

**TOWNSHIP OF BYRAM
TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 17, 2024
TRAINING 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 –Councilwoman Franco, here; Councilman Gallagher, absent; Councilman Proctor, absent; Councilman Roseff, 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 Councilman Proctor, second by Councilman Roseff, 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
 - LVRHS Shared Service Agreement
- b. Personnel

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 December 17, 2024.

Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

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

Councilwoman Franco arrived at 6:35p.m.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 7:39 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.

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

PRESENTATION OF AWARD – HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST

The Recreation Director, Deb Armeno presented the following awards:

- 1st Place - 24 Lynn Drive - \$100 gift card
- 2nd Place - 6 Belton Street - \$75 gift card
- 3rd Place - 14 Chestnut Street - \$50 gift card

TOWNSHIP MANAGER, MAYOR, AND COUNCIL REPORTS

Township Manager – The Reorganization meeting will be January 7th with a 7:30 p.m. start and the Budget Workshop meeting on January 21, 2025, with a 6:30 p.m. start. Right now, it is looking like a 3.51% increase. Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Mayor Rubenstein – Wished everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Councilwoman Franco – Recreation Committee had there meeting last week. There will be a Polar Plunge in February. Recreation meeting will start at 7 p.m. for 2025.

Councilman Proctor – This Thursday will be a Planning Board meeting without any applications.

Councilman Roseff – The last meeting he reported a change in regulatory changes regarding ETG. It will be an automatic 50 feet starting 2025. Learned today that Forst Lakes is grandfather in for 200 feet.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION I

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

John Kowalchuk – Introduced himself as the President for Lakeland Emergency Squad for 2025. He will be working to increase volunteerism within the squad. Looking forward to having some fundraising events in 2025.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 3, 2024, Regular & Closed Session Meeting Minutes - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, seconded by Councilman Proctor to approve minutes.

	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			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. 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. 209-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Fox Architectural Design P.C. to Provide Architectural Design to Upgrade the DPW Break Room – Phase I & II – Not to Exceed \$4,250.00
- B. Resolution No. 210-2024 – Final Acceptance of Improvements to Mansfield Drive Tennis Courts & Carl. O. Johnson Park Tennis Courts
- C. Resolution No. 211-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Execution of Documents Associated with the Custodial Contract with Royalty Cleaning Services for the Byram Township Municipal Building
- D. Resolution No. 212-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Navitend to Provide Proventiv Managed Services – Not to Exceed \$55,970.56
- E. Resolution No. 213-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign the Letter of Interest, which Expresses the Township’s Interest in Receiving the Additional Funds to Support the Municipal Alliance in Providing Solutions for Substance Use Prevention
- F. Resolution No. 214-2024 – Final Acceptance of ADA Ramps and Resurfacing of Various Streets (Bridget Way, Catalina Drive, Camelot Drive, Mayfair Lane & Sandra Lane)
- G. Resolution No. 215-2024 - Authorization to Purchase #2 Fuel Oil (Heating Oil) under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Budget Year 2024
- H. Resolution No. 216-2024 – Resolution Authorizing the Payout of Compensatory Time to Police Chief Daniel DeWald Prior to December 31, 2024
- I. Resolution No. 217-2024 – Authorization to Purchase Preventive Maintenance / Repair Services of Emergency Generators under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Budget Year 2024
- J. Resolution No. 218-2024 – Canceling Outstanding Checks
- K. Resolution No. 219-2024 – Resolution Appointing Risk Management Consultant for 2025
- L. Resolution No. 220-2024 – Resolution Appointing Fund Commissioner for 2025
- M. Resolution No. 221-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Byram Township Fire Department to Conduct a Bucket Drop on April 12th, and 13th of 2025
- N. Resolution No. 222-2024 – Resolution Authorizing Byram Township Fire Department to Conduct a Bucket Drop on October 25th, and 26th of 2025
- O. Resolution No. 223-2024 – Cancellation of Grant Receivable and Reserve

- P. Resolution No. 224-2024- Cancellation of Unexpended Balances of Improvement Authorizations
- Q. Resolution No. 225-2024 – Cancellation of Reserve for Third Party Liens
- R. Resolution No. 226-2024 - Chapter 159, \$1,439.71- Body Armor
- S. Resolution No. 227-2024 – Authorization to Repair and perform Preventative Maintenance for Fire Water Pumps on Motorized Fire Apparatus under the Morris County Cooperative Pricing Council for Budget Year 2024

Councilman Roseff asked about Resolution 209-2024 if they were thinking of giving that work to the Township Engineer. Mayor Rubenstein did not feel that it was appropriate for him as he does not do that kind of work.

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

BILL LIST – December 17, 2024 – Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to approve the bill list.

P.O. # 29776 Council Proctor Recused.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
Police Department Building & Estimator

Mayor Rubenstein discussed the current Scope of Work from Fox Architect

- The roof structure is in good shape
- The plan set that is presented is a good indication that a police department would fit within the footprint.
- Has received a memo in support of the plans from Chief DeWald

Mayor Rubenstein had a conversation with Chris Hall, Legislative Director of Representative Kean’s office

- *We were selected by Congressmen to be one of the 15 of the 75*
- *There is a CR to December 20th for appropriations*
- *One December 20th there will be another CR. Through to March (likely early March).*
- *FY25 will finish then.*
- *All CPFs that made into the house bill (us included) will be carried over to next fiscal year.*
- *As of right now, it will be in the final version of the bill which is in March.*
- *They have never seen an earmark like ours be taken out.*
- *Once the appropriations bill passes (March), we are good.*
- *From there, money goes to USDA, then to us.*
- *When the bill passes in March, we are legally obligated to receive the money.*
- *Be on lookout for email from USDA or state agriculture shortly after bill passes*
- *The “bill” is an appropriations bill, minibus/omnibus type of bill*
- *They would be “shocked” if we were excluded from the bill. This has never happened for our type of project.*
- *Mr. Hall states that it is “95-99% likely that Byram will receive this money”*

We should have the final conceptual drafts in a few weeks, which would then be what the estimator would work off.

Mayor Rubenstein found an estimator for \$2,640.00.

Councilman Roseff asked about the flow process of the remainder if the police department is designed. There has not been a discussion with the administration.

Cindy Church, Township Clerk voiced her concerns with the use of space for two voting districts, meeting room space, and for holding bid openings.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
DOT will be doing Micro-paving on Rt. 206 from Ash Way to Lackawanna Drive. Councilman Roseff suggested making a formal request for the paving on Forest Lakes Drive.

Will be meeting with Elizabeth Town Gas to discuss gas installation issues.

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 Proctor, to go into executive session and adopt the below resolution.

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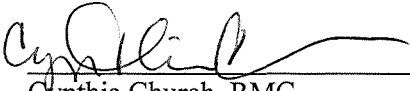
Cynthia Church, Municipal Clerk

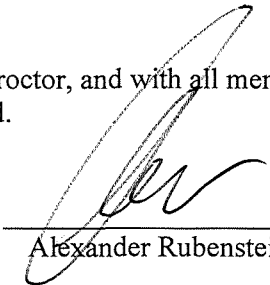
	Councilwoman Franco	Councilman Gallagher	Councilman Proctor	Councilman Roseff	Mayor Rubenstein
Motion	x				
2nd			x		
Yes	x		x	x	x
No					
Abstain					
Absent		x			

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Motion by Councilwoman Franco, second by Councilman Proctor to return to open session at 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.


Cynthia Church, RMC
Township Clerk


Alexander Rubenstein, Mayor