

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023
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, 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, absent; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Mollica and Township 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
 - Block 264 Lot 705
 - Orchard Street

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 September 19, 2023.

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 Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Bonker to approve the agenda with the addition of the appointment of a Recreation Committee member, and a discussion item “voter info packet”.

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

RECOGNITION OF RESIGNATION OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER – Lauren Shannon
Motion by Councilwoman Franco seconded by Councilman Gallagher.

APPOINTMENT OF RECREATION COMMITTEE MEMBER – Don Bogardus
Motion by Councilman Gallagher seconded by Councilwoman Franco.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – Due to weather conditions Byram Fest was postponed and will be held on Friday September 22nd. There will be food trucks, DJ, rides, games, and a possible dunk tank. During the 9/21/23 Highlands Council meeting There will be a grant application for the MS4 Tier A Municipal Stormwater Permit Compliance. The grant request is for \$60,000. This past week met with the owner of the old Byram Motel property for a project of 72 apartments with retail space. Kicked off the capital project planning today.

Mayor Rubenstein – The left hand turning lane has been completed on Route 206 and North Shore Road. The Cranberry Lake lowering will begin October 9th.

Councilman Bonker :

ShopRite: The ShopRite Help Bag Hunger Day was Sunday September 10th from noon to 2PM. There was a large group of volunteers from the Council, Police and Ambulance Squads.

Beefsteak Oktoberfest: Councilman Bonker attended along with Councilwoman Franco. There were 175 people in attendance, including Hal Wirths, and Assemblyman and Rich Vohden of the Highlands Board. A great time was had by all. It rained intensely but the tent worked well. The decision to postpone Byram Day was a good one, given the rain on Friday night and again on Saturday afternoon.

Open Space: There is a change request on for the CO Johnson Park basketball court renovation due to the discovery of additional underground material. The work has already begun but is being held for our approval tonight, so they can continue as early as tomorrow. On a side note, the blasting of the rear entrance to the train tunnel alongside CO Johnson, which closed the park for a few hours, was quite the engineering event.

Councilwoman Franco – at the last Planning Board meeting there was an approval for a deck. The Tomahawk Lake approval has been carried into December. The Historical Society Beefsteak was a very successful event. Attended the Bag for Hunger at Shoprite.

Councilman Gallagher – The Board of Education meeting is tomorrow night, 9/20/2023. Last night was the Recreation Committee meeting. They are planning a Senior Walk, Fright Night and Recreation Committee has Jets team tickets for sale. Ther will be a Halloween decoration contest on October 28th, a pet parade on October 15th, there will be letters to Santa and a tree lighting on December 3rd. There were 170 people in attendance at the beef steak. This Saturday is the Dragon Boat Race at Cranberry Lake. Historical Society is looking for volunteers for this event.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

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

Sean Conner – Feels that there is a bleacher safety issue at the CO Johnson Football field. Looking to see if they can be retrofitted. Joe explained that the size bleachers that were installed did not need to be retrofitted, they are approved compliant bleachers.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 5, 2023 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
No					
Abstain			x		
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

- A. Resolution No. 178-2023 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 109, Lot 2 – 16 Weaver House Cove Road
- B. Resolution No. 179-2023 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 244 Lot 20, 328 Amity Road
- C. Resolution No. 180-2023 – Authorization to Award a Contract to Capturepoint, LLC to Implement a New Recreation Software Program (Community Pass) that includes Providing Technology and Services to Allow Residents to Pay Township Recreation Fees Through the Use of Credit Cards and ACH (E-Checks) – Not to Exceed \$5,250.00

Amended

- D. Resolution No. 181-2023 – Resolution of Approval for a Special Event Permit Allowing the Lenape Blazers Softball Organization to host a Youth Softball Tournament at COJ Park and Neil Gylling Park October 7-9, 2023
- E. Resolution No. 182-2023 – A Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Byram Authorizing the Disposal of Non-Usable Equipment Not Suitable for Sale
- F. Resolution No. 183-2023 – Authorization to Execute Change Order No. 1 for Proposed Basketball Court Rehabilitation at Carl O. Johnson Park – Net Increase of \$10,640.00

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

BILL LIST – September 19, 2023 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilman Bonker to approve the bill list.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

APR Funding:

Councilman Bonker – *Councilman Bonk read aloud the following statement:*

Field CO#8 is the largest asset in the largest park in Byram, yet it goes unused due to poor drainage. Today is the perfect example: CO#8 was closed today, even though the rain ended yesterday.

We identified CO#8 as the location for the preeminent game field for football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey, based upon our meetings with all the sports groups. In particular, football has been asking for a 100 yard field for decades, and the current lights on the current football field are past their useful life. This will finally solve that problem.

We already have cost estimates for repairing CO#8 from French and Perillo.

We do not need any additional permits to begin CO#8 renovations.

We should dedicate all of the ARP money to CO#8, putting all the wood behind one arrowhead, including field renovation, irrigation, bleachers, press box, permanent field goals, electrical infrastructure and lights.

Councilwoman Frano – Would like to see the money dedicated towards the field house at C.O. Johnson Field and bring it up to code, this will allow for more then just soccer to use the facility.

Councilman Gallagher – believes the money should be used in some way at C.O. Johnson Field.

Mayor Rubenstein – Would like to see the money used in some way to C.O. Johnson Field. Said that the CO 8 permitting is easy, and they can get moving on it quickly. Does not want it all to go to CO8 alone, but, also towards other locations at the park as well.

Ricky Proctor – Feels that the CO8 project makes a lot of sense to start there since it is ready to go. Asked for an update on the walking path, and dog park. Councilman Bonker said that it is still in the works but is not as easy to go after as CO8.

Sean Conner – Agrees that CO8 is the most needed space for repair.

Mr. Sabatini said that the next step is to get a proposal from French and Parello.

Voter Information Packet:

The municipal building bond ordinance will be on the ballot November 7th. An information packet is being prepared to be sent out to the residents of the township. Mayor Rubenstein reviewed the draft with the council. Mayor Rubenstein explained the timeline constraints and would like to review it tonight and have the authorization happen at the next meeting in October. Mr. Sabatini feels that that would not allow for enough time to get it sent out to the public and recommended the authorization to happen tonight. Councilman Gallagher asked what the cost would be. Mayor Rubenstein said between \$4,000.00 - \$5,000.00. The council took a brief recess to review the document. The consensus was that it was way too long and wordy. Councilman Franco feels that more pictures need to be provided. The

Amended

Township Council reviewed all aspects of the draft document and suggested edits. Mr. Sabatini feels that it is important to get the message out there as to what would happen if the project does not happen, and to express that \$500,000 was already spent on a biddable document over the last 5 years, that would be thrown away. Councilwoman Franco agreed with Mr. Sabatini and said that they need the public to get them to the finish line, they need the support of the public, as what the township currently has is NOT a building, and if this fails it will be just more expensive later. Sean Conner feels that they should have a professional prepare the document. Ricky Proctor also feels that they should hire a professional to prepare the informational document. A final document is needed by the end of next week to allow for printing and mailing deadlines. After all suggestions were taken into consideration, Mayor Rubenstein asked the council members where they would like to go from here. There were suggestions of putting the link to the website in the packet, Councilman Gallagher agreed and said without the link no one would go to it. Councilman Bonker said they get one shot at the voters and would prefer that the voters will care about this and would read more than a single page and would rather have more than not to enough information in the packet. The Township Clerk suggested a summary page that would have bullet points on the most important information and expand upon that on the following pages. Councilwoman Franco agreed. Councilwoman Franco suggested putting it on a Facebook page as well. Councilman Bonker expressed the importance of getting this out to every single voter. Mr. Sabatini needs the final document by the end of next week to get it sent out on time. Councilwoman Franco asked about funding. Mr. Sabatini said that hopefully it is in the council budget, or he can take it out of the administration budget. Councilwoman Franco asked if they need to do a resolution. Mr. Sabatini said that approval to spend the money does not need a resolution, it requires multiple quotes and a requisition. There needs to be a consensus of what two councilmembers will be working on this. Mr. Sabatini said that the final draft is needed by the end of the week. Mayor Rubenstein said that if the council agrees he will clean up the document to be sent out. Mayor Rubenstein will work on the final draft and asked that the council acknowledge that is what will be done. The council agreed to proceed as discussed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II


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

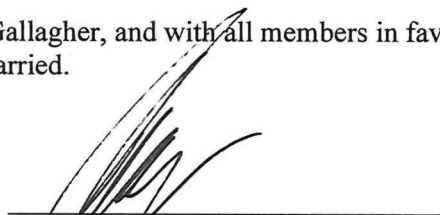
No Comments

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

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Gallagher, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor