

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 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, here; 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 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.

- a. Attorney Client Privilege Communication
 - General
- b. Contract Negotiations
 - Habitat for Humanity Donation

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 15, 2022.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco to return to open session at 7:30 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

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

PRESENTATION – Dr. Fred Lubnow, Director of Aquatic Resources – Princeton Hydro

Dr. Lubnow gave a presentation on the Watershed Management Plan. They have been working with the Highlands Council and many of the municipalities within the Highlands to assist in the development of watershed management plans. The goal of watershed management is to improve the water quality of all lakes and ecosystems. If the township has a plan in place, it makes the securement of funds for implementation of projects a lot easier. If the township were to

have a watershed management plan with the nine elements identified by the EPA it makes the changes of receiving funding much higher to secure those funds.

The Highlands Council will not cover projects, but they will cover studies. The advantage to using the Highlands funds is that those funds can be used to develop the study. The three main components of the study are:

- 1) Collection of Data
- 2) Develop Hydrologic and Pollutant Budgets
- 3) Recommendations

Multiple lakes would be covered under this study.

Mayor Rubenstein asked if the of the scope of work will be specific to Byram and asked what that interaction would look like while working with Princeton Hydro on the Scope of Work. Dr. Lubnow said that they would develop the scope of work specifically with the waterbodies that are selected as well as their respective watershed. They would get very specific site information to work on the models and working with the communities to get that information.

Councilman Bonker asked about the process of identifying what lakes will be included in the study. Mr. Sabatini said the goal is to incorporate as many bodies of water as possible that they can into the study. The focus is on the watersheds which are much larger than just an individual body of water.

Councilman Bonker said that the 319-grant option is key. Would like Harmful Algae Blooms a top item to be looked into. Reiterated to the public that this is being funding through a Highlands Grant allocated to Byram Township. He is happy to have Princeton Hydro here today presenting to the township and the expertise Princeton Hydro has to offer.

Councilwoman Franco was pleasantly surprised at to how close to our area and how many locations are directly and indirectly related to this area.

Councilman Bonker said that something that stood out to him during their meeting with the Highlands was that the ownerships of lakes being so diverse. It does not necessarily mean that everything will be funded by Byram through the 319 grants. This is just laying the groundwork to make the opportunities available whether they are funded by the state, by private association or by Byram Township.

Councilman Roseff said it is so rare to get funding for things that are tangible. Asked how Princeton Hydro is staffed for looking at stormwater work. Dr. Lubnow said they have done a lot of stormwater work, and have done a lot around Lake Hopatcong, and gave examples of work that they have done.

Councilman Roseff stated that in the document plan it states that it is science, planning and engineering based. Asked how that is balanced. Dr. Lubnow said that they are a mix of scientists and engineers. When they go out to the assignments they always have a scientist and an engineer as part of the team going out to identify these locations.

Councilman Roseff would like to get something more tangible than just a study. Dr. Lubnow said that if they want to get the money to do the design and implementation, they need to have the study done first.

Mr. Sabatini said that ultimately the plan needs to be approved by the Highlands and they will say if they will be able to include specific engineering in the plan.

Dr. Lubnow said that source control measures can be included within the plan.

Councilman Roseff does not think HAB should be included in the study as he does not believe it is an issue for Byram’s Lakes.

Councilman Roseff asked if there is a way to know if phosphorus is coming from geese or a septic systems. Dr. Lubnow said it is very difficult to determine.

Jeff Vincent - Forest Lakes – Asked how it is determined what lakes will be in the plan. Mr. Lubnow said there are many factors that are considered and stated that there will be community involvement.

RESOLUTION NO. 087-2022 - Resolution of the Byram Township Council Authorizing the Development of a Scope of Work for the Completion of the New Jersey Highlands Council Lake Management Plan

Motion by Councilman Bonker, second by Councilwoman Franco to approve the resolution.

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

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – The Statement of State Aid came out today. April 5, 2022 is the budget adoption and public hearing. Received a report from the Planning board regarding changes to the zoning code and has been working on the soil importation ordinance. They are exploring the definition of accessory structures. There are some structural issues with the salt dome. Lost two DPW 2009 Stirling trucks in past storms and anticipates having to go out to bid to replace them. Byram Fest is being targeted for September 10th.

Mayor Rubenstein – Verizon was issued their last round of permits for putting cellular towers on Amity Road. Received an email from T Mobile, they will be doing upgrades on two towers that serve Byram Township. Energy Aggregation program are saving 14% on kilowatt hours for opting into the program.

Councilman Bonker – received his latest electric bill from JCP&L, and the price to compare for Basic Generation Service is 9.93 but the Byram price is only 8.74. He is currently saving about 12%+ on the BGS charges on electric bills. The Byram rate is fixed for 2 years. With all the news around energy prices, Byram’s energy aggregation deal was, is, and will continue to be a great deal for all residents, and we should celebrate this accomplishment.

Glory to Ukraine, Glory to Ukraine, Glory to Ukraine.

Councilwoman Franco – Is also seeing a savings in her electricity bill.

Councilman Roseff – Nothing to Report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

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

David Pelletier – 23 Frenches Grove Road – Looking for updates on the cleaning up of properties. Mr. Sabatini said they can not do much until the property is foreclosed on. The second property has been listed as unsafe.

Pete Bremy – 54 Ash Street – Would like to discuss electric vehicles and incorporate it into the new municipal building. The most expensive part is installing the infrastructure for electric vehicles.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2 nd	x				
Yes	x	x		x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent			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 Councilwoman Franco to approve the consent agenda.

- Resolution No. 088-2022 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Renewal of a Lease Agreement between the Township of Byram and OutFront Media LLC
- Resolution No. 089-2022 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of the Developer’s Agreement between the Township of Byram and Raimo of Stanhope, Inc.
- Resolution No. 090-2022 – Resolution to Transfer 2021 Appropriation Reserves – Current Fund

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

BILL LIST – March 15, 2022 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, 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	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent			x		

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Capital Budget – Received a Memo from Cory Stoner. Mr. Sabatini will be looking for guidance on the Capital Projects. Mr. Stoner made an adjustment with a 4% increase in the costs. If things continue like they are now they could see even greater increases in cost. One project that he is sure will be completed is the Tamarack Road Project. Some projects will be determined depending on the potential for gas going into areas around the township.

Municipal Building – Two out of scope items. The Nader Group is finalizing the Site Plan and getting DEP approvals. Two items are out of scope. (1) DPW Replacement of leaf dome / DPW Storage area. (2) Electric Vehicles that are not currently showing on the current plan.

Riverside Park price for improvement is going up. The price of playground equipment is up 20%.

Mayor Rubenstein feels that the provisions should be added for the EV charging stations and should authorize that as part of the plan.

Mayor Rubenstein reported that after speaking with the DPW superintendent the DPW leaf collection facility is old and in poor condition, he is looking to get authorization to get this included in the site plan.

The consensus was to authorize The Nader Group to provide a quote for both.

Councilman Roseff asked if they will be receiving a refund from the Nader Group from the first plan. Mr. Sabatini said that according to the email he received, they will not be receiving a refund.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II

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

Eric Serrilli – 199 Glenside Trail – Asked for the timeline on the Municipal Building. At this point there is not a specific date.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilwoman Franco Motion to Close to public.

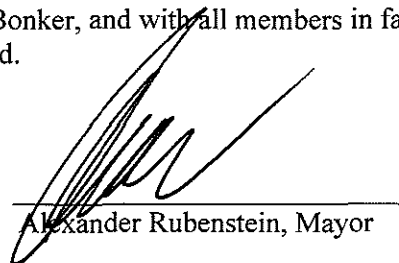
SWEARING IN OF OEM OFFICER – Todd Rudloff

Mayor Rubenstein swore in Todd Rudloff as Byram Township OEM Officer.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Bonker, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor