

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 5, 2026  
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 and 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 Esposito, here; Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, absent; Councilman Proctor, here; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Township 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
  - CO Johnson Field 8
- B. Contract Negotiations – Brian Golick & Art Thibault
- C. Personnel – Tax Assessor Position

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 May 5, 2026.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	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 Proctor to approve the agenda.

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

**PROCLAMATION:**

Peace Officers Memorial Day – May 15, 2026 – Mayor Rubenstein read aloud the proclamation.

**POLICE OFFICERS AWARD CEREMONY:**

Nominee's Name: Lt. Guy Mariani #4314, Sgt. Thomas Dellicker #4319, Detective Lawrence Mendelsohn #4324, Ptl. Victor Marin #4316, Ptl. Christopher Spaldo #4327

Date: February 17th, 2025

Commendation Type: **Medal of Honor**

Summary of incident and Actions by Nominee: 25BT00275 Allamuchy OIS  
Officers responded to a report of a suspect armed with a firearm threatening suicide. Upon arrival, the suspect discharged a Kahr 9mm handgun. During the subsequent 40 minutes the suspect fired a total of 5 rounds. Officers on scene established a perimeter and attempted negotiations with the suspect. On numerous occasions, the accused was actively pointing a firearm at the Officers and threatening them. Officers took up perimeter positions in close proximity to the suspect, knowingly placing themselves in danger of the suspects indiscriminate gunfire. Ultimately a decision was made to attempt to take the suspect into custody. Numerous Officers stepped out from behind cover and advanced on the armed suspect. The suspect then pointed a firearm directly at the advancing Officers at a distance of approximately 20 feet. The accused was successfully apprehended following the suspect sustaining gunshot wounds. Officers on scene then administered lifesaving first aid and transported the suspect from the scene to an ambulance. Every Officer on scene took actions and/or followed orders that put them at risk of imminent personal hazard to their life. The Officers displayed inherent bravery when they took these actions with full knowledge of the risks involved.  
Nominator's Rank/Name/Badge#: Chief Daniel De Wald #4317

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Nominee's Name: Ptl. Christopher Spaldo #4327

Date: February 17th, 2025

Commendation Type: Combat Cross Medal

Summary of incident and Actions by Nominee: 25BT000275 Allamuchy OIS  
Officers responded to a report of a suspect armed with a firearm threatening suicide. Upon arrival, the suspect discharged a Kahr 9mm handgun. During the subsequent 40 minutes the suspect fired a total of 5 rounds. Officers on scene established a perimeter and attempted negotiations with the suspect. On numerous occasions, the accused was actively pointing a firearm at the Officers and threatening them. Officers took up perimeter positions in close proximity to the suspect, knowingly placing themselves in danger of the suspects indiscriminate gunfire. Ultimately a decision was made to attempt to take the suspect into custody. Numerous Officers stepped out from behind cover and advanced on the armed suspect. The suspect then pointed a firearm directly at the advancing Officers at a distance of approximately 20 feet. At this time, Ptl. Spaldo discharged his patrol rifle, striking the suspect and neutralizing the threat.

Ptl. Spaldo performed an act of heroism while engaged in personal combat with an armed adversary at imminent personal hazard to his life and the lives of other Officers.

Nominator's Rank/Name/Badge#: Chief Daniel DeWald #4317

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Nominee's Name: Ptl. Kevin Garrity, Ptl. Daniel Mejorado, Chief Guy Mariani, Sgt. Derek Kuncken, Det. Christopher Spaldo.

Date: July 20, 2025

Commendation Type: Unit Citation Award

Summary of Incident and Actions by Nominee:

I am honored to formally recommend commendation for the police officers involved in the recent incident detailed in report 25BT04147, which involved an initial reported dispute that escalated into a barricaded subject and the subsequent discharge of the accused's firearm while officers were on scene. Despite the intense and dangerous nature of the situation, these officers displayed exemplary professionalism, courage, and dedication to the safety of all involved parties and the surrounding community. Upon arrival, the officers quickly assessed the situation and implemented safety measures to protect bystanders and secure the area. Throughout the incident, they utilized all available resources and demonstrated outstanding restraint, patience, and skill in their attempts to de-escalate and peacefully resolve the standoff. The officers made continued efforts to negotiate with the subject, striving to bring about a positive outcome. Regrettably, despite their best efforts and after a prolonged period of attempted negotiation, it was learned that the subject took his own life. While the outcome was tragic, the conduct of the officers throughout the event was beyond reproach. Their unwavering commitment to their duties, compassion for those involved, and focus on public safety are deserving of recognition. It is my sincere recommendation that these officers be formally commended for their actions during this incident. Their professionalism and dedication reflect the highest standards of law enforcement and set an example for others to follow.

Nominator's Rank/Name/Badge #: Chief Thomas A. Dellicker #4319

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Nominee’s Name: Public Safety Telecommunicators – SVPST Stephanie House, PST Travis Finan, PST Ashley Hebble, PST Mike Totaro

Date: February 17th, 2025

I am honored to nominate these dedicated Public Safety Telecommunicators for the Unit Citation Award in recognition of their exemplary performance during a recent officer-involved shooting incident. These professionals provided critical assistance to law enforcement officers under extreme circumstances, demonstrating unwavering commitment to public safety and operational excellence.

Throughout the event, the telecommunicators maintained composure and professionalism, efficiently coordinating communications between responding units, dispatching resources, and relaying vital information that ensured officer safety and effective incident management. Their ability to remain calm, focused, and proactive in a high-stress environment directly contributed to the protection of all individuals involved. Their actions exemplified the highest standards of teamwork, communication, and service. These telecommunicators’ rapid response, accurate information relay, and seamless coordination were instrumental in supporting our law enforcement officers during this critical and dangerous event.

For their outstanding performance, dedication to duty, and vital role in safeguarding lives during an officer-involved shooting, I strongly recommend the Public Safety Telecommunicators for the Unit Citation Award.

Nominator’s Rank/Name/Badge #: Chief Thomas A. Dellicker #4319

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Nominee’s Name: Detective Lawrence Mendelsohn #4324

Date: February 17th, 2025

Commendation Type: Honorable Service Award

Summary of Incident and Actions by Nominee: 25BT00275 OIS – Officers responded to a report of a suspect armed with a firearm threatening suicide. On arrival, the suspect discharged said firearm indiscriminately around responding officers. When officers advanced, the suspect pointed the firearm directly at them. The accused was successfully apprehended following the suspect sustaining gunshot wounds. Officers, including Detective Mendelsohn administered immediate life saving first aid. Detective Mendelsohn helped load the suspect into the rear of a Byram Police SUV, then climbed in to continue to render life saving first aid while transporting to the nearest ambulance or hospital.

Nominator’s Rank/Name/Badge #: Chief Thomas A. Dellicker #4319

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Nominee’s Name: Sergeant Kevin Perry #4325

Date: May 2, 2026

Commendation Type: 10 Year Good Conduct Award

Summary of Incident and Actions by Nominee:

A ten-year service period of good conduct from May 2, 2016 through May 2, 2026. Sergeant Perry’s professionalism and dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Byram Township Police Department and the law enforcement profession. Given on the 5th day of May 2026.

Nominator’s Rank/Name/Badge #: Chief Thomas A. Dellicker #4319

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Nominee’s Name: Patrolman Mark Bollmann #4334

Commendation Type: Military Service Award

The successful completion of his obligated military service in the army national guard resulting in an honorable discharge. Given on the 5th day of May, 2026.

Nominator’s Rank/Name/Badge #: Chief Thomas A. Dellicker #4319

**RESOLUTION NO. 104-2026** – Partnership for Public Service – Public Service Recognition Week May 3- May 9, 2026  
*Expressing the sense of the Township Council that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States and to the Township of Byram during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year*

*Mayor Rubenstein reconciliation of the Township Admin and Staff.*

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

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

**Township Manager** – an update was provided on the USDA Grant / police building renovation and the impact the flood elevations have on the project. There will be a meeting this Friday with the USDA Director, Cory and Joe. The town would be obligated to all state level permitting.

**Mayor Rubenstein** – April 29<sup>th</sup> participated in the groundbreaking of a Habitat for Humanity home.

**Councilman Esposito** – Nothing to Report

**Councilwoman Franco** – Summer Brochure has been released. Residents are signing up on Community Pass. Upcoming things to highlight: Women’s Self Defense Class- May 8 at Byram Karate, Natural Gas Safety Presentation- May 27<sup>th</sup> 11am and 6pm here. Townwide Garage Sale- June 6 & 7, 2026. Miss Byram June 26 at LVRHS Auditorium. Outdoor Movie and S’mores Night- July 25- 8:30pm - The American Underdog will be the movie shown. Thursday will attend TREPS ribbon cutting at the Byram School. Next Recreation Committee Meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Gallagher** – Byram Township Board of Education Meeting will be held on May 20, 2026. This weekend is the Hudson Farm walk.

**Councilman Proctor** – Byram Township Planning Board Meeting will be held May 7, 2026. The Environmental Commission had a meeting where they discussed design standards for lighting on commercial properties. The Environmental Commission discussed the trail head and the crosswalk. The consensus of the Environmental Commission was to accept additional signage in place of the crosswalk. Mr. Sabatini will discuss signage with the Township Engineer.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

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

Dave Silberthorne – Is the newest County Commission in Sussex County, came to introduce himself and offered his assistance.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 21, 2026, Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve minutes.

	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	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 Proctor to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Resolution No. 099-2026 – Authorizing the Public Display of Fireworks at Byram Fest August 22, 2026 or Subsequent Date in the Event of Postponement
- B. Resolution No. 100-2026 – Chapter 159 – Risk Control Grant \$3,285.00
- C. Resolution No. 101-2026 – Resolution to Authorize Estimated Property Tax Billing for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2026
- D. Resolution No. 103-2026 - Resolution of the Township of Byram, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey, Authorizing Submission of an Application and Supporting Participation in the County of Sussex Trails Grant Program

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 102-2026** – Resolution Urging State Leaders to Implement Fair and Equitable Reforms to Mitigate the Unsuitable Increases in Health Benefit Premiums for Public Sector Employees

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

**BILL LIST** – May 5, 2026 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the bill list.

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

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**

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

No Comments

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

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

**RESOLUTION**

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**BYRAM TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

Certification: I certify that the Byram Township Council adopted the above resolution on May 5, 2026.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

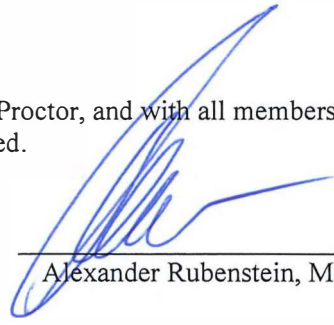
	Councilman Esposito	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion				x	
2nd			x		
Yes	x	x	x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION** - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 9:35 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
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Cynthia Church, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
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Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor