

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
January 17, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Chairman Merighi 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

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 3, 2017 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi 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 Barse that Resolution No. 2017-4, “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.....\$114,959.09...”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Reuben that Resolution No. 2017-5, “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...\$201,626.14...”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Reuben that Resolution No. 2017-6 “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority designating the official newspapers...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2017-7, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority listing payments from the 2016 Bond Issue Construction Fund adopted July 5, 2016...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Reuben that Resolution No. 2017-8, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the entrance into the Middlesex Educational Regional Services Commission...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi voted “yes”.

Perry Barse asked what kind of equipment we would be buying and Dennis stated that the other co-ops we found did not have a vacuum truck and these folks have a vacuum truck in their program. We will soon be ready to go with a two trucks we are looking at; one is the big jetter which we found under the last one we recently joined. There is a process once you award the contract you have to do a public notice but it’s similar to the state contract. This vacuum truck will be used to clean wet wells and would move the grease from the head of the plant. It’s only a vacuum truck, it doesn’t jet and it’s a lot smaller. It would be useful to go out to the pumping stations because it’s more maneuverable to clean wet wells and we have several developments where each home has their own pumping station that accumulate grease. So we go out once every couple of years to maintain them. It’s a smaller hose. The reason we are going with this one is because they have a piece of equipment we want to buy.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that in your packet was information on the Governor signing a bill where you would reduce or it’s optional so that you can help people in the military that are deployed. It would be for municipalities and Authorities. It’s your choice to what level you want to do it. When Steve was here we talked about \$50 but it’s something for us to explore. We not going to just do it until the next time we have to do any adjustments we can talk about it. We will probably need to adjust our rate structure to deal with affordable housing issues. I talked to Steve Lewis and he has gone to Trenton to talk about it and he supports it since he’s active in a veteran’s group. It has gone through both houses and signed by the governor.

We talked about the additional co-op and they have a piece of equipment we are looking for which was not available in the other co-ops. We received a HomeServe report and

they are up to almost 500 accounts. They average about two to three service calls a month. It saves our time.

This weekend I received a call from our staff and we had a pretty massive power outage in the plant. As they were making rounds the fuses blew off the line. Vineland came in and replaced the fuses and they blew again. They thought our underground line had a short in it. We found that there is another type of use in the transformer called lightning arresters and they went bad; the transformer is from 1989. They found it, repaired it and got the plant up which was down for about 12 hours. We called DEP because in our upgrade, would be to do a thorough examination the 13,000 volts coming off the pole, coming through the plant, going underground and going to the transformers. They need to be opened, cleaned up and tested. Luckily it was not the underground line. It will still cost by the time we pay for our overtime and Chamming's. Vineland Electric Utility came in three times; twice when the fuses blew then later in the day they came after the repairs were done.

I've been working with Steve on a contract for the future gas facility and some litigation with DEP. We again had a problem on Elmer Street. Bob and Anthony visited over a dozen restaurants to see what they are doing with their grease and also to deal with the residents in the area. We ordered a thousand fliers in Spanish since we already have English ones at the Authority and they basically are called "Fat Free Sewers". It talks about how you shouldn't pour grease down the drain and pour it in a can and put it in the trash and try to educate the commercial public as well as the residents. We are also going to go in and TV the line. Weekly instructions should be done where we pop the manholes to make sure there are no issues with grease accumulation. The problem is the blockage is all the way down near the new school. It goes down Elmer and makes a left and that the manhole and it backs up from there. There is a fairly new patch so we need to get the camera out there and make sure whoever did the patch didn't hit our pipe. It's a high priority to go out there. Bob and Anthony visited the restaurants and the flyers to see if they help the situation.

Tom Merighi asked if it was related to the Amish Market back up. Dennis stated that this was the second one that happened and we got a call that the line was again backed up late in the evening. Our guys worked until about two in the morning and then the cleaning people came in to sanitize. Tom asked if it was in the Market the second time and Dennis stated it was not.

Sandy is making sure that they have someone go in and install back flow preventers. Tom asked if there were preventers and Dennis stated they did not have any. In my conversation with Sandy she had talked to her engineers and there is no code requiring it and I told her it was a national code and it's on the back of our sewer bills every time we mail them out. It's in our rules and regulations.

Field Engineer

Bob Schwarz reported that the Lidl supermarket contractor, Winzinger, installed approximately 700 ft. of 8 in. PVC and two manholes on West Landis Avenue over the last two weeks. Testing will be performed in the near future.

A lateral at 1063 Almond St. was replaced by Garrison on an emergency basis since customer has no service. Work was performed on January 16, 2017 while school was out with minimum traffic.

Anthony Tobolski and I went to most of the eateries and restaurants in the area of Landis Avenue between the Boulevard and 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the side streets that connect to the existing sewer line on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street where the Authority has been having problems with excessive grease in the sewer main. We advised each facility of the importance of cleaning the grease traps and not pouring grease into the sewer. Also a bi-lingual hand out regarding grease has been ordered to be handed out to the residential users in the area.

Solicitor:

Steve Fabietti reported that Dennis touched on both items. One is I filed the brief today for the NJPDES permit fee appeal and the second is we're reviewing a contract for a potential gas project here on the Authority's property.

Chairman:

Tom Merighi stated that this is my last meeting as Chairman and it's been two good years. I continue to be impressed with the leadership and staff at the Authority. It certainly makes being Chairman easy and keep up the good work. Good luck Carlos.

Issues and Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis reported that things are quiet. We do not need final biddable prints or drawings to get the DEP permit. I want to do a parallel course as they finish their drawings and get them to where you would bid them. DEP is allowed to take 30 days for administrative review and 90 days for technical reviews. Usually it's 30 to 45 days as long as there are no problems. We want to do them parallel and not in sequence to save 45 or 60 days so we can get them to the point where we can deliver them. We will eventually do that with the collection system. If you replace in kind like a pump or motor of similar size and capacity, you don't need a permit. When it comes to the new Archimedes screws in the plant and the screens and the traveling bridge behind it that pushes the grit and grease, none will require DEP review. The one that will require it is the aeration system where we change the surface mixers to bubbles and diffused air. That piece alone will need a permit. We are also not paying permit fees. We only pay fees for changes and not upgrades to equipment.

Tom Merighi asked when we lost power; we were required to call the DEP? Dennis stated that he likes to do it and tell them up front and at the same time you claim upset and it was out of our control and we don't know what it is yet. You don't go to ACE Hardware and buy the parts like the underground wire. The copper parts are bigger than my thumb and because it's buried underground the insulation is even bigger because of the heat build up. The Electric Utility might have it. So it could be days we could be out. The backup generator is running but does not run everything in the plant. It runs the pumps in and out but the big aeration system does not run. We have a separate blower that we ran on generator so we had a little bit of air but its one sixth to one eighth the amount that is needed for real treatment.

Tom Merighi asked if there was no effect on the plant for the twelve hours out and Dennis stated that we don't know yet. It will take a day or so for the biology to respond. We can go down for eight hours and it not be a big issue. With DEP you report an upset as soon as you know it and you have five days to send a letter. If you do have non-compliance it's an affirmative defense. If you have an effluent violation you could have potentially been fined for, you followed the reporting procedures and made the notice as soon as you could and it's within 24 hours by phone and written within five days. Bill is running a chronology of events. We called our DEP inspector Millie to let her know it was coming. Some of the tests we take are five day tests like the BOD tests. It's a process you follow to protect yourself against inappropriate finds if you qualify for an upset or an affirmative defense.

Budget/Finance:

Joe Reuben reported that accounts receivables decreased approximately \$273,330. Dennis stated that Tom is still doing adjustments for the first 16 days of the month.

Human Resources: None

Public Relations:

Dennis stated that the cards that were sent were enjoyable. We did get a request dealing with the County and another economic group want to do the trip to Washington. They are looking for a donation. Steve's Authority was approached and they are joining in. I support it from the many years I was at the Chamber. We stopped when the economy went down in 2010. What we do is we support a hospitality or meet and greet room and the cost to get in is your business card and they all go to county economic development and reach out to those people to consider Cumberland County if you are going to open a business. They play up the aspects and particularly in Vineland's case with competitive costs on water sewer and electricity. Generally the land pricing here compared to other areas and access we have to roadways, refrigeration and warehousing is something I like to support. Most people responded positively. The County needs to get business here. Steve and I were talking about a couple of projects that are very exciting that could

happen. The County needs more and even if it's not right here it still helps the county's tax base and employees live all over the County.

Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci reported that there was nothing for insurance but under the heading of Safety, mandatory CPR/AED training is scheduled to begin on January 24<sup>th</sup> and is required by the state on the plant side but voluntary on the admin side. Annual DOT physicals begin the second week in February starting the 6<sup>th</sup>. They will take a two week period of time for everyone to move through that. Everyone is required to get some sort of physical. DOT drivers have to take the complete physical and non-CDL staff have to take the required physical which is the pulmonary function test and a look see.

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated only the bill on deployment and another bill for an adjustment in our rate structure. We are evaluating the Progresso position and we will look to capture that all at once when we do a rate hearing.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment:

At 6:23 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Errickson and seconded by Reuben that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Barse, Reuben, Errickson, Villar and Merighi voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

---

G. STEVEN ERRICKSON, Secretary