

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 21, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

The regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority was called to order by Vice-Chairman Reuben at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present at roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson and Reuben. Villar was absent.

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

Vice Chairman Reuben 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 Assistant
Timothy Foyle	SSSE

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Errickson that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 6, 2017 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson and Reuben voted "yes".

A 25 year service award was presented to Timothy H. Foyle.

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 Barse that Resolution No. 2017-18, "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.....\$66,133.84", be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson and voted "yes".

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2017-19, “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...\$355,645.44”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2017-20 “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing correction on credits, charge-offs, refunds and cancellation of accounts in the amount of \$2,031.90...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson, and Reuben voted “yes”.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that the last time we had a controlled burn was over 10 years ago. A key element to having a healthy forest is to have a fire. South Jersey pitch pines have evolved to withstand heat. We got a burn permit over five months ago. Today we finally had the right day. The wind was predominately from ESE and the idea is to keep the smoke from 55. We are burning west of 55. Where we have the quail project we have a lot of greenbrier and old fuel. The idea is to have a fire and control it to get rid of the fuel so it doesn't come across and become a disaster. This area had a disastrous burn about 50 to 60 years ago and it couldn't be shut down. You didn't have 55 or access to a lot of other areas in the woods by the swamp. There were three trucks here, the power wagon with the cages on it from the forest fire service. Two of our guys are actually volunteers and were involved. We burned all morning until after lunch and it was quite a big area. Quincy is the fire warden for this area. Burn permits are very difficult to get. It turned out very nice today. When the fire was over, Tim turned on the guns. Where else do you have a forest fire and you can turn on spray guns to help smother it down. The Forest Fire Service did not want it smoldering and going back on 55. The other thing you have with the fire is you have an inventory of seed stock sitting in the soil and waiting for that fire. The ash gives you potash and helps things grow. For native species it's great because it gets rid of the bad things we don't want growing out there.

Last week we had our DOT physicals for our operators and truck drivers. I have been in contact by email with the plant engineer and the collection system engineer with some questions with the design and future training.

We had an issue with a power loss over the weekend. A couple of weekends ago we thought one of our underground cables went and actually it was fuses in the transformer and capacitor bank. That work was done and we had to shut the plant down for about 4 or 5 hours and ran on backup and portable generator to keep the small blower running. If you don't get in there, dust and particles build up and they can arc and cause a fuse to blow out. We did a total cleaning in the area. Both of those transformers have been here

since 1989 and the capacitor bank was one of the first projects I did in 1994. That was taken care of.

Even though the agenda looks kind of slow, you can tell from the checks you are signing we are making purchases so as the weather breaks we can get in for repairs and fix things up around the plant.

The AEA conference is coming up in March and the WRA dinner is coming up on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### Field Engineer

Bob Schwarz reported that a manhole was replaced at West Avenue and Walnut Road on Monday on an emergency basis to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. We also identified an additional defective manhole on Delsea Drive behind the curb and it needs attention as well as other work in the area

The City of Millville had a pump station down and as per our interlocal services agreement we helped each other out as the need arises.

#### Solicitor:

Steve Fabietti reported that he is working with Dennis coordinating a response to an OPRA request that has come into the Authority and it's a generic request for information from one of the watch dog groups out of state from Florida. Steve also stated that we are also working on a contract negotiation which will be the subject of a future meeting.

#### Chairman: No Report

Issues and Correspondence: None

#### Committee Reports:

#### Engineering/Plant:

Dennis Palmer reported that at this point in time there have been email dialogues with both engineers on some issues that need to be resolved.

Joe Reuben asked if there was anything close to going out to bid. Dennis stated that well specs are almost done. We are out to bid currently and will be opening bids at the end of the month for the irrigation system at the farm. We were looking at well specs that were emailed late Friday. That will be coming before you to authorize advertising for the new well. The whole system at Sears is 60% complete and that is relatively close. We are looking at late spring. The plant, the pieces will roll out on their own. We currently have an ad and we are buying from one of those new co-ops. You have to put an ad out that you are buying from the co-op. The ad will run for a period of time. That will be for the

big jet truck and we will be ordering that in April as well. There are a couple of things that we will be taking action on in the next 30 days.

Joe Reuben stated that he didn't know how much it will affect us but since the Archimedes Screws are going to be replaced with stainless, but stainless prices are going up again and a lot of other steel prices are going up. Dennis replied that the center shaft will be carbon steel but the flights that go around the outside will be stainless on two of them. The other two will be carbon with a better paint or coating. They are about 21 years old and the edges are getting worn. They went into operation in 1995. They used to pump over 11mgd but now they are a little over 9mgd. It's hard to chase the prices with the economy.

Budget/Finance:

Tom Merighi reported that income is approximately \$28,870 or 3.5% over budget and expenses are approximately \$18,595 or 2.2% over budget. Accounts receivables increased approximately \$139,862. The Authority continues to be affected by the economy and is keeping a close watch on the budget.

Dennis stated that over the next 45 days we will be evaluating the Progresso situation. They are starting lay-offs in March. We will need to back into the time we will have a public hearing, notice and all of those things to deal with a rate increase.

Joe Reuben stated that they are getting ready to knock out a line right now and will be dismantling things. GE and Scalfio have big jobs and GE is supposed to go in and start taking apart the soup line soon. Dennis stated that one line is supposed to go to Missouri.

Dennis also reported that we have not forgotten about the credit cards. We had a nice presentation a couple of months ago and we ran it by our auditors and they said we needed a second bid. We believe the cost to us will be well below the bid threshold but we are trying to get some other comparison costs and Tom is expecting a second or third quote. It will help lower the number of people going on lien sale and they will have the ability to put it on their credit card and pay it off monthly. Once you are in the lien sale you have to come up with the full amount and that's why we try to keep working with them. The credit card may be another way to help bring that number down.

Human Resources: No Report

Public Relations:

Dennis reported that Debbie Marco came to the plant to see the fire and I drove her back to see the fire. We had the young lady from Stockton who is looking to become a licensed health inspector. She is doing a 200 hour internship with the health department. One thing they have to do in their educational process is visit a plant. She got to see the plant and the fire, we're spreading sludge, the tankers were moving and she got to see a lot of different things.

Tom Merighi asked if they come from the other side and Dennis stated that eventually you do. When the part with the wind burns very quickly there is no fuel so it goes through fast and the flames were about 7500 feet away. With the windows open you could feel the heat. Debbie was videotaping it and you could hear the snap crackle and pop of the pine cones and wood. It was very intense.

Part of what the burning does is that it gets rid of a lot of stuff because we had the area thinned. You can't go in and mow because you will run into stumps. Now that it has been burned all of that stuff is gone and you can work your way through. You can see where you're going because the tree stumps are not covered with green briar. It should help with the game also. There will probably be something on their website or in the paper soon.

Insurance Committee: No Report

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated that we have a couple of rebates. We have the school on Lincoln Avenue and we will be sending the rebate back to K-Land. The same will happen with Lidle. We got a call from Bottino's and we told them they are tying into you. They will get a reimbursement too once they pull a building permit. We have hundreds of homes that have been approved and we've gotten the connection fee. We put it aside and they decide they don't want to build. We want to see the building permit and construction started and we will send the check. That will happen over the next couple of weeks. At some point you will see a check to K-Land and Bottino's or whatever corporate body has Shop-Rite.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Commissioners were asked to respond to the registration deadline for AEA Conference on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and we will need a reply for the WRA dinner on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Adjournment:

At 6:24 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson and Reuben voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

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G. STEVEN ERRICKSON, Secretary