

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2023

Pledge of Allegiance.

Dennis Palmer turned the over to the Solicitor to chair the meeting for the nominations.

The regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority was called to order by Solicitor Stephen D. Barse at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present at roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben were present.

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

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

Solicitor Barse administered the oath of office to Ryan R. Headley who has been appointed to the Authority Board of Commissioners.

Solicitor Barse stated that the first order of business is the election of the slate of officers. before me is the slate of nominations consisting of the following:

Joseph J. Reuben, Chairman
Alan R. Angelo, Vice Chairman
Ryan R. Headley, Secretary
Yarilee J. Miranda, Treasurer
Perry D. Barse, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

It was moved by Miranda and seconded by Angelo that the slate of officers be nominated. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Are there any other nominations to come forward? There were none. It was moved by Miranda and seconded by Barse that the nominations be closed. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 – 10, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority confirming the appointment of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Chairman Joseph J. Reuben commenced with the regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority asking for a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 17, 2023.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 17, 2023 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”. Headley 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 Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 – 11, “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.... \$157,027.38”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 - 12, “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.... \$369,845.82”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 – 13, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage authority authorizing an agreement for the services of Cumberland Advisors/Cumberland Consulting as financial advisor from February 4, 2023 through February 3, 2024...” be adopted. Roll: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 – 14, “a Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the award of an alternate method contract for auditing services with Romano, Hearing, Testa & Knorr, CPA for the period February 4, 2023 through February 3, 2024...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that Resolution No. 2023 – 15, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing an alternate method contract for solicitor and legal services with Gruccio, Pepper, DeSanto & Ruth, P.A. for the period of

February 4, 2023 through February 3, 2024...” be adopted. Roll call: Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”. Barse abstained.

It was moved by Miranda and seconded by Angelo that Resolution No. 2023 – 16, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority Rescinding Resolution No. 2023 – 5...” be adopted. Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023-17, “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, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that Resolution No. 2023 – 18, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority allocating sewerage capacity for Round 203 for commercial classification...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 – 19, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority summarizing allocation activity through the close of Allocation Round 203...” be adopted. Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2023 – 20, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an interlocal services agreement with Cumberland County Improvement Authority to help fund the collection of household hazardous waste...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2024 -21, “ A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the award of a contract to Landberg Construction LLC in the amount of \$108,000 for restoration of existing sewer trenches throughout the City of Vineland...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that tonight was our reorganization meeting. We took action on our professional contracts and a new appointment to the Authority. In your package you had the hauler’s list and it was a good month; the numbers are coming back up. We’re doing a better job on screening clients so they don’t have the products we don’t want coming in the plant and that’s why our numbers went down a couple of months ago. They had the quat disinfectant that hammers the plant.

There was a round table work group on NJPDS permit fees. It something that we've been in litigation for several times. They propose to adopt new rules some time next spring which addresses most of the issues we brought. For 15 to 18 years the minimum fee has not changed. Many of us that are larger dischargers have carried the brunt of increased overhead, salaries and fringe that have been passed up. They are going to make a more predictable program where they assign you your fee based on the flow. I still have been arguing that it should be actual flow and not a permanent flow.

The week after this meeting there was a hearing on this year's fees and we still got whipsawed and that was the letter in your package. We still went up by 20%. The worst year our permit fee went from \$16,000 to \$90,000 in one year. It's hard to rationalize that. Once the new rules come into effect and they agree with our flow basis, it will be interesting to see what it does to the administrative hearing.

Stephen Barse added that he sent the letter in October, 2020 and we never heard anything. You can't just take an appeal. You have to send a letter and say what you want to do and the DEP reviews it and schedules an administrative hearing. If you disagree with that you go before the administrative law judge and they review that and then you go to the appellate division. We didn't hear anything and in late January, we received a letter stating we acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 3rd and we'll get back to you shortly and its been two years. We marked it in our audit that it's out there as a potential matter and we've done the right thing by it. If they change these rules, will they be retroactive. If they do adopt, hopefully they'll say here is your new fee and we just start paying from that point forward and they forget about the rest, it would be the right thing to do. Dennis stated that they are not good at following up on things. It will be another argument to support our cause that they've just been late in adopting even though we've been bringing it up for a decade or more.

Dennis stated that you saw the quarterly report to the City. We received the payment for Cavallo Drive today for the work we've done there so we've been reimbursed for the costs. We've been working with Dan with a voluminous EPA report that is due annually on our biosolids and sludge.

Field Engineer

Anthony Tobolski stated that he had a meeting with Bruce Turner the architect from CCIA and he is going to try to design and build the union workers building within the parameters that I gave him.

Dennis stated that they already have contracts out for concrete slab on grade so you don't have to go out and bid it. It's already done and they have a package with a number of things you can pick from. Our union employees are in a double wide trailer for 35 years and it's structurally becoming a problem. It's cramped and with COVID it was compromised. The triple wide back here burned so some of that money is in the budget and it's in the renewal and replacement fund to go towards a building that has more

space. Dennis stated it was a pole barn building that is heated, air conditioned and insulated.

Solicitor:

Stephen Barse stated that he had a comment on the lease arrangement we've been talking about and we're very close to a final document. They responded with the changes I suggested and the only thing that is left is what the increase is going to be, whether it will be from term to term or year to year and how much it will be; will be a percent.

Dennis stated they talked about CPI and that doesn't work with a long term energy project. They stated they could raise the percentage increase but the number has to go down so it balances. They price out a project and this is what they're willing to pay.

Dennis stated that there's a second project that Stephen and I just started talking about and it's about an easement for the City for a power line to solar panels. Another firm is looking for an easement across the farm, Indian Head, the wetlands and into the Authority's property. It's another lease and the City is looking for an additional power source.

Chairman:

Joe Reuben welcomed Brian Headley to the Board of Commissioners.

Issues and Correspondence:

It was moved by Barse and seconded Miranda to make salary adjustments in accordance with the January 23, 2023 memo to and approved by the Personnel Committee. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

It was moved by Miranda and seconded by Barse that the Executive Director be authorized to advertise for a small diameter pressure sewer and to install a pre-purchased E One pump station to serve Fiocchi Field. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis reported that we opened bids on paving last week and they came in at around \$17,000 under and that is the resolution we just took action on. This is for miscellaneous paving for street settling in town.

On February 8th, we're doing monthly Zoom meetings on Down Township in Fortesque and their progress with their treatment plant. It will be out to bid soon and the long term plan is to do shared service where we may provide operators to help operate the plant and

we will be reimbursed. It's been a long process and they have all of their approvals and sign-offs from DEP and other sources of funding as they build a treatment plant, collection system and a pumping station. Half of the town will be a regular collection system with a pumping station and the other half will be E One pumps for their systems.

Budget/Finance: No Report

Human Resources:

Dennis reported that we have a new person who started on the Road Crew and intern student left last week for the University of Delaware.

Public Relations:

Dennis reported that we are talking about the weekend before Earth Day out in the wooded area with vendor booths, Boy Scouts, plants and seeds to plant.

Insurance Committee: No Report

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated you have a summary tonight on some items and we're working with the City on a property they want to purchase and they need to know how close sewer is to that location. It's 700 feet one way and 1100 to the middle of the property. It's either gravity or put a pump there.

Old Business:

New Business: None

Adjournment: None

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

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

RYAN R. HEADLEY, Secretary