

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM  
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 3, 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](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, absent; Mayor Rubenstein, here. Also present was Township Manager Joseph Sabatini, Attorney Tom Collins 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
- b. Contract Negotiations
  - Shared Services
  - Hopatcong ACO / Pound
  - Netcong Construction Services
  - Andover Court
- c. Personnel
  - General Liability / Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal

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 October 3, 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 7:32 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion Carried.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Motion by Councilman Gallagher second by Councilman Bonker 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	

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

**Township Manager** – The Hudson Farm Charity Hike is this Saturday at 7:30 a.m. at Hudson Farm on Sparta Stanhope Road. Received Best Practices for 2023, which will determine state aid payment.

**Mayor Rubenstein** – Byram Fest was a success, with about 1200 people in attendance.

**Councilman Bonker** - Mr. Bonker read aloud the following:

*Open Space: Tonight we will hopefully approve the additional Ash Tree removal work at CO Johnson and Glenside Woods. The CO Johnson Park basketball court renovation has installed the base surface. We will hold an Open Space meeting on Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> and we plan to discuss both of those items, plus additional details on the CO#8 Field renovation using the ARP money, plus the overall CO Johnson Park renovations beyond CO#8, plus preliminary conversations about the CO Fieldhouse, and plans for trails in 2024.*

*CO#6 is now closed. DPW will be performing sod restoration for the rest of the Fall season.*

*Mayor’s Meeting: On September 19<sup>th</sup> I attended the quarterly meeting of Sussex County mayors along with 2 of our County Commissioners and the County Administrator. We received presentations from the State DCA on shared services, and from the County Office on Aging/Senior Citizens, which has an interesting exercise program for seniors that our Recreation department might want to investigate.*

**Councilwoman Franco** – At the last Planning Board meeting they had one application that was carried. The Planning Board meeting for this Thursday has been canceled. Byram Fest was a success, everyone had fun and was well attended.

**Councilman Gallagher** – There is a scheduled Board of Education meeting scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>. The next Recreation meeting is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>. Fright night has been moved to October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I**

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

Becky Shepard – She lives on Crescent Drive North which is a very busy street. There are vehicles parked on a blind hill that is causing concerns. She is worried there will be accidents. Chief Burke will investigate it and do a study.

Luanne Byrne – Saw a letter in the packet regarding electricity rates being dependent on natural gas. Has concerns about the Governor wanting to ban gas appliances and natural gas.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 19, 2023 Regular & Closed Session Minutes - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Gallagher to approve the minutes.

	Councilman Bonker	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion		x			
2 <sup>nd</sup>			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

- A. Resolution No. 184-2023 – Transfer of Liquor License from Lockwood Tavern Liquor License LLC to Mosaico Tavern LLC
- B. Resolution No. 185-2023 – Resolution Authorizing the Continuation of the 2023/2024 Byram Ski Program Headed by Ski Club Advisor and Volunteers
- C. Resolution No. 186-2023 – Resolution Directing the Township Manger to Participate in a Reverse Auction for Electricity Generation Through Energy Market Exchange (EMEX)
- D. Resolution No. 187-2023 – Authorization to Execute Change Order No. 1 for Bituomonus Chip Sealing (Oil & Stone) Resurfacing of Various Streets (South Shore Road, Sautaug Trail, Weasaug Trail, Mautaug Trail, Harding Road, Hilltop Road, Sherwood Forest Drive, Bank Street & Pine Point) – Net Decrease of \$6,460.00
- E. Resolution No. 188-2023 – Authorize the Outfitting of One (1) 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe SSV 4WD 5W4 with Optional Equipment for the Township of Byram Fire Department – Not to Exceed \$13,798.50
- F. Resolution No. 189-2023 – Authorizing the Removal of Dead Ash Trees from Tamarack Park & Glenside Woods Utilizing Open Space Funds – Not to Exceed \$3,300.00
- G. Resolution No. 190-2023 – Resolution for 100% Exempt Veteran Owner of Block 108 Lot 20 Partial Cancellation of Taxes for 2023 and the First Half of 2024 “Authorizing Taxes be Remitted (Cancelled) For 2023/2024” – 9 Weaver House Cove Road

H. Resolution No. 191-2023 - Resolution Authorizing 100% Disabled Veteran Exempt Status to Owner of Block 108, Lot 20 Partial Refund of Taxes Paid for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter in 2023 – Block 108 Lot 20, 9 Weaver House Cove Road

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 192-2023** – Resolution Authorizing a Scope of Work with French & Parrello Associates to Provide Engineering Services for Proposed Improvements to Field 8 at CO Johnson Park in Byram Township – Not to Exceed \$66,900.00

Mr. Sabatini explained the resolution and how it came about.

Councilman Bonker extended on the reasoning for the Field 8 improvements using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, keeping in mind that more improvements are to come.

Councilwoman Franco would like the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Funds to be used to benefit all taxpayers including the seniors. This would include improvements to the walking path, and fieldhouse.

Richard Proctor – asked if the CO 8 project exceeds the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding, is there a number that the council would stop at? Mayor Rubenstein said they will also be using Open Space funds. Asked where the remaining APR funds would go towards if it is not all used. Mayor Rubenstein said the field house would be next.

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Gallagher to adopt Resolution No. 193-2023

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 193-2023** – Chapter 159 – American Rescue Plan (ARP) \$66,900.00

Motion by Councilman Bonker, Second by Councilman Gallagher to adopt Resolution No. 193-2023

	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** – October 3, 2023 – Motion by Councilman Gallagher, second by Councilwoman Franco 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**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION II**


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

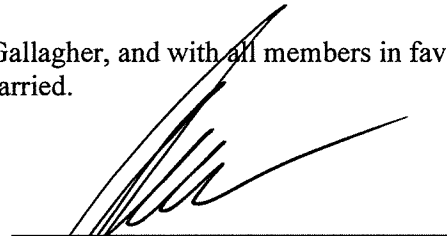
No Comments

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 8:16 p.m. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

  
Cynthia Church, RMC  
Township Clerk

  
Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor