

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
September 6, 2022

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, Villar, Angelo and Reuben were present. Miranda was absent.

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
Anthony Tobolski	Field Engineer
Joseph Ruth	Solicitor
Nancy Lagerholm	Administrative Assistant

It was moved by Villar and seconded by Barse that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 15, 2022 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Villar, Angelo and Reuben 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 Villar and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2022 – 79 “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.... \$156,905.07”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Villar and seconded by Barse that Resolution No. 2022 - 80, “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.... \$385,726.28”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2022 - 81, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority adjusting allocation category and capacity...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2022 – 82, “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, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Dennis stated that Carol’s memo there were comparisons between our plan to the State plan. It’s competitive now and it will be even more competitive when the new rates come in in December. We always look where we stand against the State plan and their rates and it’s better.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2022 – 83, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the award of an alternate method contract with Health Insurance solutions/Express Scripts and Impax Rx Services to provide a self-insurance prescription medication plan...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Dennis also stated that Carol’s memo indicated that the rates are flat. This reflects a younger census and its to the benefit of the plan and to the employee also.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that you have the HomeServe Commission report and I just received the numbers on the receiving station. The numbers are lower than they were but they are starting to come back up.

Also, I had a zoom meeting with the County. We are in a couple of co-ops which consists of us and another town. Marianette and I were in the meeting for buying electricity, not for here because Vineland Electric is our municipal but for the farm. We’ll see if we get a better rate by joining their co-op. It’s a bigger group. Transmission is the same. They’re going out to bid soon. The second thing they have with their co-op is we can buy cold patch and hot mix asphalt. The County went out for bid for that so there are times we need to patch a spot, sometimes its temporary patch, but the cold patch we can buy. Anthony stated that cold patch is \$150 and it was \$105 a year or two ago. We also talked about the recognition dinner.

Field Engineer

Anthony Tobolski reported that we have a bid opening for trench restoration on Walnut Road tomorrow, September 7th. Also, we are getting prices to replace and relocate a broken main at the northwest corner of Landis and Mill Road. Right now, the main runs between the traffic light standard and a telephone pole on an angle to a manhole on Mill Road. We are going to have it go straight to a new manhole.

Solicitor: No Report

Chairman: No Report

Issues and Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis reported that Mott MacDonald came back with three or four alternatives for Mill Road for the pipe that's corroded. It's \$1.3 million. We have to look at the most serious problem and that's the deep work that's near the headworks. The manhole is in terrible shape where it makes a turn. The gases got stirred up and it drops down maybe 8 feet. That's the worst spot should it ever collapse. They have to come back with an engineering design proposal and work on some bid specs to do the lower section. We'll sit down and evaluate that maybe this is something we could go to the wastewater trust. We didn't do it for a couple of reasons. One of the main reasons we didn't do it in 2016 was the 1993 bond had some restricted covenants in it. They went away in 2019 so with the infrastructure trust you get half the market rate and because we're in an overburdened community, there is sometimes principal forgiveness when you go in for a project under the infrastructure trust because of our census track. That's a potential way to get cheaper money and lower money and not tap out our reserves so we enough for other projects. I would like to put a bigger co-gen in and we have another lining job by the railroad tracks off of East Avenue. We found asbestos pipe with no bottom. Our first plan is to come in and do the worst part which is the deepest part. We may not have to go into the deepest part because it's dry right now. The ground water is low so now is the time to get in and do it.

I toured the farm with Dan and the corn is not in bad shape. We lock in a 5,000-bushel contract in the beginning of the season and see what the price is. Then we let the rest of it ride on the market. It's been dry in a lot of places and we're probably going to beat the price in the spring we got the first 5,000 bushels and whatever we have remaining. We've been bringing in hay last week and it doesn't last in the barn. People are waiting to come in and we've started to ration it so it's 30 to 50 bales a person so you don't have a broker come in and try to buy 250 bales. We try to spread it around because we have some long-term customers and we want to reward them for being long term customers and not lose

them. Otherwise, the farm is not too bad. The hayfields look better than I thought but the areas that didn't get rain are burned up. The Teff fields are in pretty good shape. It's a sub-Saharan grass and once it gets water and it seeds and sprouts, it handles draught very well. It grows so thick it actually keeps the crab grass out. When there's crab grass in the field then we call it mixed grass hay. We still sell it and people buy it. It's harder to dry.

Budget/Finance:

Dennis stated that if you get the newspaper, we had a couple pages of the tax sale notice. It's accelerated because it's usually late in the season but it's been moved forward and the numbers are definitely a little different. We thought last year with the stimulus checks that people would pay their bills. In 2022 we're at 1295. Last year it was 1085. There's an increase of about 210. Letters went out in July and dropped it down to 889 and last year it was 744. The number is coming down. Accounts advertised in the paper are 605 and in 2021 it was 465 so its another increase of 140. We did have Wells Fargo send us a nice stack of checks. Our sewer lien is ahead of a mortgage just like municipal taxes are ahead of a mortgage. The big mortgage companies don't want to stand in line. They want to be first and then they'll just bump the peoples' escrow numbers up. We have higher numbers than last year and we'll be going in September 15th. The city keeps moving it up. It used to be in late October. The numbers are definitely trending higher this year.

Human Resources:

Dennis reported that one of our Shift Managers has left and we're in the midst of promoting one of our staff and we have a notice on the board to fill his position and after that we'll fill another position.

Public Relations:

Dennis reported that this Thursday we have an event with Audubon and National Resource. They try to encourage landowners to planting trees and white cedars which are normal to the areas and they are hosting it here. We're also going to do a tour to show them what we've done with our woodlands and our habitat for game and non-game birds. Bow season is upon us and hopefully our guys will be out there. Also, there is an article in a national magazine with 30,000 members. When I was in DC you go down with your congressional representative and talk about infrastructure funding. There tends to be a lot of it. This year they are talking about PFOS and PFOA. If Congress declares them under RCRA, the spill fund has this waste fund that if it's coming in from a treatment plant, we would not be considered a RCRA facility because we don't make the stuff, it comes to us and we do our best removing and treating it. Another talking point was to have water and wastewater facilities considered a RCRA type facility which is a mega-world of pain.

Insurance Committee:

Dennis stated you have the items from Carol and you took action on Resolution No. 82 and 83 dealing with healthcare and prescription plan.

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated that we have some projects in house and we've had people asking us for will-serve letters which will hopefully generate a project. Once they go through the process, early on they want to know if they have an option on the property can I get water and sewer. Quite often in the world of land-development you have a will-serve letter from the utilities that says yes, you're in our service area and our wastewater management plan. We have sewer nearby and here's the location and yes, we'll serve you as long as you file an application, pay your fees, etc. We have a couple of those out there.

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 Villar and seconded by Barse that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Barse, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

CARLOS VILLAR, Secretary