

Florence, New Jersey
February 6, 2008

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by President Baldorossi at 8:00 PM. President Baldorossi led the Salute to the Flag.

The Township Clerk read the following statement: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2008 and given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi, President
Dennis O'Hara
Bruce Garganio
Sean Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

William Berry, Mayor; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING: GYPSY MOTHS DECLARED AS A PUBLIC NUISANCE

The Public Hearing for Declaring Gypsy Moths as a Public Nuisance was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 26, 2008.

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that a Public Hearing must be held to allow members of the public to ask questions or express concern. The public is given the opportunity to make comment, any comments will be reflected in the minutes, which will be certified and sent to the State of New Jersey as part of Florence Township's application. Assistant Administrator Sahol provided a spray area map and description of the process in Council's packet.

Council Vice President O'Hara complemented Assistant Administrator Sahol on the thorough report he put together; the information enclosed spells out exactly what Council's responsibility is regarding this issue.

Council Vice President O'Hara explained to the public that they are discussing an area along Delaware Avenue, mostly in the Hoffner Tract section, along Route 130 to Seventh Street, pass the railroad out to Route 130. It is 72 acres total. Council Vice President O'Hara knows that particular section of the township did experience a tremendous amount of defoliation due to the gypsy moths. He believes it is a good thing to spray.

Administrator Brook received a copy of an article from Solicitor Kearns stating that there is a strong possibility that the State may only do one (1) spray. That is not 100% definite.

Council President Baldorossi opened the Public Hearing to the public.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 02/06/08

Fred Wainwright, 1091 Florence Columbus Road, stated that if the State only sprays once, the timing has to be perfect or it is not going to work. Administrator Brook asked solicitor Kearns where he received the article? Solicitor Kearns stated that the article was in the Atlantic City Press today. The article essentially states that they may not be able to do a second spray because they are having trouble getting enough aircraft to do all of the areas. Administrator Brook agreed with Mr. Wainwright regarding the timing of spraying. He explained that Assistant Administrator Sahol went to a seminar so the township could qualify for spraying and one of the most critical criteria they talked about is the conditions that have to be met when they spray. Mr. Wainwright stated that it is a small window with that particular spray (Bt the common name for Bacillus Thuringiensis). He doesn't believe that they will be able to spray all areas when the time is right. He suggested hiring a private contractor for the second spray. He stated that if the trees are not taken care of, they will be gone. Administrator Brook agreed.

Council Vice President O'Hara questioned the controversy over the type of spray the State uses? He has read articles in the newspaper asking why the State does not go back to what they used before (Dimilin), it was more effective then what they are using now (Bt). Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that Dimilin is not approved by the State or Federal Agencies. Bt is a biological agent that attacks the insects themselves.

Mr. Wainwright stated that years ago they used a chemical named Sevin, but it was hard on the other insects. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that at the conference they said that Sevin kills all insects.

Council Member Garganio asked how long the spray lasts for; will the gypsy moths continue to come back or is it a long-term solution? Mr. Wainwright stated that the new spray can be washed away if there is rain shortly after application. Sevin had a residue that stayed for a while. Council Member Garganio asked what chemical private contractors use? Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the State would not permit aerial application of anything but Bt. Other chemicals could be used for ground application. Council Member Garganio suggested that the township look into the cost to use a private contractor with a more effective chemical ground application in case the State's application does not work. Administrator Brook spoke with a private contractor and he believes they use a stronger chemical because they are spraying from the ground and they are spraying a more concentrated area.

Council Member Ryan asked what decrease in effectiveness there would be if they did not have the second application? Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that from the information the State put out there would be a 65% reduction in the population per application. Council Member Ryan agrees with Council Member Garganio that the township should explore further to see if there are any other methods to use in conjunction with the State's aerial application. Administrator Brook was told that with the ground application the kill range is 90% or higher.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the first anticipated start date for southern counties is May 1st.

Administrator Brook will report back on ground spraying and what the costs generally run.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 02/06/08

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Garganio to close the public hearing. All ayes - motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-38

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FORMALLY DECLARING THAT
GYPSY MOTHS (LYMANTRIA DISPAR)
ARE A PUBLIC NUISANCE**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by O'Hara that Resolutions 2008-37 through 2008-38 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

*(The above represents the public hearing portion and action portion on **Resolution No. 2008-38, Florence Township Formally Declaring that Gypsy Moths are a Public Nuisance**, of the minutes from the February 6, 2008 meeting of Florence Township Council.)*

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab