

BLOOMFIELD, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 29, 2004

A special meeting of the Bloomfield Board of Health, as established by public record in the Independent Press and Bloomfield Life and posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building was called to order on April 29, 2004 at 6:30 P.M. in the BVES Room.

Roll call by President McLaughlin showed the following members to be present:

James McLaughlin, President
Laura Papciak, Board Member
Lissette Figueroa, Board Member
Patricia Barker, Board Member

Also present were Margaret O'Boyle Dunigan, Council Liaison, Trevor Weigle, Director, Dr. Ellen Powley, President of FoBAS, Dr. Heeb, Representative from Geese Police and Federal Goose Control and Doreen Sarcone. Absent was L. Jasinski, Board Member.

Joe Kohl from Geese Police addressed the Board. He explained that the work of a border collie must be consistent: 3-4 times a day, 7 days a week, 26 weeks per year. His border collies can be used on an as needed basis. There would be no yearly contract. He has 30 trucks on the road in New Jersey, 250 accounts and the trucks are insured by the company. Some of their accounts include the Glen Ridge Country Club and Forest Hill Field Club. The dog would be available 24 hours a day. He discussed the ineffectiveness of the dog if not worked daily and if it was treated like a pet. They charge by the week. Geese are herded away and are not harmed. They can also treat nests. The dogs are housed in outside kennels, they sleep indoors, and they are kept out of extreme cold and heat.

Tom Dellalla, Director of Field Operations, from Federal Goose Control outlined their services. They train the dog handlers and the dog stays with one handler. An air boat is used for larger lakes and ponds with the dog patrolling the grounds around the body of water. There are short and long term services available. They work at changing the habits of the geese. Maintenance is needed. Special programs for municipalities are being worked on. The company is insured, will get the proper permits, and we would have direct contact with the handler. They can also use a non-toxic chemical spray on the grass for flight control. This is not as effective as a dog. They have their own breeder and trainer. He emphasized that the dog has to be worked, it is not a pet, and the person working the dog has to be trained. They are insured, have their own vehicles and employees are uniformed. The busiest time of the year is February through May. The dogs are kept in crates in the handler's house.

Director Weigle questioned how often the dog would be needed to rid the area of the geese. It was suggested in the beginning to use the dog consistently. He also asked Mr. Kohl if it would be better to purchase a dog if there was enough work for it to do. Mr. Kohl said yes.

Also discussed were nest addling, how satisfaction of the job done by the dog is measured, price quotes, length of a contract, length of time to train a handler.

President McLaughlin asked if there was anyone from the public wishing to comment. Motion to open for public comment by L. Papciak and second by P. Barker. Doreen Sarcone of Cleveland Terr. came forward. She questioned the relocation of the geese, how her tax money would be used toward the purchase, housing and training of a dog. Dr. L. Heeb expressed her concern about boarding the dog, if purchased, at the Animal Shelter. She felt the dog would not have enough exercise. She said the Shelter had violations from the State and she did not like the idea of putting a healthy dog in with strays. The Shelter is a high stress environment and proper housing of the dog is very important. Director Weigle said the dog would be housed separately on the Shelter site and an organization has volunteered to donate the cost of building the pen. He also said the dog would be exercised every day.

Proposals from Geese Police and Federal Goose Control for services will be sent to Director Weigle.

Motion to adjourn meeting by L. Figueroa and second by P. Barker.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trevor J. Weigle, Director
Secretary to the Board