received in December for Forest Lakes Section and Cranberry Lake sections of town. Still working to define schedule for deployment in these areas.*
Tamarack – 2024
Forest Lake – 2024/2025
Cranberry Lake - 2025
- *NJ Natural Gas has finished their efforts to construct, operate and maintain natural gas in the West Brookwood section of town and has started in East Brookwood.*
- *The deployment of natural gas with individual services has a major impact on the resources of the Construction Department. The Part-time staff has worked very hard to support the increased impact of gas connection permits and required inspections.*
- *COJ Park Improvements:*
 - *Late Fall, French & Parrello was authorized to start the Design and Engineering Work in Support of the CO Johnson Park Improvement Plan fully offset by the Highlands Grant - \$137,790.00.*
 - *Also, they were authorized to provide engineering services for Proposed Improvements to Field 8 at CO Johnson Park fully offset by American Rescue Plan (APR) Grant funds. \$66,900.00*
- *Princeton Hydro has made significant progress on the Watershed/Lake Management Plan in 2023 and as planned it is expected to be completed for Council approval in 2024.*

Recognition of Retirements:

- *Robert Schellhammer – 15 years of service with Byram Township – Police Officer*
- *We had several employees resign their position in 2023.*

Recognition of New Hires:

- *Deborah Armeno - FT Recreation Director*
- *Kevin Garrity – Police Officer*
- *Stephan Boylan – FT Department of Public Works Laborer*
- *Franziska Frederick – PT Tax Assessment, DPW and Environmental Commission Secretary*
- *Sue Pietschker – PT Clerical Assistant to the Construction Office*
- *Eric Greenmeier – PT Plumbing & Mechanical Sub-Code Official*

The Township's Annual report will be posted to the Township's website in February. Please take the time to review the information contained within the annual report to learn more about the accomplishments of 2023.

Public meetings for the Township Council and Committees are listed on the Township website and we encourage your participation throughout the year. Residents have been able to participate at Council Meetings by Zoom since mid-year 2023.

Please check out the Township's website and Facebook Pages to stay informed of events and activities. The Township Newsletters are accessed from the Quick Links section of the website.

In conclusion, I would like to again thank all of the Byram Township staff and volunteers for a very successful 2023 and look forward to 2024.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Joyous New Year

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY –Thomas F. Collins, Jr. of Vogel, Chait, Collins and Schneider

LABOR ATTORNEY & CONFLICT ATTORNEY – Tom Ryan of Laddey, Clark & Ryan

BOND COUNSEL - Robert H. Beinfield of Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER –Cory Stoner of Harold Pellow & Associates.

TOWNSHIP SEWER ENGINEER - Steve Donati of CP Engineers, LLP

TOWNSHIP AUDITOR – Raymond Sarinelli of Nisivoccia, LLP.

TOWNSHIP PLANNER - Paul Gleitz of L&G Planning.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Gallagher, to appoint the professionals listed above for each for a 1-year term.

PLANNING BOARD

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Gallagher, to appoint Richard Proctor as Class III member to a 1-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Proctor, to appoint John Morytko as a Class IV member to a 4-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Proctor, to appoint Gregory Smith, Alternate II member to a 2-year term. All in favor. Motion carried. All in favor. Motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH –

Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Sheyenne O’Grady, Mike Busniak & Cris Franco to 4-year terms. All in favor. Motion Carried.

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint John Morytko to a 3-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Jack Niemynski and Adrian Gonzalez to 3-year terms. All in favor. Motion carried.

911 COORDINATOR

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Lieutenant Daniel Dewald as 911 Coordinator for a 1-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Danielle Conroy and Don Bogardus for 3-year terms. All in favor. Motion carried.

POLICE CHAPLAIN

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Luis Rodriguez for a 1-year term. All in favor. Motion carried.

SUSSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY BOARD – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Michael Busniak to a 1-year term

MUSCONETCONG RIVER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Peter Dlugos (Primary) & James Myers (Alternate) to a 1-year term.

WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN POLICY ADVISOR COMMITTEE (PAC) Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to appoint Roxanne Sabatini to a 1-year term

COUNCIL LIAISONS

- Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Franco
- Environmental Commission – Councilman Roseff
- Board of Health – Councilwoman Franco
- Byram Historical Society – Councilman Roseff
- Lenape Valley BOE – Mayor Rubenstein
- Byram BOE – Councilman Gallagher

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

- **CLASS II PLANNING BOARD MEMBER** – 1-year term – still searching for a member
- **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION** – Dana Flynn, Peter Dlugos - 3 year term

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT

- Land Subdivision Search Officer – Planning Board Secretary, Caitlin Phillips
- Tax Search Officer – Michele McElroy

- Special Law Enforcement Officer – Class II – Philip Crosson, Robert Tierney & Robert Schellhammer

ACCEPTANCE OF BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATIONS AND RECOGNITION OF BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS NO LONGER SERVING – Mayor Rubenstein expressed his gratitude and thanked the following people for their service:

Russel Raffay - OS (2021), Scott Yappen – REC (2019), Eric Dietz – REC (2022), Jeri Quirk – REC (2018)

Mayor Rubenstein thanked the residents for volunteering and asked the Township Clerk to send a letter of thanks on the Council's behalf.

Motion Councilwoman Gallagher, Second by Councilwoman Franco to accept the resignations. All in Favor. Motion Carries.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager –

The Budget Workshop meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2024, with a 6:30 p.m. start time. The budget information has been posted on the Township website. Recycling post cards went out in the mail. Christmas Tree pick up is scheduled for Monday, January 15th.

Councilwoman Franco – There was a Planning Board Meeting December 21st where they approved one residential application. The upcoming crocheting group will be getting together January 7th and Mahjong on January 9th at the Byram Municipal Building.

Councilman Gallagher – The Byram Board of Education Reorganization meeting is being held tomorrow night at the school. The next Recreation Committee meeting is one week from tonight.

Councilman Proctor – Planning Board reorganization meeting is scheduled for January 4th. Thanked the public for their support during the election.

Councilman Roseff – Historical Society Closed out the 225th anniversary paperwork and would like to present it to the Township Council within the next few weeks at an upcoming meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I – Motion by Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Proctor to open to the public. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

No Comments

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – All 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 Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Resolution No. 001-2024 – Resolution to Provide Temporary Budget Appropriations until the Adoption of the 2024 Current Fund Budget
- B. Resolution No. 002-2024 – Resolution to Provide Temporary Budget Appropriations until the Adoption of the 2024 Sewer Utility Budget
- C. Resolution No. 003-2024 – Custodian of Funds / Signatories
- D. Resolution No. 004-2024 – Resolution Adopting the 2024 Cash Management Plan
- E. Resolution No. 005-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Maintain a Petty Cash Fund in the Amount of \$150.00
- F. Resolution No. 006-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Contracts with Certain Approved State Contract Vendors for Contracting Units Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7-29
- G. Resolution No. 007-2024 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Establish the Rate of Interest to be Charged for Non-Payment of Taxes on or Before the Due Date”
- H. Resolution No. 008-2024 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Cancellation of Small Tax Balances”
- I. Resolution No. 009-2024 – Resolution Designating Official Newspapers
- J. Resolution No. 010-2024 – Annual Notice of the Calendar Dates of the Scheduled Meetings of the Byram Township Council from 01/01/2024-12/31/2024 and the Beginning of 2025
- K. Resolution No. 011-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Compliance with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commissions “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records” in Employment Decisions under the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- L. Resolution No. 012-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Annual Appointment of a Public Agency Compliance Officer (PACO) for the Township of Byram, Sussex County, New Jersey
- M. Resolution No. 013-2024 – Resolution Appointing Tax Assessor and Municipal Attorney to Represent the Township of Byram before the County Board of Taxation for Calendar Year 2024
- N. Resolution No. 014-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of Legal Counsel and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith

- O. Resolution No. 015-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of the Township Labor Counsel and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith
- P. Resolution No. 016-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of the Township Engineer and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith
- Q. Resolution No. 017-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of the Sewer Consulting Engineer and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith
- R. Resolution No. 018-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of Bond Counsel and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith
- S. Resolution No. 019-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of Township Planner and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith
- T. Resolution No. 020-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of the Township Auditor and Award of Professional Service Contract in Connection Therewith
- U. Resolution No. 021-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the 2024 Agreement by and Between Byram Township and Phoenix Advisors, LLC Covering Continuing Disclosure Agent Services and Appointment as Independent Registered municipal Advisor “of Record”
- V. Resolution No. 022-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Gracie & Harrigan Consulting Foresters, Inc., to Provide Various Forest Stewardship Services for the 2024 Season
- W. Resolution No. 023-2024 – Appointment of Darren Raymond for Appraisal Services Relating to the State Tax Court Residential Appeals
- X. Resolution No. 024-2024 – Appointment of Scott J. Holzhauer for Appraisal Services Relating to the State Tax Court Commercial Appeals
- Y. Resolution No. 025-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Documents Associated with the Payroll Contract with R&L Data Centers
- Z. Resolution No. 026-2024 – Authorizing Appointment of Linda L. Maxwell of Insurance Administrator of America Inc. as Third-Party Administrator for Matters Related to Retiree Health Insurance Reimbursement
- AA. Resolution No. 027-2024 – Resolution for Removal of Deer Carcass from Byram Township Municipal Roadways
- BB. Resolution No. 028-2024 – Resolution of the Township of Byram Ratifying and Authorizing the Award of a Contract for Professional Services to French & Parrello Associates
- CC. Resolution No. 029-2024 – Award of a Professional Services Contract to Steven Weinberg of Community Action Services to Administer Byram Township’s Housing Rehabilitation Program
- DD. Resolution No. 030-2024 – Resolution Reappointing & Achieving Tenure Status of Cynthia M. Church as Municipal Clerk & Registrar
- EE. Resolution No. 031-2024 – Resolution to Join (Renew) the Fund – Statewide Insurance Fund
- FF. Resolution No. 032-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Renewal of Liquor License to Adam Todd Inc Valid from 07/01/2023 Through 06/30/2024
- GG. Resolution No. 033-2024 – Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employees for Calendar Year 2024

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

PROCLAMATION – Radon Action Month – January – Mayor Rubenstein read the proclamation and asked for a motion to authorize the mayor to sign it. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to sign the proclamation. All members in favor. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 19, 2023 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Gallagher to approve the minutes.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x		x	x
No					
Abstain			x		
Absent					

BILL LIST – January 2, 2024 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve the bill list as presented.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

DISCUSSION ITEM

Green Acres Playground Grant – Mayor Rubenstein sat in on a DEP Grant information session, most of the time the grants do not apply to Byram Township as they are typically for either poor or distressed communities. The second part of the meeting included a session on “Jakes Law” regarding completely inclusive playgrounds (CIP). This is the second year of funding for CIPs and this year the DEP included municipalities to apply for the grants, making Byram Township eligible to apply for this grant. With newly learning that the CO Johnson Field Playground is at the end of its life and is up for replacement, that there is an ability to apply for and possibly receive a grant for a CIP playground. The main difference with a CIP playground is accessibility. The surface would need to be rubber or in the form of grass tiles and would need to be wheelchair accessible. There are also shading requirements. Mayor Rubenstein is looking to see if the council is in support of a CIP playground, and if so, they need to move fast as they are dealing with a very compressed timeline for public outreach, social media, and advertisement requirements.

Councilwoman Franco – asked if there is a need for a CIP playground, is there data that shows the need, and what the cost would be and if our climate would prohibit that usage. Does not have enough information or knowledge on the subject but feels it would be a welcomed addition to the township and feels that CO Johnson field would be the proper location. Councilwoman Franco is in favor of applying for the grant. Even if they did not get the grant, it would be in Byram’s best interest to have a CIP playground.

Councilman Gallagher - there are families in the township looking for CIP playgrounds and who would benefit from it. Feels that CO Johnson Park would be the perfect location. Would be in favor of the grant.

Councilman Proctor – Did some research and spoke to some contractors who have done these playgrounds. There are conditions as to when and how the rubber can be installed, the longevity of the rubber would last in our environment and feels that many residents would benefit from it. Would be in favor of applying for the grant.

Cory Stoner, Township Engineer – has experience with this grant, as he is working with other towns on the same grant. They need to move very quickly on this grant.

Mr. Sabatini, Township Manager, said the application is only as good as the effort we can put into the public outreach. The council would need to entrust in the staff on the completion and decisions to be made on the elements of the playground. There are four components to the grant that would apply. The surface would need to be poured rubber or a tile option. The tile option would be more costly, however, may be a better option for maintenance. The DPW Superintendent will need to research the options. There is a 20% shade requirement (canvas canopies), and the playground would need to be enclosed and would need a quiet play area. May need to change the parking requirements for the handy capped spots. There are public meetings & hearing requirements involved. There will need to be an environmental assessment. This will be a labor-intensive effort to get this done. This is a very competitive grant. The goal is to get one of these playgrounds in every county. The competitive aspect of the grant is determined by the number of applicants. The grant is a 75% contribution from the DCA, and 25% using Township funds. The cost of the playground would be twice of what has been done previously at other parks. Suggested using the Open Space trust as the initial source of funds (approximately \$150,000). The two elements that are being focused on are proximity to other CIP playgrounds and community disability demographics. The demographics census data is given to the township and Byram Township (under age 18) has 17 individuals. Looking for full support from the council to meet the requirement timeline and allow the staff to move forward to packaging the grant together.

