

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2022
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.
REGULAR SESSION - 7:30 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, absent; Councilman Gallagher, absent; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Church

RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Roseff, 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. Attorney Client Privilege Communication
 - General
 - Lakeland Emergency Squad

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 February 15, 2022.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Roseff to return to open session at 7:13 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Roseff, to approve the agenda.

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

SWEARING IN OF LIEUTENANT – Daniel DeWald

Dan DeWald was sworn in as Lieutenant by Mayor Rubenstein with girlfriend Paige holding the bible.

Daniel DeWald grew up in Byram and is a Lenape Valley High School graduate. DeWald started his public service career as a volunteer with the Byram Township Fire Department in 1995 and is a life member of the department. He started with the NJ Department of Corrections as a Correctional Police Officer in 1999. He then started with the Byram Township Police Department after attending the Morris County Public Safety Academy in 2001. In 2016 he was promoted to the

rank of Sergeant where he served as a shift supervisor. In his new rank of Police Lieutenant, Lt. DeWald will serve as the patrol and detective division commander overseeing the two most important divisions in the Police Department.

SWEARING IN OF SERGEANT – Marcus Lisa

Marcus Lisa was sworn in as Sergeant by Mayor Rubenstein with wife Tara and children holding the bible.

Marcus Lisa grew up in Vernon and is a graduate of Pope John Regional High School. Lisa began his public service career in 1998 when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps eventually obtaining the rank of Sgt. He started with the Franklin Borough Police Department as a patrolman after attending the Morris County Public Safety Academy in 2007. In 2008 he joined the Byram Township Police Department as a patrolman. He has distinguished himself during his time as a patrolman as the head instructor of the LEAD program and instructor for many in service training classes. In his new rank of Police Sergeant, Sergeant Lisa will serve as a shift supervisor.

SWEARING IN OF NEW FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS – Andrea Proctor & Patrick Connolly

Andrea was not able to attend as she is in the academy.

Patrick Connolly was sworn as a new member of the Fire Department by Mayor Rubenstein

RENEWAL OF LICENSE – 2022 QUARRY LICENSE –Mr. O'Reilly was also present. Mr. Stoner prepared and presented a memo dated 02/10/2022. Mr. Stoner said that the quarry facility has remained as it has been for the past few years and Tilcon New York has complied with the conditions of the past year's approval. He recommended that the quarry license application for Tilcon New York be approved for 2022 subject to the conditions listed in the 02/10/2022 memo and any other conditions the Byram Township Council may wish to be resolved. Mr. O'Reilly was given 60 days to correct any conditions stated within the memo.

RENEWAL OF LICENSES – 2022 JUNK YARD

North Jersey Auto Wreckers - Mr. Stoner prepared and presented a memo dated 02/10/2022. With the conditions stated with in the memo, Mr. Stoner believes that the operations at North Jersey Auto Wreckers have remained the same for the past few years and the licensee is making continued progress on the removal of tires from the property. The Township Clerk will follow up with the Sussex County Mosquito Control to inspect the property in 2022. Mr. Stoner recommends that the license be approved with the conditions stated in the 2/10/2022 memo for 2022.

Mr. Schneider questioned the net number of tires that have come and go at the facility. Mr. Stoner did not have that information available. He thinks they have about 1,000 tires at this time.

Raimos – Mr. Nemeth, Mr. Sarlo and Mr. Manzo were present. Mr. Stoner prepared and presented a memo dated 02/10/2022. With the conditions stated withing the memo, Mr. Stoner believes that the biggest items that the licensee need to address in 2021 was 1.) obtain full site plan approval from the Planning Board and 2.) cleaning up Block 35 Lot 36. The site plan was obtained in March 2021 and the applicant has made great progress with the cleanup of the property. The full cleanup will likely not occur until the site improvements are completed as approved by the Planning Board. Mr. Stoner recommended that the license be renewed for 2022 with the understanding that they continue with the conditions within the memo provided.

PROCLAMATION – ARBOR DAY – Mayor Rubenstein read aloud the proclamation. Motion by Councilman Bonker Second by Councilman Roseff to sign the resolution.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – Will introduce the budget at the Township Council meeting on March 1st. There is no overall changes to the budget, but due to some minor changes there is some shifting around within the budget. The 2021 Annual Financial Statement was posted to the Byram Township website. The reserve year 2020 was closed out, there was a much higher expended balance that was returned to the fund balance attributed to the pandemic. The CFO and Manager will be recommending as part of the Budget Introduction to bring in an additional \$300,000 to fund balance to be put into the Capital Improvement Fund. Received notification that they received a grant for improvements to Riverside Park for \$75,000. There will be a capital resolution on the agenda to start that project with the balance of funds coming from Open Space.

Mayor Rubenstein – The Mayor received an article from Skip Danielson regarding a former Byram Township resident Eric Windstrom who was appointed as Chief of Police in Grand Rapids Michigan. There was a Planning Board meeting on February 3rd. On February 7th there was a Special Council meeting with the Highlands in regard to the Lake Management Plan to understand the process and funding. March 17th is the next Planning Board Meeting. On February 23rd there will be a joint Township Council / Recreation Committee meeting to discuss next steps for the future of the Recreation Committee.

Councilman Bonker – The Open Space Committee held there meeting on February 14, 2022. At that meeting they identified at least one vendor to help implement the trails identified in the Sussex County trail grant application. They expect to hear from Sussex County next month regarding the award. They are hopeful that they will be receiving the grant. The Committee also recommended that the Council authorize the administration to begin the procurement process on the materials that will be required to complete this project. They would also want to take a look at some outdoor exercise equipment options for some of our parks, similar to what Netcong did in Arbolino Park (adult playground

equipment). Finally, they will begin prioritizing all of the sub-components of the CO Johnson Park redesign to identify the next phase after the Dog Park work begins.

Councilman Roseff – Reported that next year is the 225th anniversary of Byram Township . The Historical Society is sponsoring a logo with an award. Submittals are due by April 15th.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Roseff to open to the public.

Michael Scuzzese – 7 Katonah Trail – Reviewed a survey that was conducted and noticed that there were many people interested in a dog park. After going through the commentary asked if there was another way to revisit the CO Johnson Park plans for a multi-use facility. Mayor Rubenstein had an extensive conversation with Mr. Scuzzese regarding his concerns and explained the processes. Councilman Bonker explained that the most expensive piece of the C.O. Johnson options was the redevelopment of the recreation building, and therefore they have a very rough cost estimate of what it would take to move that current recreation building. This would be a very high-cost item in a township of less than 8,000 people. Traditionally they have also looked to the indoor facility at the Byram Intermediate School “Open Space”.

Kevin Dean –2 Cranberry Ledge Road – Expressed that funding may be available from some of the leagues to fund the structure rather than being put solely on the taxpayer. He also suggested various ways to improve the recreation and field space in the township.

Kelly Eller – 14 River Road – Son was not able to join basketball as the local school cannot facilitate them and wrestling at the same time. Asked if the Township would be willing to purchase portable outdoor lights. She also suggested various ideas on how to improve the recreation and field uses in the township including a bubble structure. Asked about the structure of the sports council and who to contact. Mr. Sabatini explained that the only thing the sports council does is scheduling.

Michael Dennehy – 70 Whippoorwill Lane - Spent time studying the C.O. Johnson rebuild design, had membership meetings with Baseball and Softball and feels that there were a lot of wishes within the plan as enrollment has increased. Looking to see what can be done to satisfy their needs within the next year or two. Lighting is a big need for C.O. Johnson field and revamping the fieldhouse. Also expressed that field space is needed as well. Asked if this is something that can be moved forward.

Many thoughts and ideas were tossed around between the Mayor, Council, Township Manager and Township Residents regarding recreation and fields and funding.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Roseff to close to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 1, 2022 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilman Bonker, seconded by Councilman Roseff to approve the minutes.

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

- February 7, 2022 Regular Session Minutes – Special Meeting - Motion by Councilman Bonker, seconded by Councilman Roseff to approve the minutes.

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

CONSENT AGENDA – All are considered to be routine by the Members of the Township Council and will be enacted on by one motion. Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Roseff to approve the consent agenda.

- Resolution No. 060-2022 – Resolution of The Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Tax Sale Certificate #2010-037 be Remitted (Cancelled) From Record” – Block 365 Lot 11.1, 44 Lackawanna Drive
- Resolution No. 061-2022 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 337.12 Lot 17 for Tax Year 2022 and the Cancellation of Taxes for the Remainder of the First Half of 2022 – Block 337.12 Lot 17 – 3 Stonehedge Lane
- Resolution No. 062-2022 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Block 337-12, Lot 17 Refund of Taxes Paid for 1st Quarter – Block 337.12, Lot 17
- Resolution No. 063-2022 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes Be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 9 Lot 561

- Resolution No. 064-2022 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 274 Lot 714
- Resolution No. 065-2022 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 274 Lot 716
- Resolution No. 066-2022 – Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 274 Lot 717.02
- Resolution No. 067-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 274 Lot 720
- Resolution No. 068-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 9, Lot 561
- Resolution No. 069-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 360 Lot 21.01
- Resolution No. 070-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 360 Lot 21.03
- Resolution No. 071-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 360 Lot 21.04
- Resolution No. 072-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 360 Lot 21.05
- Resolution No. 073-2022 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) for 2022” – Block 282 Lot 345
- Resolution No. 074-2022 – Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 307 Lot 1853 for Tax Year 2022 and the Cancellation of Taxes for the remainder of the First Half 2022 – Block 307 Lot 1853, 85 Birch Parkway
- Resolution No. 075-2022 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 154 Lot 236, 15 Tote Road
- Resolution No. 076-2022 – Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram Authorizing the Transfer of Quitclaim and Merger Deed for Block 172, Lot 31 to Kevin Dean and Thomas Dean to be Merged with to Block 172, Lot 37 on the Tax Maps and Located in the Township of Byram
- Resolution No. 077-2022 – Establishing Salaries for Non-Union Employee for Calendar Year 2022

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

BILL LIST – February 15, 2022 – Motion by Councilman Roseff, second by Councilman Bonker to approve the bill list as presented.

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

ORDINANCE – 1st Reading / Introduction

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM: SECTION 48-2, POLICE DEPARTMENT, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND SECTION 60-3, RESIDENCY PREFERENCES, SPECIFIC POSITIONS OR EMPLOYMENTS

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Roseff to Introduce the Ordinance

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

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 March 1st at 7:30 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.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Next Step of Lake Management Plan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilwoman Franco to open to the public.

Katie Dennehy – 70 Whippoorwill Lane – Feels there was a misunderstanding on Facebook posted by Mayor Rubenstein replying to a letter that was sent out to the Lenape Blazers Softball league. She feels that what was posted was a misconception of the league and explained the difference between the Skylands Travel and Recreation Programs. Said that there has been a huge increase in the number of girls playing softball. There is now a total of nine teams. Feels that Byram should work with the volunteers to come together for the kids. Mayor Rubenstein provided an extensive reply and feels that he was offended by the email that was sent out as it came across as an attack on the Township Council. Mayor Rubenstein read aloud parts of the letter that was sent out and explained that Byram Township never had a softball team and that the teams were always run by volunteer organizations. Councilman Bonker explained that it is Byram’s responsibility to supply fields and the necessary infrastructure and the administration of field use. Byram Township does not run sports programs. Mrs. Dennehy asked for an explanation of the roll of the new Recreation Leader. Mr. Sabatini explained that the council defined the policy of recreation as “event driven” and explained what that consists of in the Recreation Leader’s job. Mr. Sabatini said that there is a postcard floating around attacking the manger on dismantling recreation. Mr. Sabatini said that information is false as in 2017 he went to the Township Council asking for more resources for recreation.

Dina Trunzo – Parks and Recreation Professional in the field for 30+ years and recreation therapist that there is a miss communication as to what is recreation and what is competition travel. Feels that recreation is so much more than just sports.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Roseff Motion to Close to public.

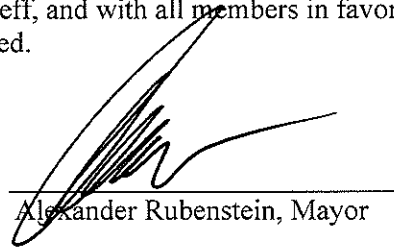
Don Bogardus - Asked if the Township has an agreement with the school for use of their facilities.

Annelies Tartell – Said that there is a possibility of adults without kids that may be interested in coaching.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Roseff, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor