

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
September 5, 2017

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Chairman Villar 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
Stephen D. Barse	Solicitor
Carol A. Ricci	Executive Assistant

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Errickson that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 21, 2017 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Errickson and Villar voted "yes". Merighi and Reuben abstained.

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 Reuben that Resolution No. 2017-82, "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...\$63,848.78", be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson, Reuben and Villar voted "yes".

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2017-83, "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...\$260,649.08”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson, Reuben and Villar voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2017-84 “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the award of an Alternate Method Contract with Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey to provide a fully insured healthcare plan...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson, Reuben and Villar voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Errickson that Resolution No. 2017-85, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the Executive Director to executive contract documents for a conservation program...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson, Reuben and Villar voted “yes”.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that a lot has been going on. We are working with Gruccio Pepper’s office on our NJPDES fees and we have an ongoing matter in the Appellate Division but also annually they sent us our fees. We went to a public hearing, raised comments and we do written comments asking for the fees to be adjusted. To maintain our rights, we also worked on filing for an adjudicatory hearing.

The weather station is up and running on line. You can now get Vineland weather if you use that link. You have to cut and paste it and put it up in your browser and save it. It’s closer than Millville Airport. Tom Merighi asked what the link was and Dennis stated that it was long and he would resend it. The link is on the LSA Facebook page. We worked with the office of Emergency Management and the outgoing fire chief. The idea is now that there is something in Vineland. If you have an overturned tractor trailer on 55 and it’s leaking, you have local wind speed and wind direction. There are several rail lines that run down the boulevard and east and west, if you had a rail car accident you would again have local wind speed and direction amongst other things contained on the station. It is also tied into Rutgers. It gives you relative humidity, farmers and landscapers can have access to it. It’s run by solar power.

We met with the land appraiser and had discussions and he had placed Sears on notice and he is required to notify them by certified mail, hoping it would light a fire under them but we will move forward on that project.

Today we had a meeting with Mott MacDonald for the 60% design for Ramada. We discussed the next project which is five or six pumping stations with mechanical upgrades and we also talked about the Sears station. They will be wrapping that up as well as their Ramada design. The other is in Trenton and we should have the permit here

next week; I continue to pester them. You will see something on the next meeting regarding Ramada authorizing me to send it to DEP and sign the forms.

I had a phone call discussion with our plant designer. You received in your package on the connection fee calculation. We will hold on to that. Progresso is closed totally. We had our last flow readings just recently. We will send them a bill and switch them to an employee base until F & S gets in there and gets going.

This month was the biggest month ever on the Receiving Station. \$13,000 in income from 200,000 gallons. Every month may sound small but when you multiply those numbers by 12 it has a nice benefit for the budget.

We will be having a meeting this week with one of the industries in the Industrial Park who has been giving us a problem with low pH so hopefully we can work on that.

I sent Finance Committee an email for discussion probably at the next meeting and Sun Bank is being taken over by First Ocean. They had two meetings with us; one was just a VP person and the second was someone who does government relations and accounting or banking to look at the numbers we have and we'll have that for the next meeting.

On legal I've been working with Steve Fabietti on the NJPDES fees and also at the next meeting we will have a closed session on the OPRA litigation.

On the conservation grant, having meetings with those groups actually paid dividends of \$20,000 from USDA via NJ Audubon. NJ Audubon is also going to add another \$2700 for projects out there in the conservation area.

Field Engineer

The Landis Square Development installed a dog house manhole on Myrtle Street just south of Landis AS well as a 6-inch lateral last week.

We attended a pre-construction meeting at the County Engineer's office for the Wheat Road repaving project between Delsea Drive and North West Boulevard. Construction of drainage and curbing will start in a couple of weeks. South State is the contractor.

We attended a pre-construction meeting for the Washington Avenue repaving project at City Hall. Construction will begin in a couple of weeks. South State is the Contractor.

Solicitor: No Report

Chairman: No Report

Issues and Correspondence:

Dennis stated that he would like a motion to purchase two large pumps on the aeration system. There are several different projects over the next months and instead of paying our engineer to design something and paying a contractor, we are going to do some of these things directly ourselves. We have pumps up there but we need to put two larger pumps on the aeration deck.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Reuben that the Executive Director be authorized to go out to bid to purchase 2 T-12 Gorman Rupp pumps or equivalents. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Errickson, Reuben and Villar voted "yes".

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis stated that he wanted to add is that a few months ago we advertised and awarded the contract for paving for trenches that have settled and those kinds of things. We did about \$80,000 in paving through the end of July and August to beat the school buses. We took care of a lot of trenches and different places in town before there was a lot more traffic and the school buses were rolling.

Budget/Finance:

Dennis stated that the budget is being worked on now. We are asking for capital items and Tom is working on the budget for the next year.

Human Resources: No Report

Public Relations:

Dennis stated that he did a short article at the Chamber meeting on the weather station.

Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci reported that in your packet there was a memo regarding the major medical renewal. We did well. I reworked the census and Horizon had some incorrect numbers for census and it actually came out to an 8% increase that was down from 12.5%. The people that were on the EPO plan and were using the Healthy Dollars Mastercard decided to stay with the EPO plan because we brought the reimbursements inhouse. We had so much trouble with the cards because of the split copay and the doctors' offices don't update their Mastercard machines. It was a hassle from the beginning. We're reimbursing the employees for the other piece of the copay once a month at the second meeting. We picked up about \$4800 in savings.

I also received word from the folks at Cynergy that Mutual of Omaha, who provides our Live, Long Term Disability and AD & D is renewing our plan for another two years at the same rate we have now.

Carlos Villar asked if the \$4800 was the charges from the Mastercard? Carol Ricci replied that this is the administrative fees from Healthy Dollars to manage the plan. So we're doing it in house. It's 10 people so it's not a massive amount of work and we'll handle it just as we do the dental and vision when you bring in a paid receipt and we'll reimburse you.

Perry Barse asked if during the last meeting or before, were you talking about our health package and did it go down this year? Carol replied we were up only a small percentage and the year before we had no increase. Perry stated that you were talking about one of the insurance packages. Carol replied that it was first 12.5% and then it went down to 8.5% and when I reworked the census it came down to 8%. Perry asked if all health packages went up 8.5% and Carol stated yes from last year's premium for Horizon only.

Carlos asked if it is apples to apples and Carol stated yes. Tom Merighi stated that they are talking about the prescription plan. Carol stated that the prescription plan allowed us to give people money back last year and that's a July 1st renewal. Perry asked if that rate went down this year and Carol stated that the prescription rate stayed the same because that was a fixed rate for three years. Also, the reason we went up 8% is because we had a claim that went over the \$50,000 stop loss for a total of \$400,000 plus in medical payments. That was a big reason for the increase. Carol also stated that we are in really good shape since the NJ State Health Plan was horrendous up 30.35% over what we renewed, Aetna was 26% and they really don't want us because we're too small and AmeriHealth was 29% over our renewal rate. Both of these companies will not insure us unless we take their prescription plan. Why should we when we're doing so well on prescriptions and the big insurers change the formularies constantly. People are getting bumped from their regular meds once something gets popular.

Dennis stated that this is the biggest shell game out there. People start taking drugs at one level and then it pops up and your copays rise. Carol Ricci added that when Chantix first was introduced there were a lot of people who wanted to quit smoking and Chantix was really proven. This was really a successful method. That was our first year with Horizon prescription plan. We had several people that started the therapy and in the middle of the therapy Horizon pulled it and stated that they were not funding it anymore. It's not a covered drug. Every week it changed and as Dennis stated it was a shell game. Mid-term with Horizon, we dropped the prescription plan and went self-funded.

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated that he had a meeting last week with the City economic development people over at the County College. There is a new food processor that may want to come

down and they had a professional locator there. We gave them numbers, what our costs are and it's an out of state person so there's a lot of grow New Jersey dollars, huge numbers actually, to get them to locate and it would mean dozens and dozens of jobs for food processing. In doing so, I compared what our competition is; Millville, Bridgeton, Upper Deerfield and their connection fees also. We are still the most competitive. Millville is a little lower on connection fees by a small amount but in about eight months you would break even because our user fees are significantly less than theirs.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment:

At 6:16 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, Merighi, Errickson, Reuben and Villar voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

G. STEVEN ERRICKSON, Secretary