Councilman Roseff – asked what Sparta’s special needs are. Mr. Sabatini said that there is a link in the application that allows you to pull up the information on any town. Mr. Roseff said that he is looking at it from a competitive standpoint and wants to quantify it against Sparta Townships special needs census. Feels that a lot of work is going into his and would like to get the feel of the possible chance of success. Is supportive of special needs in the township’s park planning. Asked how it will affect the layout. Councilman Roseff asked if the area of the playground going to be larger. Mr. Sabatini said it will be the same size, the only alterations may be to the gates or terrain. Mayor Rubenstein said that Sparta special needs number at 118 compared to Byram being at 17. Councilman Roseff mentioned that at one of the first NJLOM that he attended about 5 years ago, they discussed a special needs program (Summit Grant) that addressed this with the Townships through a group called TriCAN involvement, it is an organization that organizes with other towns and will provide mentoring and experts to pass on their knowledge to help get with recreation or special needs programs established. It may be worth reaching out and engaging with them to learn what their involvement could be should it be needed.

Dina Trunzo – has been involved in this process of this legislation, it was originally attached to green acres funding at first. This is about people with more than physical disabilities, it goes beyond that. This is about more than just children; it is also about families that may have disabilities. Does not see that TriCAN would work as they are out of Union County and they focus on programs, but she does see that concept working. Will need to keep the bathroom requirement in mind. Mr. Sabatini said that the bathrooms are not accessible to the public. Councilman Roseff brought up his concern with Byrams census number being at 17. Ms. Trunzo suggested using the higher number rather than the census number. Population with disability types is a higher number and she suggests using that number. Families what to be close to home, to their family and friends and that is a big selling point. There was a discussion regarding the difference between transfer points and ramps. Ms. Trunzo is a proponent of ramps as she finds transfer points demoralizing.

Mr. Sabatini asked the council for permission to use Dina Trunzos’ involvement in the application process.

Don Bogardus– worked on projects like this in Westfield and Denville, if the council has questions to please reach out to him, he is happy to help.

Mayor Rubenstein would like to get a consensus of the council via a motion and a second.

A motion to proceed with the CIP at CO Johnson Park to replace the existing playground.

Motion by Mayor Rubenstein, second by Councilwoman Franco

Councilman Roseff asked if that is based off getting the grant. Mayor Rubenstein said that they should go ahead with it regardless. Councilman Roseff said that they do not know how it will affect the overall park or the cost. Mayor Rubenstein said that they have some rough estimates. Mr. Sabatini said it is about \$600,000.00. Councilman Roseff asked if they will be staying with the same footprint. Mr. Sabatini said yes, that is his understanding. Councilman Proctor asked if this would affect any of the French & Parello work that they have already paid for. Mr. Sabatini said no because the playground was not in that plan for replacement. Councilman Roseff reiterated with the playground staying in place of the current location and at an estimate price of \$600,000.00.

Motion amended to read:

Motion to place the existing CO Johnson playground with a CIP in the general existing footprint and size adhering to standards set by Jakes Law.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion					X
2nd	X				
Yes	X	X	X	X	X
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

The township council agreed to allow the administration to proceed with the application processes in full force.

There will need to be a formal Special Council Meeting (Special Hearing Session) on Tuesday, January 30th for a special public hearing at 7:30p.m.

Fire Truck – There was a discussion about this during December 5, 2023 Township Council meeting. Councilman Roseff met with the Fire Department to look at the firetruck. There was a lot of rot to the firetruck that is in question. Councilman Roseff suggests pushing all the vendors to include other options as well to prevent future rusting of a new vehicle. The recommendation of the Fire Department is to combine two vehicles into one. The next step would be with a Bond Ordinance. Mr. Sabatini will sit down with Todd to move forward. Mr. Sabatini suggested putting together a subcommittee. Mayor Rubenstein and Councilman Gallagher volunteered to be part of that subcommittee.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco to open to the public. All members were in favor. Motion Carried. No comments were made.

Dina Trunzo – Sussex County Disabilities Council may be able to provide statistics.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, to go into executive session 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.

- a. Personel

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:

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 2, 2024.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

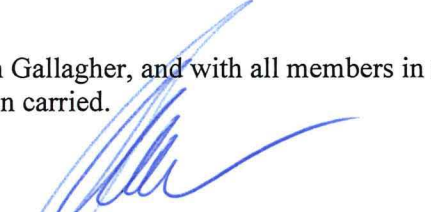
	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 10:05 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor