

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 1, 2012

Pledge of Allegiance.

The regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority was called to order by Chairman Gana at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present at roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana.

The proper notice was given to all members in accordance with the by-laws.

Chairman Gana stated that public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act has been given in the following manner:

1. Posting written notice in the lobby entrance of the Authority.
2. Hand delivering notices to the offices of the Daily Journal and The Press.
3. Filing written notices in the offices of the Authority and City Clerk.

Also present: Dennis W. Palmer	Executive Director/Chief Engineer
Robert A. Schwarz	Field Engineer
A. Steven Fabietti	Solicitor
Carol A. Ricci	Executive Secretary

It was moved by Silva and seconded by Errickson that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 17, 2012 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

The Chairman asked if there were any general public comments or comments on the proposed resolutions, there were none.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Silva that Resolution No. 2012-150, “Be it resolved by the Landis Sewerage Authority that the following bills of items or demands are hereby approved and authorized for payment out of the revenue fund revolving payroll account.....\$62,956.25”, be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Silva that Resolution No. 2012-151, “Be it resolved by the Landis Sewerage Authority that the following bills of items or demands are hereby approved and authorized for payment out of the revenue fund bills.... \$117,279.21”, be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Lewis that Resolution No. 2012-152, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing payment from the construction fund of certain costs of the system in the amount of \$16,974.00 to Perna-Finnigan, Inc. for Boro Trunk Line Estimate No. 2 in accordance with the provisions of the Authority’s general bond resolution...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Silva that Resolution No. 2012-153, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing payment from the construction fund of certain costs of the system in the amount of \$ 2,484.00 to CET Engineering Services for the wastewater treatment re-rate in accordance with the provisions of the Authority’s general bond resolution...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

Prior to passing Resolution 2012-154, Carol Ricci stated that each Commissioner had received a premium comparison of our current health insurance plan from Horizon and the renewal offer. She and Dennis reported they had reviewed the different plans and chose what we thought would be best for our employees. Our current plan has been a very good plan for us however, the initial increase was 9.5% but our agents through Cynergy group negotiated that increase down to 5%. It is a direct access plan which is a blue card plan. You can travel anywhere and this card will be available for your use, whether it be an emergency or a well visit. Co-pays stayed the same and our claim service was very good against paid premiums. The alternative plan that we are offering to other employees is a point-of-service plan with the main difference is that it is a regional plan, meaning that you must stay within the NJ, PA, NY and DE area and this POS plan requires referrals. If you are in an emergency situation and you are out of the network area, you would still be covered. This plan showed a premium decrease of 3.40%. After meeting with our agents, we felt that the Direct Access and the POS plan best represented our needs. This is major medical insurance only. Public law was passed recently regarding municipal employees, it was a salary driven contribution process, but it is now premium driven. Coverages are the same, the network is identical and action must be taken on this tonight. Commissioner Lewis asked if the employees are aware of the two plans? Carol stated that we will be educating all LSA staff members regarding these changes. The collective bargaining agreement members will not have to contribute until the end of their contract however, they will be choosing a plan. All of the brochures from Horizon are here and our agents will be coming in to enroll everyone in the plan of their choosing. New ID cards will be issued accordingly. Steve Fabietti stated that the

collective bargaining agreement sets the parameters regarding the type of plan offered. Commissioners Lewis asked if we had insurance plans for retirees and Carol Ricci told him that we do not. She also stated that we were looking at the State health benefits program but pricing was prohibitive since the 2013 renewal shows an 18% to 20% increase. The three tier prescription plan from Horizon caused a lot of problems in the past because of formulary changes on a regular basis and drugs that people were using regularly would suddenly be moved from the fill list. That is when we decided to self-insure our prescription plan.

It was moved by Silva and seconded by Errickson that Resolution No. 2012-154, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing a non-fair and open contract with Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey to provide a fully insured healthcare plan at a monthly cost of \$75,922.99 and \$69,845.66 respectively...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

It was moved by Silva and seconded by Errickson that Resolution No. 2012-155, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing correction on credits, charge-offs, refunds and cancellation of accounts in the amount of \$963.83...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Gana and Errickson voted “yes.”

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Silva that Resolution No. 2012-156, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority summarizing allocation activity through the close of allocation round 141...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

It was moved by Silva and seconded by Errickson that Resolution No. 2012-157, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority allocating sewerage capacity for round 141 for commercial classification...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Lewis that Resolution No. 2012-158, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing payment from the construction fund of certain costs of the system in the amount of \$17,450.00 to GillTrading.com for a weir washer in accordance with the provisions of the Authority’s general bond resolution...” be adopted. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted “yes.”

## REPORTS

### Executive Director

Please accept this written correspondence as the Executive Director report for the first meeting in October. I will be out of town this week as a delegate to the Water Environment Federation Conference from New Jersey, this being the pre-eminent organization dealing with wastewater and water environmental matters. It is also where I collect most of my contact hours towards my licenses.

You have received a separate memorandum from Carol Ricci with respect to health insurance. I am pleased to report that this year, the increase in health insurance is the smallest that we have seen in years. This rate increase is 5% on the existing plan. This compared to double digit increases over the last several years is somewhat refreshing. As employees also have to pay a portion of the premium based on their salary, we're going to offer a lower cost plan should employees choose that as an option.

The Hospital has reached out to Bob Schwarz. He will fill you in further and they are preparing a written response to my last letter to them. As of the dictation of this memo on Thursday, it has not yet arrived and hopefully it will arrive in the mail and be in your board package delivered on Friday or as an addition to Monday's meeting in your Monday file. We have also received correspondence from another medical facility on Sherman Avenue which documents their plans and methodology for handling sharps and their permit.

On Thursday, I went to the site of the Shop Rite construction with one of our O & M staff members Bill Quigley, Senior Electrician to meet with the contractor who is building the pumping station part of the project.

With the cleanup of the Casie site, trucked in waste will start this week specifically on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> for which we already had reviewed the analytical data and it is acceptable at our treatment plant

The reinforced fiberglass storage tanks that hold the concentrated bleach used at our facility were inspected last week. Generally given the age of the tanks and how aggressive concentrated bleach is, they were found to be in fairly good shape. I am awaiting the written report and it seems that the tanks will need a new interior coating to help protect the fiberglass structure and we will be pursuing that next year.

The Authority's 2013 Budget has been worked on over the last month and there will be a finance committee meeting set up during the middle of October to review it before it is brought to the full Board for action.

With respect to the “derecho” windstorm that occurred, we have received payment from our insurance company for the extra manpower, equipment and damage at that time in the amount of approximately \$17,000. We have also filed a parallel action with FEMA and I have signed the last forms with them as well. They were also given copies of the insurance payments and the forms that were filed with our insurer. It is my understanding FEMA will develop the numbers of the values that they would make payment on to the Authority, which is at a 75% reimbursement and then deduct any payments we received from the insurance company. I am therefore optimistic that we will also receive a payment from FEMA as well as the payment already received from the insurance company to cover our costs and expenses that were of an extraordinary nature due to the storm.

Field Engineer:

Bob Schwarz stated that regarding the medical waste issue at the Hospital pump station, LSA received a written report from Cumberland Medical Associates about their procedures to ensure that no medical waste is disposed of into the sanitary sewer system. South Jersey Regional Hospital called and indicated that a written response would be forthcoming and outlining the procedures to avoid any medical waste from being improperly disposed. Since that one incident, LSA has not detected any more of the items that were previously found and we continue to monitor the situation.

In reference to Garrison Estates, Bob reported that the contractor for the developer installed two manholes and approximately 50 feet of 8 inch PVC pipe to go around the electric pole that has been placed through the existing sanitary sewer stub. New lines need to be pressure tested. Old lines were filled with flowable fill.

Shop Rite continues to install pipes and manholes in accordance with plans and specifications. The focus is beginning on pump station construction in near future.

South State, Inc. performed paving on Brewster Road between Bryant Street and Chestnut Avenue where the road settled over the sewer trenches. Work was done during non-school hours under the county cooperative purchasing agreement.

City of Vineland requested that LSA remark the manholes that needed replacement in reference to the Park Avenue repaving project. Work has slowed since concrete work is not complete. The updated anticipated finish date is the middle of October, 2012.

Bob reported that LSA employees will attend a confined space and lock-out/tag-out training seminar on Wednesday, October 3, 2012.

St. Anthony's Greek Orthodox Church submitted revised plans to connect to the LSA sewer system on Wheat Road and West Avenue. LSA will need to endorse the project for State approval.

The contractor for the Boro trunk replacement line will begin final restoration measures with grass planting. Final asphalt paving will be performed in November 2012 in accordance with the bid specifications.

Commissioner Lewis asked if the Hospital has acknowledged if they are their needles and Bob Schwarz stated that they have not, but a hospital official, Mr. Gazzola indicated that there is a way of tracing the materials by serial numbers and he may possibly find the source. At this time, we have not heard from them.

Solicitor:

Steve Fabietti reported that the scheduled municipal court hearing for the auto accident did not take place today but has been re-scheduled on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman:

No Report

Issues and Correspondence:

Carol Ricci stated that in each commissioner's packet there was the schedule for the AEA Fall Conference in Atlantic City in November. Each Commissioner could look over the materials as soon as possible, she would be able to make reservations for those who would like to attend.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Engineering/Plant:

No Report

Budget/Finance:

No Report

Human Resources:

No Report

Public Relations:

No Report

Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci stated that she is currently working on LSA's self-insured prescription renewal which ends 12/31/2012. The normal end date is February 28th, but in light of the changes being made to major medical, we renewed until the end of the year. She also stated that we are trying to coordinate it with the major medical renewal of November 1, 2012. She also reported that the contract for Life, AD & D and LTD insurance is up for renewal and our agents are going out to market for the renewal. She will have a report for the next meeting.

Allocations/Administration:

No Report

Old Business:

None

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

At 6:25 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Silva and seconded by Errickson that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Lewis, Merighi, Silva, Errickson and Gana voted "yes."

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

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JOSE SILVA, JR., SECRETARY