

**THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
May 15, 2023**

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

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 1, 2023 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes". Headley abstained.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that the reading of the minutes of the closed meeting held on May 1, 2023 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, 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 Angelo that Resolution No. 2023-47 "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.... \$110,942.33", be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that Resolution No. 2023-48, "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.... \$303,061.56", be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that Resolution No. 2023-49, "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, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that Resolution No. 2023-50, "A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the exclusion of the public from a meeting between the Landis Sewerage Authority, its General Counsel and Administrative Personnel to discuss a proposed contract and related matters falling within the attorney client privilege..." be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

At 6:03 p.m. it was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that the regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority be closed to the public. Roll call: Barse, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

At 6:10 p.m. it was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that the regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority be opened to the public. Roll call: Barse, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer thanked the Board for the last 30 years.. He stated this was his 710th meeting and its his Cal Ripken number. Last week was the NJ Water Environment Association which is the oldest member association in the country and it was created in 1915 and it's a member of the larger National Water Environment Federation that goes back to 1928. Dennis stated that he knew he was getting an award but he didn't know which one. My whole family was there and it was the last award and I was inducted into the Wastewater Hall of Fame. It was very nice. Also, Citizens United is giving me an award on the 20th.

Steve and I have been working on the lease for the solar panel project. That is the elevated project that is going above the beds. Alan had the question regarding the Letter of Intent but it was just a stepping stone to get a lease document.

We were given advanced notice that the two reasons on the natural gas projects were the cost of pipe, steel and metal which are up 40% from the original prices. You're talking about a billion dollar project so 40% starts to get your attention and the other one is the

uncertainty with Washington and Trenton administrations on its future. The lease we have has payments and it also has a specific clause on how you terminate it. We have not been notified or otherwise. There should be checks coming in until termination is conducted the way it's laid out in the contract.

We have bid openings tomorrow for Fiocchi Field. It's a modest project with small diameter pipe with a lot of interest. There have been a dozen people requesting bid packages for a small project. We'll see if their numbers reflect competitive pricing but the price of everything is up. On June 8th is the Mill Road bid opening. We handled the Fiocchi Field bid but the other one is through an internet service where you buy plans on line or through the engineer's office.

Dennis also reported that we have a meeting this week which was a front-page story in our paper about the city running out of gas for the power plant. It will be around a \$2 to \$4 million dollar fine. At the same time, we were being asked to drop electric load. We paid to do this. I emailed them and said we're not looking for a winter shut down. I don't care if we get paid less because we can't do that to our staff and equipment. I want to sit with the staff in an exit meeting to talk about the next contract coming up about going for the lower amount and making it a warm. weather event.

The Water Resource Association is coming through for a tour next week to see our facilities.

Joe Reuben stated that he asked a local contractor if he was going to bid on this project and the contractor stated that you have to be union and pay a fee to bid on a public project. Dennis stated that you have to have a registration as a public works contractor and you have to pay prevailing wage and also a BRC. They are pushing more and more that contractors have to be involved with an apprentice program which means you have to be union. You have several legislators who push that over and over again.

Field Engineer No Report

Solicitor: No Report

Chairman:

Joe Reuben told Dennis that it's been a great 19 ½ years with you. You definitely made the board's job a lot easier because you are always prepared and I thank Perry for hiring you. Dennis stated it has worked really well using the committee program, going to committees first and then the board. Perry took me to city hall and introduced me to everyone. After putting up the American Flag in front of the building we moved on to a lot of projects. At that time, we were under a sewer ban. We got the underground pumping station working and we got together with Pete on that project. There were a lot of great experiences and thank you for letting me push the envelope with other things like the turkey hunts, the kids and it's really appreciated.

Perry stated that when we had dinner the night before, I just asked you to be a leader and do what you have to do. You also turned Bob Schwarz into an outstanding field engineer after he spent some time with you. Tyler is not coming in with the burden that Bob had and we figured out what we wanted and he was terrific and I'm sure this will work out well with you also.

Joe congratulated and wished Dennis a good retirement as well as the rest of the Board.

Issues and Correspondence:

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Angelo that the Authority's S-4 operator be compensated in accordance with the Executive Director's recommendation effective June 1, 2023. Roll call: Barse, Headley, Angelo and Rueben voted "yes".

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

DEP came out with new regulations some time ago and their starting to implement them now on methane. It was directed a little more toward landfills, natural gas filling stations, natural gas pipelines, refineries and other things. We do have methane in our digester and it makes us now file for a new permit that deals with tracking methane. 99% of ours goes to either flare, our boilers and our co-gen unit and it's burned so its not released directly. Pure methane is four or five times more of a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. It's significant. Through that process and we're working through our air pollution consultant. As we have to go through the methane permitting process, it then triggers as a new source with our biosolids program that we have to go through an environmental justice process which is a new set of rules and there's an administrative order that expands it.

It first dealt with treatment plants over 50 mgd but now its talking about sludge handling facilities. We just handle food waste and they consider that sludge. It's going to be a series of hurdles for many months filing for the permit and filing whatever package is required in the environmental justice program which would include a public hearing. This census track is surprising with the landfill, the chicken plant and the treatment plant and how much land we have we're in an EJ area. The population is of a certain income, English as a second language and several other categories and most of Vineland punches that ticket because the categories are so broad. We will probably need some assistance with the package for environmental justice in an overburdened community. This all hit last week.

Budget/Finance:

Perry Barse reported that income is \$63,830 or 1.6% over budget and expenses are \$697,869 or 17.6% over budget. Accounts receivables decreased \$153,031. Perry stated that we don't hear a disparity like this normally between income and expenses. Dennis

stated that we had the one time pension payment that's \$400 to \$500,000 alone and we brought a couple of capital items too. Our big billing is June so we just went out with \$1.2 million at the beginning of May so that money has not flowed in.

Human Resources:

Dennis stated that we have our new intern Josh that started today from Rowan and he's an mechanical engineering student. I only have a little time with him and he was in the lab today.

Dennis stated that under issues and correspondence, there will be a passing of paperwork that I have to send to DEP that I am no longer the S4 operator of record and also, we'll do the same one for Adam that makes him the operator of record.

Public Relations: No Report

Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci stated that mercifully enough for the last meeting I have no report. I know that insurance isn't the most exciting subject. I just want to congratulate you on your retirement. Guess you're not going to change your mind.

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated that Anthony has been fielding some phone calls on projects. Hopefully they come to fruition.

Old Business:

New Business:

Joe Reuben asked Dennis if there was any word on Utopia and Dennis stated that he wrote an email today to the person who is working on it asking what's going on. In October she stated it's done and it's working its way toward the New Jersey Register and since that time until now it has to go to the commissioner's office then to the governor's office. These are existing homes with septic issues, it's not vacant land and a new project with issues. I called Mike Testa and asked if he can help these people out and get some action and I've been copying Kathy too. They're giving Fortescue a lot of issues and I think there are some areas they just don't want to see developed and the bay is one. They are also looking at the sea level rise and they're going to spend money on this treatment plant and will the homes and plant still be there. They're using sea level rise models that are significantly more than anyone else in the country. Utopia is not a new home project; it's existing homes with septic issues.

Adjournment: None

At 6:31 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, Headley, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

RYAN R. HEADLEY, Secretary