

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 7, 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 (6:34pm), 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
  - 10 Johnson Blvd.
  - CO Johnson Field 8
- b. Contract Negotiations
  - Labor Contracts

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 April 7, 2026.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

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

**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**

**CHANGE IN NEW JERSEY LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

Please be advised that effective March 1, 2026, New Jersey law changes the way legal notices are published by public entities and applicants for development and approvals.

Under this new law, legal notices that were previously published in printed newspapers will now be published on the official website of the Township of Byram. This change is intended to increase public access, transparency, and reduce publication costs.

**What This Means for the Public:**

1. Legal notices will be available online at no cost
2. Notices will be posted on the official website of the Township of Byram

3. Notices will remain accessible for the legally required time period and will be archived for future reference
4. During the transition period in 2026, notices directing the public to the website will also appear in online news publications

**Where to Find Legal Notices:**

Beginning March 1, 2026, all legal notices may be found at:

<https://www.byramtwp.org> . In addition, the State of New Jersey will maintain a centralized online directory linking to all participating public entity legal notice pages.

For assistance accessing legal notices or for questions regarding this change, please contact:

**Cynthia Church, Byram Township Clerk**

**Email:** [CChurch@byramtwp.org](mailto:CChurch@byramtwp.org)

This notice is provided in accordance with New Jersey law to inform the public of changes to legal notice publication requirements.

**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					

**PROCLAMATIONS:**

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Mayor Rubenstein read aloud the proclamation. Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Seconded by Councilman Proctor, all in favor.

**DESIGNATING APRIL 11, 2026 AS WORLD PARKINSON’S DAY**

Mayor Rubenstein read aloud the proclamation. Proclaiming April 11<sup>th</sup> as World Parkinson’s Day. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Seconded by Councilman Proctor, all in favor.

**RECOGNIZING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE OF MEL DENNISON TO LAKELAND EMS**

Mayor Rubenstein read aloud the proclamation in recognition of Mel Dennison’s 50 years of service on the Lakeland EMS. Mr. Dennison was in attendance during the reading of this proclamation. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Seconded by Councilman Proctor, all in favor.

**AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

Mayor Rubenstein read aloud the proclamation. Proclaiming April as Autism Awareness Month. Motion by Councilwoman Franco, Seconded by Councilman Proctor, all in favor.

Jeannine Rubenstein read aloud the following statement:

*First, I would like to personally say Thank You to Mayor Rubenstein and the Byram Township Council for this proclamation recognizing Autism Awareness Month. As a mom of five children—three of whom are autistic—seeing our local leaders prioritize inclusion and acceptance means the world to our family. It’s a vital step in making our community a place where all our children can thrive. Because professional support is such a huge part of that journey, I’ve been asked to share a message from Kara Valeich, a Speech and Language Pathologist in our schools and a dedicated Autism Ambassador for our community. She Writes...*

*Thank you, Mayor Rubenstein and the Byram Township Council, for your continued dedication to raising autism awareness and fostering acceptance through this annual proclamation. While I wish I could be there in person, I am truly grateful that Jeannine will be speaking on my behalf this year, as she knows how much I love public speaking!*

*For the past 20 years, Byram Township Schools have remained committed to educating our students, staff, and community about autism. Our journey as autism ambassadors began in 2006, and each year we proudly support Autism New Jersey, an organization that works tirelessly to ensure safe and fulfilling lives for individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals who support them.*

*Over these two decades, we have not only expanded awareness and understanding but have also raised more than \$30,000 for Autism New Jersey through staff dress-down weeks and T-shirt fundraisers. Our incredible PTA further strengthens this mission by hosting an annual sensory night that promotes awareness, acceptance, and inclusion for all children.*

*As you look around the room today, you’ll see a beautiful display of creativity and compassion. Our students have helped decorate both the school and this meeting space as part of our celebration of inclusivity and kindness. You may notice the many butterflies throughout the room, each one uniquely colored and designed. I’ve always loved butterflies, and they serve as a meaningful symbol. Just like these butterflies, every individual is unique. And just like them, our staff at Byram Township Schools nurture and support our students—our young butterflies—helping them grow, thrive, and ultimately take flight. At the Byram Intermediate School, our students and staff embrace the belief that kindness should go beyond what is expected, striving each day to be “kinder than necessary.” At Byram Lakes School, we proudly live our LAKER core values, which inspire our ongoing commitment to kindness, respect, and hard work.*

*Learn with purpose  
Act responsibly  
Kindness matters*

*Everyone counts*

*Respect for all*

*Stick with it*

*Raising, educating, and caring for individuals with autism can be challenging. Those challenges may vary in scope, but they are very real. My hope is that, together, we continue to build a community rooted in compassion, understanding, and kindness—one where individuals with autism and their families feel truly supported, valued, and embraced.*

*Thank you for your continued support each year!*

*Kara Valeich*

*Speech Language Pathologist*

*Byram Township Schools*

*In Closing,*

*We often say that 'awareness' is the first step, but the message from Kara reminds us that 'acceptance' is the goal. My three autistic children are growing up in this town, and today's proclamation makes me even more proud to call Byram Township our home. I hope we can carry this spirit of inclusion throughout the entire year.*

*Thank you for your time.*

**2026 BUDGET HEARING** - Please visit the link below to access the 2026 budget online:

[https://www.byramtwp.org/useruploads/files/1904\\_introbudget\\_2026.pdf](https://www.byramtwp.org/useruploads/files/1904_introbudget_2026.pdf)

Mr. Sabatini read aloud the budget memo that can be found on the township website using the link above.

Brian Gibbons, Township Auditor and Ashleigh Frueholz, CMFO were present.

Mr. Gibbons feels this is a sound municipal budget with a reasonable increase considering the current struggles that most municipalities are facing with health insurance increases.

Opened to the Public

No Comments

Closed to the Public

**RESOLUTION NO. 086 - 2026 - BUDGET ADOPTION RESOLUTION**

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

**USDA FEDERAL GRANT** – Police Department Building Grant – Mr. Sabatini explained that this has been allocated to the township and has not been fully committed. The township needs to act by completing an architectural and environmental report. The next plan of action will be the funding whether through bond ordinance or by fully funding the balance by capital ordinance. The township already has \$550k set aside for the project and would consider a hybrid approach to the remaining balance. Possibly funding up to \$1.2 from Capital and the remaining from the USDA grant. Mayor Rubenstein would like to get an estimator to firm up the cost of the project. Councilwoman Franco would like to go out for bond for \$1 million. Councilman Gallagher agreed with going out for bond. Mayor Rubenstein would like to fully fund it though capital. Councilman Esposito would like to get a better understanding of the cost from the township professionals and what the total cost would be. Councilman Proctor would like to fully fund it though capital with the option to cancel and go for bond later. The USDA needs to get a commitment from the township on where the balance is coming from. The council agreed to go forward with the suggestion made by Councilman Proctor. Further conversation will come later when final numbers come in.

**APPOINTMENT OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER – Catherine Kuncken**

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

**APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEMBER – Josh Spahl**

Mayor Rubenstein appointed Josh Spahl to the Environmental Commission

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

**Township Manager** – Sent out Nixle notices regarding NJNG and expanding of gas to Lackawanna Drive has been pushed to April 13<sup>th</sup> and will go through September. The first phase is from Rt. 206 to Mansfield Drive. Work starting at 8pm – 6am, Monday – Thursday. Special Open Enrollment has been accepted, and employee meetings were held last week, effective June 1, 2026.

**Mayor Rubenstein** –

Mayor Rubenstein advised that he was part of training program regarding gas emergencies.

On March 18, the Board of Public Utilities approved the awards for the fourth program year of the Community Energy Plan Grant ("CEPG") program, and Byram Township has been approved for \$10,000.00.

**Councilman Esposito** – Nothing to report.

**Councilwoman Franco** – Attended the annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday. Mets trip is sold out, we still have Yankees tickets available, and MJ the Musical has only 20 tickets left. The Recreation Department is sponsoring a natural gas safety presentation on May 27 at 11am or 6pm here at town hall. It is open to everyone who wishes to attend. All fields were opened yesterday for spring sports.

**Councilman Gallagher** – Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> is the Fire Department Beefsteak dinner. April 22 the next Board of Education Meeting.

**Councilman Proctor** – The next Planning Board will be held on April 16, 2026.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

Motion by Councilwoman Franco second by Councilman Proctor 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**

March 17, 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. Approval of Raffle License for Sussex County Arts & Heritage Council (50/50) – May 16, 2026 at 225 US 206
- B. Resolution No. 083-2026 – Confirming the Redemption of TTL#2025-00002
- C. Resolution No. 084-2026 - Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Byram Authorizing an Unpaid Leave of Absence Pursuant to Byram Township Policies & Procedures Handbook Version 7.0 (Revised: January 1, 2025)
- D. Resolution No. 085-2026 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – Block 283 Lot 226
- E. Resolution No. 087-2026 – Resolution of Approval Allowing the Lenape Blazers Softball Team to Install Backstop Covers at Neil Gylling Park During their 2026 Season
- F. Resolution No. 088-2026 – Authorization to Purchase Gasoline under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Budget Year 2026
- G. Resolution No. 089-2026 - Authorization to Purchase Diesel under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Budget Year 2026
- H. Resolution No. 090-2026 - Authorization to Purchase #2 Fuel Oil (Heating Oil) under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Budget Year 2026
- I. Resolution No. 091-2026 – Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Redemption Monies to Outside Lien Holder – 4 Waterloo Road
- J. Resolution No. 092-2026 – Resolution Ratifying and Authorizing the Acceptance of a Vehicle Buyback (Repurchase) from Ford Motor Company for a 2022 Ford F-350

K. Resolution No. 093-2026 – Resolution to Award Bid for Proposed Resurfacing of Sleepy Hollow Road & Various Streets – Not to Exceed \$1,393,126.50

	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 – April 7, 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					

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

**ORDINANCE 005-2026 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM AMENDING SECTION 133 ENTITLED “FIRE PREVENTION” TO AMEND AND REPLACE IT IN ITS ENTIRETY**

Purpose Statement: The purpose of this ordinance is to update and amend Chapter 133 to amend it and replace it in its entirety to facilitate a shared service with Hardyston Township.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that Ordinance No. 005-2026 is passed on final reading and that a notice of final passage be published on the township website according to the law.

**ORDINANCE – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading / Introduction**

**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 \$30,000.00**

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at the meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Byram on April 21, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 10 Mansfield Drive, Byram Township, at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

2026 SCLOM Annual Membership – Mr. Sabatini stated we have not been billed in a couple years and are now being presented with a bill for membership. Mayor Rubenstein recently attended a meeting, and they are looking to get it going again. He found it very informative. The Township Council agreed to join and pay the bill.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**

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

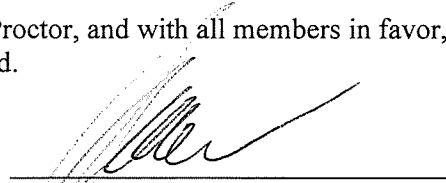
Chief Dellicker – Thanked the Township Council with the work they have put into moving forward with the Police Department Building.

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor, and with all members in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
Cynthia Church, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor