

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2024  
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 Act. 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](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** –Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, here; Councilman Proctor, here; Councilman Roseff, here; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Township Clerk, Cynthia Church

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, 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
- b) Personnel

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 20, 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 7:30 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve the agenda.

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

**BYRAM TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION** – Lou Esposito of the Byram Township Historical Society presented Byram Township with an update on the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and presented them with a check for \$3,000.00. They had 9 events over the course of the year. Four of those events they charged for. They saved on several events with event space being donated. Throughout the year the goal was to raise money for tourism.

They have donated money to the Lakeland Emergency Squad and over \$700 in games have been donated to the recreation department.

**JCP&L – ENERGIZE NJ PRESENTATION** – Richard Rebisz from JCP&L provided a presentation on the updates being done to the network and infrastructure.

*JCP&L serves approximately 1.1 million residential, commercial and industrial customers located within 13 counties and 236 municipalities in N.J. ■ We employ approximately 1,500 N.J.-based workers. – Including more than 1,100 IBEW electricians, line workers and technicians who build and maintain the critical assets that make up our system. ■ Our company maintains and operates more than 26,000 miles of transmission and distribution lines in the state.*

*Over the past decade, JCP&L economic development efforts have helped facilitate more than 7,000 new jobs and \$1.7 billion in investment in N.J. ■ In 2022, we purchased more than \$90 million in local goods and services. – Approximately 30% of N.J. purchases come from diverse suppliers. ■ A primary goal of FirstEnergy and JCP&L is to put customers and the environment first.*

*Five-year, \$935 million proposal represents the largest infrastructure upgrade investment in company history. ■ Goals of the plan include: – Enhancing reliability performance – Hardening the grid against storms – Expanding capacity – Building the backbone of the electric grid of the future.*

■ \$366 million program focused on reliability, storm hardening and expanded capacity. ■ Highlights of this section include: – Upgrading 600+ miles of overhead power lines with more robust wiring and stronger, more durable poles. – Replacing approximately 46 miles of aging underground lines for additional durability and capacity. – Burying seven miles of specific overhead lines and implementing additional circuit protections. – Installing 2,175 new TripSaver devices across 500 JCP&L circuits. ■ Locations for grid modernization enhancements are data-driven and determined by historical outage patterns for maximum benefit.

■ \$469 million program focused on outage recovery, accelerated restoration after severe weather, enhanced flexibility in the energy delivery system and an increase in equipment automation. ■ Highlights include: – Voltage standardization. – 18 substations will be upgraded to support the additional load in the rebuilt circuits. – Additional interconnection of existing 12.5 kV circuits to provide redundancy and enhance outage restoration. – Build out of new circuits to add capacity and increase redundancy through circuit ties. – Additional capacity accommodates additional energy resources, such as solar development, and supports the increasing electrification of society, including EV charging infrastructure.

\$100 million program focused on upgrading equipment and increasing remote access and automation capabilities. ■ Modernized protective devices would be installed and various substation components upgraded as part of rebuilds. ■ At coastal substations, key components known as switchgear will be enhanced and given more protective housing to mitigate effects of increased salt in the environment. ■ Additional mobile substations added to fleet to provide redundancy and emergency back-up capacity in the event of significant power outages.

*Energize NJ is an investment in NJ's energy infrastructure. ■ The investment\* should pay for itself with an approximately \$3.08 billion return in reliability benefits to customers by: – Helping reduce non-storm outages. – Improving JCP&L's ability to restore power following a major storm event. ■ A residential customer using 783 kWh of electricity per month would see a total increase of \$4.16, or 3.6%, on their monthly electric bill over the five-year term of the plan. – Seven incremental increases would take place over five years, ranging from \$0.10 (0.1%) to \$0.99 (0.8%). – Initial increase (\$0.54 or 0.5%) would be effective April 1, 2025.*

JCP&L is asking the Byram Township Council for their support through a resolution.

Mayor Rubenstein asked when this will be voted on, Richard said it has not been decided yet. Mayor Rubenstein asked if this will be paid for by rate players alone. Richard said it will be paid for through financing and rate increases. The mayor asked when this will start, Richard said by fourth quarter 2024. Mayor Rubenstein asked about smart metering.

Councilman Gallagher asked when Byram will start seeing the updates. Richard expects by 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2024 but will look into it further and provide more updated information.

Councilwoman Franco asked if it takes more to do underground than overhead. Richard said it is all basically the same.

Mr. Sabatini asked if it includes updates to circuits (substations) that service Byram. Richard said this is all on the distribution side only.

Councilman Roseff asked about Smart Meters. Richard said with Smart Meters they will be able to see their current load on demand.

Councilman Proctor asked if this is working towards updating the power outages on the north side of the township. Asked if customers will be notified prior to the installation of the smart meters. Richard said yes, they will be notified.

Richard Schneider – Asked for a copy of the presentation. Mayor Rubenstein said it is available on the township website.

Mr. Sabatini asked for a list of the isolated islands that were mentioned in the presentation. Richard said that may be premature and will provide it when it comes available.

#### **C.O. JOHNSON FIELD 8 IMPROVEMENTS PRESENTATION – French & Parello – Dennis Keenan**

Mr. Sabatini said the subcommittee has met with Dennis once prior and they presented the township with an estimate and Scope of Work. The purpose of tonight's presentation is for the council to give Dennis a consensus on where they are

going with the improvements. Mr. Keenan presented the council with a set of plans for the project. They looked at field 8 to make sure it will work with future projects. It will be a multipurpose field. There will be a 65-yard soccer field being 360 feet long. There will need to be modifications to the grading. An underdrainage system and drainage network will need to be installed. The goals for the football fields will be installed on each side of the field. The well building is in disrepair and will need to be improved with a submersible pump. The underground storage tank that was installed was a smart move and should provide water to at least two fields. Discussed the press box options with putting storage under the press box. They can be constructed off site and put in place. This will end up being the primary lighted field. Mr. Sabatini feels that the lighting may cause issues with multiple programs wanting to use the field. The time frame from start to finish is about 4 months. The lifespan of the drainage system is about 50 years. If they install sod, they will be able to play on it after one season. If lighting is installed it would be done simultaneously. Field 8 is being quoted at \$1,611,753.00 with press box.

Councilman Proctor questioned the council on the price of the field, along with the upcoming CIP project and the streets and roads projects, and how will this be funded. Also questioned the scheduling of this field. Mr. Sabatini said the scheduling will be limited and will be closely motored with individual scheduling.

Mr. Sabatini said there will be operational challenges as this will increase the demand.

Mayor Rubenstein said it can be funded through APR Funds (\$750K) and some of the Open Space Funds. There is also a possibility for Bonding. They can also look at DEP funds in 2025.

Mayor Rubenstein would like to move forward with the project as it needs to be done.

Councilwoman Franco would like to move forward but they need to keep focused and see the project to completion without pivoting.

Councilman Gallagher supports the project.

Councilman Proctor supports the project.

Councilman Roseff is in support to moving forward with the project; however, he is in sticker shock.

Mr. Sabatini will provide sample debt schedules for the next meeting.

**APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER – Nelson (Joe) Cordon**

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

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Township Manager** – Next meeting will be the introduction of the budget with the adoption at the first meeting in April along with all the capital ordinances.

**Councilwoman Franco** – Upcoming Recreation Events: Senior Walk, Senior Exercise, Yoga and Balance, Colors of Yarn, Learning to Mahjong, Polar Plunge was canceled. The town wide garage sale is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minors Games is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup>. Recreation new method of payment is through Community Pass.

**Councilman Gallagher** – Next Board of Education Meeting is March 6, 2024.

**Councilman Proctor** – On February 16, 2024 the Planning Board memorialized residential application. The car wash is looking to replace their sign, and vacuums.

**Councilman Roseff** – Nothing to Report

**Mayor Rubenstein** – Nothing to Report

**Tom Collins** – Nothing to Report

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

Motion by Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Gallagher to open to the public. All members were in favor.

No Comments.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 6, 2024, Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Proctor to approve the minutes.

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

**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 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 Gallagher to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Resolution No. 044-2024 – Approval of Quarry License for Year 2024 for Tilcon New Jersey, a Division of Tilcon New York, Inc.
- B. Resolution No. 045-2024 - Resolution Granting a License for 2024 to Raimo of Stanhope, Inc. to Operate Facility Pursuant to Chapter 156 of the Byram Township Code
- C. Resolution No. 046-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Hobb Engler & Lenape Blazers to Hold 2024 Opening Day Ceremonies on April 20, 2024, at CO Johnson Field Starting at 8:00 a.m.
- D. Resolution No. 047-2024 – Resolution of Approval Allowing the Lenape Blazers Softball Team to Install Dugout Covers and Backstop Covers at Neil Gylling Park During their 2024 Season
- E. Resolution No. 048-2024 - Resolution Establishing Policies and Procedures for the Use of Procurement Cards for the Township of Byram
- F. Resolution No. 049-2024 – DCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant – Tennis Courts

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

**BILL LIST** – February 20, 2024 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve the bill list.

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

**ORDINANCE – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading / Public Hearing**

- **ORDINANCE NO. 003-2024 - AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE A CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$301,000.00**

Purpose Statement: Acquisition of new equipment for use by the Department of Public Works of the Township.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to adopt the ordinance.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 003-2024 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published in the official designated newspaper according to the law.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Fire Department Membership Ordinance – The Byram Township Volunteer Fire Department would like to open their membership to anyone withing a 5-mile radius to increase membership by waiving the residency requirement.

Councilman Gallagher asked the assistant fire chief if this was brought to the attention of the Fire Department membership, and said this would raise costs, and would be not necessary as they have mutual aid. Councilman Gallagher said the fire department needs to have a discussion on this prior to the township council having the discussion.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. Roseff would like to have a discussion on water companies certifying fire hydrants.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**

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

Scott Yappen –asked about Resolution No. 042-2024, settlement agreement that was on the February 6<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Second by Councilman Proctor to close to the public.

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, to go into executive session and adopt the below resolution.

**RESOLUTION**

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**BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

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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 Councilman Proctor, second by Councilwoman Franco to return to open session at 11:28 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilman Proctor, second by Councilwoman Franco, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
Cynthia Church, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor