

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 2, 2021  
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](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 Mr. Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Church.

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Bonker, 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
  - East Brookwood Ingress / Egress Easement
  - Forest Lakes Drive
- b. Personnel
- c. Contract Negotiations
  - B.A.R.K.S

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 March 2, 2021.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	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 Bonker to return to open session at 7:33 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**FLAG SALUTE**

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

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 078-2021 – AUTHORIZATION OF THREE-YEAR AVERAGE FOR COVID-19 AFFECTED REVENUES IN 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mr. Sabatini stated that under state statute the township cannot anticipate revenues more than what was received in the prior year. Because of COVID-19 this allows the township to take an average over the last three years of revenues received, in this case court revenues.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve Resolution No. 078-2021

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 079- 2021 – SELF EXAMINATION OF BUDGET RESOLUTION**

Mr. Sabatini explained that every three years we are required to have the budget reviewed by the DLGS. This year we do not have to send it to the DLGS, and recommended keeping it in house with the self-examination.

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve Resolution No. 079-2021

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

**2021 BUDGET INTRODUCTION / APPROVAL –** Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to introduce the budget.

Mr. Sabatini prepared and read aloud the message below:

*I would like to start by directing everyone to the Township’s Website and under the 2021 Municipal Budget Information you will find all the documentation and details supporting the 2021 Budget Plan. Located under this link you will find a detailed 2021 Municipal Budget Message. I plan to present an abbreviated summary of this message.*

*Tonight, the Mayor and Council will be asked to approve the budget. Adoption of the budget is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6.*

*Through the adoption of the budget the Mayor & Council are establishing the municipal policy for 2021 and beyond. They must ensure the adopted budget adequately satisfies the needs of the community and serves the best interests of the Township*

*This past year was extremely challenging for everyone and the fallout of the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic has a significant impact on the 2021 calendar year budget.*

*The impact of the pandemic has significantly impacted the amounts of revenues that can be anticipated.*

- o Interest Income - reduction of over \$107,000
- o Court Revenues - anticipating \$10,000 less but actual revenues for 2020 were down \$27,000.

*Other revenue reductions include:*

- o State Aid Reduction - \$22,745 (Garden State Preservation Trust was not funded as presented in 2020)
- o Receipts from Delinquent Taxes - reduction of \$25,000

*This budget plan does anticipate an increase of Uniform Construction Fees of \$35,000. This increase was due to increase in fee schedule and supports offsetting the increase in the construction department operating budget.*

*Also, this plan reduces the dependency of Fund Balance to support operations. This reduction is \$75,000 - originally it was recommended to reduce dependency on FB by \$100,00 before learning of need to reduce receipts from delinquent taxes.:*

*The reduction of Fund Balance has been recommended due to the revenue changes for the 2021 budget year, we are not expecting revenues in-excess of anticipated amounts which have a direct impact on the regeneration of fund balance at the end of the 2021 budget year. Also, the cancellation of unexpended balances is expected to be less since we have taken breakage of savings in various appropriations.*

*Fortunately, there were some onetime items on the appropriation side that helps offset the reduction of anticipated revenues. This includes the following:*

- o Elimination of one full-time administration position coupled with other appointments has resulted in a savings of \$20,000.*
- o This plan includes the salaries for the current census of the Police Department which includes the breakage of salaries from retiring officers as well as reduction of the police overtime budget which results in a savings of \$73,000.*
- o This plan includes taking the savings of the move to the State Health Benefits Program which supports an overall reduction of the group insurance budget totaling \$106,000.*
- o Also, the first aid contributions were reduced \$19,500.*

*One of the main areas of increase in this budget was pension obligations which has increased \$84,844 or 12.65%.*

*The Budget includes a three-year capital improvement program and an aggressive Capital Budget for 2021 totaling \$3,112,500. This plan unfortunately reduces the amount of funding by \$284,400 to support capital projects.*

*Also, this budget includes the approval of the OS Tax. Again for 2021, this budget anticipates raising \$110,430.*

*In conclusion, this budget plan results in an \$76,722 of .89% increase of the municipal tax levy. This is an estimated increase of \$17.18 for the averaged assessed home of \$254,154. As previously mentioned, this past year was extremely challenging, and the fallout of the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic has a significant impact on the 2021 calendar year budget. Thankfully for some onetime reductions in appropriations to offset the reduction of revenues anticipated. I would like to thank all my department heads for their creativity holding the line on departmental expenses and help preserving the services the residents of Byram have come to expect.*

Councilman Bonker explained that the increase is less than 1% despite the state forcing police pension increases of more than 5% on us, non-police pension increases of 14%, and cuts to our annual grants. The average house will pay an additional \$17 next year. Without the state mandates and cuts, the township would have delivered another tax decrease like last year.

Councilwoman Franco feels that the township is on the right track, and does a good job at keeping taxes low. She thanked Mr. Sabatini and Ashleigh for their hard work on the budget.

Councilman Gallagher is happy with the budget, they did a great job at getting the budget where it needs to be. Because he was not at the last meeting, he questioned the position that was taken with the hiring of a part time recreation leader. There was not a lot of recreation events happening in the last year and may not be happening this year and thinks they should hold off hiring until next year. This may be a savings to the taxpayer.

Mr. Sabatini said he took the directive of the majority of the council to keep the recreation leader position in the budget and believes that this person would provide value to the organization. Even though recreation has been slow in the past year, there is a lot that still needs to be managed, such as facility applications, preparation for the spring season, going to recreation meetings and planning for Byram Fest, which are just some of the responsibilities of the new recreation leader.

Councilman Roseff said that two years ago they hired a person for grant writing and as part time recreation into a full-time position. Even with the changes that took place, this has already been established in that full time position. Thinks that the budget can be reduced if the recreation leader position was reconsidered and revisit it at the end of this year.

Mayor Rubenstein said he understands that with COVID-19 that the position may not be fully utilized this year, there is an option to leave the money in the appropriations budget and not hire and reconsider it at another time.

Mr. Sabatini said the township lost a full-time administrative position this year and does not have the bandwidth to absorb the recreation position within the current staff. Councilman Roseff and Councilman Gallagher's recommendations are not consistent with the request of the Recreation Committee. The budget message spelled out the loss of the full-time administrative position, and his ability to work with the reduced staff to get the basic administrative functions done, with a savings to the township of \$20,000. Therefore, he is not supportive of absorbing the recreation leader functions and the responsibilities of managing the recreation committee and what they want within the current staffing.

Councilman Bonker said that the budget has been discussed for over five months at a detailed level and feels that the Township Manager gave his detailed reasoning as to why the township should hire the part time recreation leader. He

also said that there was extensive conversation over where they wanted to go with the recreation position. He does not support changing anything with the hiring of the part-time recreation leader at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on this budget.

Councilwoman Franco agreed that the township should move ahead with hiring the part time recreation leader.

Councilman Roseff said that there was only one budget workshop meeting. In the past there were two subcommittees that met. Those subcommittees magically disappeared, which brings us to today with a last-minute review of the budget because that process was not instituted. Feels that more workshop meetings are needed in the future.

Mr. Sabatini said that he provided the Township Council with a report July 2020, as well as a memo in August 2020. All the data is up on the website. He works at the luxury of the township council and at no time did the Township Council express any concerns that they had with the budget. There was a budget workshop in January and at that time there were no requests nor discussion that there was a need for an additional budget workshops. He has made himself and the staff available to allow them to make an informed decision about the budget. There was plenty opportunity for comment over the last 6 months. There was an enormous amount of work that went into the budget and takes offense to the suggestion that it is an 11<sup>th</sup> hour budget.

Mayor Rubenstein felt it would be best to keep it in the budget as presented and leave it to the discretion of the manager to hire as he will see fit. It was the consensus of the council to keep the salary in the budget.

The adoption of the budget will be on April 6, 2021.

The Township Clerk called for the vote.

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

**RENEWAL OF LICENSE – 2021 JUNK YARD – NORTH JERSEY AUTO WRECKERS, INC.**

Mr. Stoner and Robert Stark were present. There was a continued discussion from the previous meeting as to the pile of tires on the property. Mr. Stark said the pile is being reduced. The pile is something that he had inherited. Nothing that North Jersey Auto Wreckers generates goes into that pile. They are down to 40x30x1.5 square foot pile. It will be another 3 to 4 years until they finish with the removal of the pile. North Jersey Auto Wreckers generate about 44 tires per month, that they dispose of monthly. Approximately 2500 tires were removed from that pile this past year. There are less and less places that take and recycle tires. They are down to one company that accepts tires in this region currently. It costs about \$2.50 to \$3.50 a piece to dispose of. They never had a DEP violation. The agreement with the DEP was to remove the pile within 4 years. By December 31, 2024, the pile should be gone. Cory suggests making removing the tire pile with a completion date of December 31, 2024 as part of the renewal of the license.

Open to the public for comment

No Comments

Closed to the public

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Township Manager** – Electronic Recycling Day on March 27<sup>th</sup> at SCMUA. Planning to have French and Parello give a presentation on park concepts at the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Mayor Rubenstein** – Byram Township was awarded the Safety and Loss Control Award. Tomorrow there will a meeting with the DOT regarding the Andover Borough construction project on Rt. 206. The NJ Board of Public Utilities will be holding a meeting on the public hearing on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for the investigation on Altese USA.

**Councilman Bonker** – Municipal Bond rates for AA+ towns like Byram went from 1.5% to 1.8% in the last week. Time is of the essence with the municipal building project, we need to get this project financed at the lowest rates in our lifetime before they move even higher.

Councilman Bonker responded to an open letter from Reid and Mary Thompson with the response below:  
*Reid and Mary Thompson sent the council an open letter. I believe an open letter deserves an Open Response. First, I want to thank them for taking the time to engage in our continuing civil discourse regarding the upcoming municipal building project. They have lived here since 1958. My family has lived here since 1963. There are many people in Byram like the Thompson family and the Bonker family who have made Byram home to multiple generations of their family. That is a fantastic vote of confidence in the quality of life here in Byram. That same long-term view, in my opinion, also needs to be applied to the municipal building project. The Thompsons are entitled to their own opinions, but they are NOT entitled to their own facts. They can state an opinion that now is not the time for*

*this building to be built, given the "present economic downturn". I would counter and say that now is PRECISELY the time for this building to be built, to take advantage of interest rates that the Thompsons have not seen since they moved to Byram in 1958. Those are all opinions. However, the Thompsons state in their open letter that residents should look at the Byram website and "see your future tax increases." Byram residents, you will NOT see your future tax increases on the Byram website. Budgets are passed on a yearly basis taking into account multiple events and decisions. No one, not even this Council, can tell you what future tax increases or decreases will be, with or without a municipal building project. At best, an estimate of what a new municipal building might cost can be divided into the existing ratable base of Byram, and an estimate of what each household might need to contribute can be made, but that DOES NOT MEAN that number will be the future tax increase. Many other things will determine the tax rate. And just for the record, tax increases over the last four years in Byram have averaged .52%. That IS, to use the Thompsons own words, "fiscally aware and responsible." I thank the Thompsons for engaging in the life of Byram Township by writing their open letter.*

**Councilwoman Franco** – The Haden Harris memorial fund is up to \$4320.00 and continues to climb.

**Councilman Gallagher** – March 15, 2021 is the next Recreation Committee meeting. March 11, 2021 the Fire Department will be doing ice rescue drills. Lenape Valley High School sent out a questionnaire to the parents of their students and as a result has decided to stay with the hybrid schedule through the end of the school year. There was a fire after the snowstorm in Forest Lakes, and a neighbor had to shovel out the fire hydrant. This needs to be addressed in the future. More accidents at the North Shore Entrance of Cranberry Lake, this should be addressed with the DOT. ISO representative said they will be doing flow testing.

**Councilman Roseff** – no report.

### **GREENER BY DESIGN PRESENTATION – MUNICIPAL BUILDING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

Mr. Spinelli said spoke with Mayor Rubenstein and Councilman Bonker about offering services regarding to the Municipal Building project and considering grants and low interest loans that can reduce costs of the project. GBD can offer these services as they were originally founded as an energy firm much of the work is geared around helping corporations and government agencies find ways to save money or to incorporate new technologies. They can tailor their efforts to benefit the Township. Mayor Rubenstein thinks the timing on this is right, and asked Mr. Spinelli why he thinks his firm is the right firm to offer us these services. Mr. Spinelli said they work with government agencies across the country in different ways. They do a lot of work with energy efficiency with installation of solar and geothermal and other alternative energy opportunities. They have a team of people with expertise of many types and alter it to what the needs are. They have a familiarity with Byram Township and understand where the needs are for the township. They can be a great resource for the township. Councilman Bonker said that GBD is the right firm to offer these services. Councilwoman Franco welcomes Mr. Spinelli's expertise. Councilman Gallagher asked how many Municipal Building grants has GBD written and awarded with municipal buildings and police departments. Mr. Spinelli responded that they have been involved with retrofitting and doing new projects where municipalities need to do upgrades. They designed building for their private clients for data centers and similar high energy demand installations where they were looking to save them money for the long term. They will be working as a liaison with the Township and Nader in the "greener" aspect. Councilman Roseff question how they see a microgrid fitting into this project and are there grants available for small projects like this to have a microgrid. Mr. Spinelli said that if they can figure out a way to get Byram isolated from the grid and having a resilient and reliable electric system would be great but would need to be looked at separately from the municipal building. Councilman Roseff said that we need a grant writing tied into the new building with an experienced grant writing group that knows how to tie in different types of funding that is outside of the Open Space Committee and does not see Greener by Design as fitting those needs.

Mayor Rubenstein asked what the council would like to do moving forward. Councilman Bonker is ready to move forward with GBD. Councilwoman Franco agrees with moving forward with GBD. Councilman Roseff wants to bring back the grant writing groups that were interviewed previously. Councilman Gallagher agrees to interview another group to understand what is out there. Mayor Rubenstein agreed that they should meet with other another group, in particular, Millennium.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

Karen Dashfield, 544 Rt. 94 – Spoke in support of B.A.R.K.S., the contract and relationship that they have with the Township. They are a nonprofit non kill organization and has had a partnership with Byram Township for about 48 years. They have provided over 2000 hours of volunteer service, veterinary care, supplies & equipment. In 2020 they estimated handling 65 animals related back to Byram Township. Feels it will be a disservice to the township and the residents to break away from a long-standing relationship.

Patricia Machella, 3 Mountain Ave – Expressed her concerns regarding the East Brookwood ingress / egress at the end of Woods Edge Drive. She does not feel that it is going to help East Brookwood. There are many other locations throughout the township with the same issues. Would like to see the town look into a better access for the municipal building and school access or to do maintenance on trees or other items to prevent any incidents from happening taking down trees and wires. Mayor Rubenstein replied that the Township has not authorized the expenditure of any money as it relates to the construction or implementation of any of these plans. They have authorized the expenditure to negotiate with the owner of the property. Councilwoman Franco replied that this would only be an emergency access.

[REDACTED] - questioned the responsibilities of the part-time recreation director and asked what they would be doing if sports do not return to normal due to Covid. Mayor Rubenstein said that there are a lot of back end operations and field assignments that go on. Mr. Sabatini said that all youth activities are open and are expected to start up in April. They are currently working on field allocations, coach background checks. The Recreation Committee meets

monthly and are planning events. There is a Byram Fest that is being planned for the Fall of 2021. There should be no expectation that this recreation leader will be delivering programs comparable to our neighbors. They will be mostly working with the Recreation Committee and supporting the administrative activities, and anything else the Recreation Committee is looking to service. Ms. Richards asked if the Township Council had any intention of polling the residents on their recreational needs. Councilman Bonker said that it was done by the Greener by Design group a year ago. They did a survey and received over 1000 responses from within Byram and recreation was a big subcomponent of that survey. That data can be made available.

Courtney Gallagher, Little Paint Way – agrees with Patricia Machella’s comment regarding the East Brookwood Ingress / Egress. In particular a situation that they just had with Little Paint Way, when JCP&L closed the road for four hours without power. There was no way in or out of their road. Mayor Rubenstein said that he understands and agrees that these situations are all over town, and that it is one of his concerns because if you address one, you can’t ignore the others.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 02-16-2021 Regular & Closed Session Minutes – Motion by Councilman Bonker, seconded by Councilwoman Franco to approve the minutes as presented.

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

**PROCLAMATION – READ ACROSS AMERICA**

Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Gallagher, all in favor, to have the mayor sign the proclamation.

**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 Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the consent agenda.

- A. Resolution No. 074-2021 – Resolution Appointing Wayne Dietz as the North Jersey Municipal Employees Benefits Fund Producer for the Term of January 1, 2021 Through December 31, 2021; and Requests that the Fund Authorize a Sub-Contract between the Fund and the Producers as Named herein
- B. Resolution No. 075-2021 – Resolution Authorizing Byram Township Fire Department to Conduct a Bucket Drop – April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- C. Resolution No. 076-2021 - Resolution Authorizing Byram Township Fire Department to Conduct a Bucket Drop – October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>
- D. Resolution N0. 077-2021 – Resolution Granting a License for 2021 to Raimo of Stanhope, Inc. to Operate Facility Pursuant to Chapter 156 of the Byram Township Code
- E. Resolution No. 081-2021 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 277 Lot 652, 17 Old Stagecoach Road
- F. Resolution No. 082-2021 – Approval of Quarry License for Year 2021 for Tilcon New Jersey, a Division of Tilcon New York, Inc.
- G. Resolution No. 083-2021 – Resolution to Transfer 2020 Appropriation Reserves – Current Fund

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 080-2021** - Award a Professional Service Contract to MJA Construction Services for Cost Estimating and Construction Consulting for the Proposed New Byram Township Police & Renovations to the Municipal Building – Not to exceed \$16,050.00

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve Resolution No. 080-2021

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

**BILL LIST** – March 2, 2021 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the bill list as presented.

	Councilman	Councilwoman	Councilman	Councilman	Mayor



	Bonker	Franco	Gallagher	Roseff	Rubenstein
Motion			x		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		x			
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Government Energy Aggregation** – Mayor Rubenstein emailed a draft letter to the Township Council that was put together with the GEA for their review. Mr. John Berg from the GEA explained that the letter is required, and needs to go out on the townships letterhead. The letter explains the program and allowing residents the opportunity to opt out. Councilman Bonker said that we need to celebrate this. The Township locked in a 7% savings for the residents. The average household will save \$95 per year. The average tax increase will be \$17 per year. The average household nets \$78 in savings after tax increase of less than 1%. Mr. Sabatini expressed his concern as the letter is not complete and does not explain the process and timeline. With the letter being sent out on Township letterhead, it will increase the calls and cause burden on the staff who are not equipped to answer the questions. Mr. Berg said that they will expand on the letter and will send the revised version to Mr. Sabatini the following morning. There is a script that can be provide to the staff to assist them with answering residents’ questions. Mr. Roseff suggested including in the letter or the script a passage about expected reliability.

**Route 206 over Pequest** – Mr. Sabatini gave a brief description as to the Route 206 over Pequest culver project that is expected to take place in Andover Borough on Rt. 206 in the Fall of 2025. This project will require a closure of the road for a minimum of 9 months and will impact Byram Township Roads when the traffic is diverted. Mr. Sabatini will be having further meetings and conversations with Andover Brough regarding the project.

**EMS Training Bill Support** – Mr. Jones from Lakeland was present to explain the bill. New Jersey Senate Bill S1860 needs support in the Senate Health and Human Services and Senior Committee in order to make its next step toward adoption in NJ.

Currently, any EMS agency in NJ that bills for emergency medical services is automatically ineligible for the training fund regardless of whether it uses volunteers, paid staff, or a combination of both, to provide these services.

This bill will allow EMS agencies that bill for their services to receive reimbursement from the state EMS training fund to cover the cost of EMT initial training, and recertification for volunteer members.

The Lakeland Emergency Squad is seeking letters of support for the bill to be sent to Senator Oroho and Chairman Joseph Vitale, and any other agencies the township sees fit.

There was a consensus of the Township Council to support the request and to adopt the resolution below:

**Resolution No. 084-2021** - Resolution of the Mayor of Council of the Township of Byram Supporting NJ Senate Bill S1860

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram support NJ Senate Bill S1860; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram hereby express to the legislature and to Senator Oroho, the Townships support for enactment of senate bill S1860 an act concerning the “Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund” and amending P.L. 1992, c143. A copy also to be sent to Chairman Joseph Vitale, Senate Health and Human Services and Senior Citizens Legislative District, 19569 Rahway Ave, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher to approve Resolution No. 084-2021

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

**FUTURE AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Fire Hydrant Clearing** – Councilman Gallagher would like to add a discussion about the clearing snow from Fire Hydrants. Mr. Sabatini will research more on this and will get back to the Township Council as to the responsibilities that the water companies have to clear the hydrants.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**

Jack Moran – 7 East Waterloo Road – asked about the term of the EAG program and the reduction. Alex said the is for 24 months starting in May. The reduction is not a known number. Mr. Moran said he was happy that the township has this program. Asked about what is going on with Altese and Service Electric does it have anything to do with the townships franchise agreement. Mayor

Rubenstein said he has been trying hard to get in touch with Altese to get the franchise agreement done, he is not sure if there is a connection to that and Byram.

**RESOLUTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco, 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.

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- General
- East Brookwood Ingress / Egress Easement
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**BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**


Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on March 2, 2021.

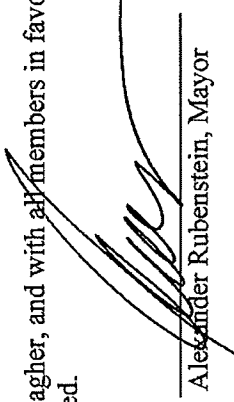
Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilman Bonker, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
Cynthia Church, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor