

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2019

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

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
Anthony Tobolski	Field Engineer
A. Steven Fabietti	Solicitor
Carol A. Ricci	Executive Assistant
Ryder James	Shift Manager

It was moved by Villar and seconded by Merighi that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 3, 2019 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted “yes”.

Dennis Palmer presented a 30-year service award to Ryder James.

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. 2019-89, “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.... \$73,173.16”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2019-90, “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... \$372,358.84”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2019 – 91, “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, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Errickson and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2019-92, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an alternate method contract with Mott MacDonald for engineering and design services...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted “yes”.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that the fourth blower has arrived and it will be located in the plant. There are major things we’re waiting for. The headworks equipment has been here. They will be on that job in the next two weeks. The third Archimedes screw was grouted last week but it’s not quite ready for service and the fourth one will be started on tomorrow.

Dennis also reported that last week he went to the Energy Management Plan for the State that the governor is pushing which is zero carbon by 2050. It was the normal cast of characters with a lot of street theater going on and people with signs. It basically envisions that by 2025 that no new homes can use natural gas for heating. Every home and building and everything in the State will be converted to heat pumps at some point in time. There will be no more fossil fuels and everything will be electrified. I stated at the hearing that I hear a lot of talk today and a lot of people talk the talk but our Authority walks the walk. We planted 100,000 trees, we have solar panels, we have a wind turbine, we have combined heat and power, we’re making energy from food waste and we have plug in vehicles, but there has to be a seat at the energy table for diesel and natural gas. I talked about resiliency and redundancy. We need back up power with batteries that store from wind and solar which sounds nice but when you get into multi-day and multi-week power outages like Sandy or the derecho, our longest station was without power for seven days. You need diesel and natural gas. We have a mandate to be 24/7 for the public health and we are also mandated to improve our infrastructure and do asset management. I introduced myself as a licensed engineer and farmer. No one talked about farmers so I spoke about farmers and how we’ve been farming for 25 years. The heart of a farm is a tractor and the life blood of farming is diesel fuel. Tractors and other equipment run on diesel fuel and most farms have a well in the middle of the field that’s powered by a

diesel pump because it's too far from the power lines on the road. If you like farm to fork, it's done; if you like your roadside stand or farm market it's done. Everything will come from Florida. Then I spoke about South Jersey and its huge maritime industry. We have commercial and recreational fishermen. We have the second largest scallop fleet and clam boats. They all go out for weeks. They can't plug in a boat that runs for weeks. If you do a canyon run. It's a whole day. What will happen to that industry? You had a lot of people there who were anti-fracking, anti-gas, the environment is bad, how public service is shutting off the electricity for people who can't pay their bills. There was a lot of beating up on public service and there were a lot of public service employees there who were meter readers, and public service is going to electronic meters. I told them that heat pumps don't work in a polar vortex if you're north of Virginia. You need supplemental heat. I stated that if I was an investor and you were pushing heat pumps, I'd be investing in wood burning stoves. I told them all of the good things we were doing and tell them this is the real world.

Tomorrow is a pre-construction meeting on the paving project. We had a pre-construction meeting last week on Contract No. 6 which is the multiple pipeline contract around the city. That contract has been signed with the proper paperwork. The bonds and insurance are in on the paving project and we have to sign the contract hopefully tomorrow and we'll coordinate with them on the Notice to Proceed.

We have a meeting with City Hall on project coordination on Thursday afternoon. We will bring a copy of Contract No. 6 because of the openings all around the city.

Field Engineer: No Report

Solicitor:

Steve Fabietti reported that as a reminder before the Sears Bankruptcy, we had a case pending with them where the Authority condemned an easement at the Sears location for the work that had to be done. The easement was taken recorded and we had the work done. It's all history, nor was the Authority's ability to take the easement contested. The issue was what is the value that Sears is entitled to for that easement to be taken. We had an appraisal. We paid the money to the Court; it was between \$6000 and \$8000 and I've been trying to track down someone at Sears who can help us get this concluded because they are not pursuing the case evidently. They have informed the commissioner that was assigned by the Court to conduct a hearing as to the value and has informed the court that Sears is not doing anything so he's not going to be scheduling a hearing. I'm trying to guess that the money is sitting in the Court and it has to go someplace. It won't come back to the Authority because the Authority is not entitled to it. I'm working on getting us to the finish line on the matter.

Dennis asked if we could have summary judgment. Steve is asking for guidance from the commissioners since he will not be scheduling a hearing and I need to know what I am entitled to do at this point.

Chairman: No Report

Issues and Correspondence: It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that the Executive Director be authorized to advertise for the construction of a pumping station and force main to serve the SPCA. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted "yes".

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis reported that we had some email conversations with DEP where they wanted some clarifications that were sent up on Monday or Tuesday of last week. Another email was sent and they agreed with what was in our email so we anticipate that by the end of the month we will have the permit and we will be finalizing a bid document with the requirements. We have the permit and we're ready to go and I didn't want to wait until our next meeting if it should come in this week. Bernie is working on the bid tab sheet and we have to make sure the insurance names us, the county and the improvement authority as additional insureds. We're all involved.

Budget/Finance:

Tom Merighi reported that income is approximately \$393,991 or 5.52% over budget and expenses are approximately \$74,816 or 1.05% over budget. Accounts receivables decreased approximately \$225,037.

Dennis stated that we put notices to the banks that if their mortgagees have liens and are going to tax sale. The banks usually don't like that because the tax sale is ahead of their mortgages. A lot of times they come in and pay it and they pump up the person's escrow to recover the money. It's great for us because we get a lot off the books and we get our money. The banks didn't do that in 2009, 2009 and 2010.

We had a discussion with the City over a billing issue of flow based customer.

Human Resources

Dennis stated that the two new employees have started and I think we will be very happy with them. They seem very positive. Carol has been working with them. We're happy they have joined us. They are Luz and Cari.

Public Relations:

Dennis stated that next week on Wednesday, about twenty wildlife biologists from the Northeast are coming to New Jersey with Audubon and we're one of the sights they will be visiting.

Insurance Committee: No Report

Allocations/Administration: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment:

At 6:20 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Errickson and seconded by Merighi that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Errickson and Reuben voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

CARLOS VILLAR, Secretary