

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 2021

Pledge of Allegiance.

Dennis Palmer asks the Solicitor to Chair the meeting for the nomination of Vice-chairman.

Stephen Barse opens the nominations for the election of Alan Angelo as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. The Solicitor asked if there were any other nominations and since there were no further nominations, the Solicitor announced that he would entertain a motion that the nominations be closed. It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that the nomination for Alan Angelo as Vice-chairman be closed. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar and Reuben voted yes. Angelo abstained.

Stephen Barse then asked for a motion to elect the Alan Angelo as Vice-Chairman. It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Alan Angelo be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar and Reuben voted "yes". Angelo abstained.

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, Angelo 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
	Anthony Tobolski	Field Engineer
	Stephen D. Barse	Solicitor
	Carol A. Ricci	Executive Assistant

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 7, 2021 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, 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 Merighi and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 – 83, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority confirming the appointment of Vice-Chairman...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 – 84 “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.... \$75,655.43”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 - 85, “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.... \$318,424.91”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 - 86, “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, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 – 87, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the return of premium of surplus for prescription medication plan...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo & Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 – 88, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing an NJDEP Treatment Works Approval (TWA) for Cavallo Drive sanitary sewer extension...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 – 89, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the disposal of surplus property...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that the disposal resolution refers to one of the huge tractor trailer trucks that go back probably 30 years. We've been working in house on Cavallo Drive to get the design finished because the city is going to be paving Palermo. We did the first 30 or 50 feet so we can get out of their way.

Field Engineer

Anthony Tobolski reported that in reference to Contract No. 5 which is the Mill Road force main project, direction drilling is complete. Pioneer is waiting for fittings that are back ordered and expected at the end of October.

Anthony also stated that the pump station comminutor project, Contract No. 4, is expected to start in November.

Solicitor:

Stephen Barse reported that the Appellate Division litigation that the LSA is a part of is moving along. The State had requested leave to file a brief in excess of the page limit and additional time to fill its brief to which our side consented. We have also requested an extension of time to file our brief to which the State consented. The matter is proceeding hopefully and will be decided by the court of the next few months.

Also, we had requested an administrating hearing from the DEP by correspondence dated October 2, 2020 concerning the draft NJPDES Permit related to the discharge of ground water. We did not receive a response from the DEP to my October 2020 letter until January 2021, which acknowledged our request for the administrative hearing and said it was reviewing that request and they would get back to us. We are still waiting for the DEP to get back to us.

Dennis stated that the litigation was the PFOS and PFOA forever chemicals. The department tried to implement the rules, they missed a lot of things required by the Administrative Procedures Act, like good economic analysis, ignoring the math error and those are just a couple of highlights of the problems.

Chairman:

Joe Reuben asked if we'd heard from DEP on Utopia? Dennis stated no. They were supposed to be back to us in the early part of September and now it's the middle of October. It's outside of our sanitary sewer area so we want to file a process to get the plan amended. The information was in two-plus months ago and they couldn't find it and they finally found it in the computer. I spoke with someone and they said it was going to be assigned to them, I followed up a month or two later and she said it just got assigned to me. It wasn't assigned before.

Issues and Correspondence:

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that the Executive Director be authorized to hire Adam Holba as the LSA Superintendent in accordance with the Executive Director's email to the Personnel Committee dated September 8, 2021. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that the Executive Director be authorized to advertise for bids for magnesium hydroxide. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis Palmer reported that on Contract No. 4 which are the grinders at the pumping stations, last week we had submittals come in for electrical, etc. We have to get submittals or shop drawings so if the engineer approves what they are planning to purchase and install is conforming to the plant.

DEP went through a whole process back in 2014 and had round table and stakeholder meetings to reform the permit fee program. We filed litigation some time ago because our permit fee went from \$19,000 to \$90,000 for the annual permit. Obviously, we were not happy about that so we filed. They are still bouncing us all over the place on the permit fee. The last one is that if you are over 5 mgd a day and one if it's under 5 mgd. When things were slow the last couple of years and F & S and the chicken plant next door hadn't come in, we actually went under the 5 mgd so we're arguing that fact. AEA has been pushing and hopefully they are planning to come back and looking to NJPDES permit reform. They are looking for names from AEA and my name is the first on the list to be part of that reform committee and it will be people from industry and other folks also. I am looking forward to participating.

Budget/Finance:

Tom Merighi reported that income is \$139,103 or 1.9% over budget while expenses are \$71,413 or .96% under budget. Accounts receivables decreased \$510,709.

Dennis stated that the lien sale is Wednesday. Our number of liens has ratcheting down program. We send letters out, their names will be in the paper, then we copy the newspaper and send it out, we notify the bank or mortgage company that holds their mortgage because our lien is on par with taxes. We're ahead of the mortgage. We started at 1,085 accounts and its down to 249 as of last Thursday. It's heading in the right direction.

Human Resources:

Dennis stated it's been almost nine months looking for a Superintendent so we hope this works. There's been a cascade of positions where a position on road crew opened up due to retirement, we're bringing some people into the plant. A lot of the guys like road crew because it's day shift so they sometimes move there from the plant. We have a couple of positions we're looking to fill in the plant.

Public Relations:

Dennis stated that you received the article on the women's turkey hunt here. That magazine goes to operators all over the state and also to the DEP. It was something different for us to talk about. Also, out litigation on the PFOS and PFOA compounds showed up on inside EPA which is an inside the beltway article that's read nationally on different litigations by EPA and by states. It was written more from a regulatory standpoint than a plaintiff standpoint but it got some traction and it went around the country.

Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci stated our health insurance renewal is in place and confirmed. I also received an email today from Glatfelter Insurance today. I don't know if you remember the really bad car accident that one of our trucks was involved in while he was stopped at a red light. The file is closed and the driver's company bore all of the responsibility for the accident. It was very serious.

Carol also stated that tomorrow we are giving out all of the reimbursement check for insurance and it's a little bit of Christmas in September.

Dennis also stated that it's good management and the people good use of the resources of their prescription plan which are mail in and the advantages of using CVS. Carol stated that we also use a company called IMPAX for the high-end drugs. We have the co-pay and the patient has no expense. A shot of Humira or related drugs are about \$2,000 a shot and some people take them twice a month. These drugs are crossover drugs and can be used for many illnesses. IMPAX is the liaison between the patient and the drug company they get the drugs for free and our co-pay can't be more than \$2500.

Tom Merighi asked if the refund is based strictly on our group and not a company wide group. Carol stated that we are not part of a co-op. Tom asked that the 77% that comes back to LSA goes into a general fund or do we keep it for a potentially opposite situation. Dennis stated that it goes into miscellaneous income. They also wanted us to maintain a certain dollar amount to help with any overages. Carol stated that they kept 25% in case we did have a month with overages. Tom asked if they adjust when they look at the new contract, does this enter it. Carol stated you can if you so desire, but it is our past experience that we get a hit when we change. Our rates stayed exactly the same this year and our contribution each month stayed the same and we will not wait a whole year to check the overage we will do it semi-annually.

Dennis stated that some of this is attached to retirees that were taken off the roles which resulted in lower costs so the employees are getting money they put into the fund which was not utilized. Yes, it's kind of an overbill but it's coming back to them. The 25% they kept is just in case and Carol stated that they are still paying claims from July and August before the money was returned to us.

Health Insurance Solutions is an extremely sharp company. They have many business awards from Philadelphia including Philadelphia Magazine. They really do their homework. Nanette Poserina and her husband and now her son has joined the business. They are strictly a TPA.

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated that we have some inquiries. Rudy's Airport is back and Anthony, Cari and I were in a Zoon meeting with their engineers to talk about some things.

Perry Barse asked if anything was going on with Sears and Dennis stated no., I hear some people are complaining that our pipeline goes through the middle of the property. It was there since 1949 or 1950 we just ran right next to it. You can't build a building on top but you can put planters, parking or anything that's not a building. We have no idea what's going on with it. If you want to move it for \$1.5 million go ahead but we just put a brand-new line in there and we have an easement. Our arguments with Sears are still unresolved. The argument was never about location or alignment, the argument was compensation. They never asked for it to be re-located. We do not know why nothing is happening.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment:

At 6:22 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Merighi and seconded by Barse that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Barse, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

CARLOS VILLAR, Secretary