

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 7, 2021

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, 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 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 Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2021 – 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.... \$107,402.53”, 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 -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....

\$279,225.94”, 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 - 81, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing a two-year contract to ALS Environmental for laboratory services...” 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 – 82, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing 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, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Reports:

#### Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that in your package you had the HomeServe commission report and the receiving station had another tremendous month. It was \$18,000 and we were happy with \$5,000 so it’s doing very well. At the next meeting we will have the election for the Vice-Chairman and I will sit with Joe and we’ll deal with committees.

We had a Zoom meeting here for Rudy’s Airport with their engineer to talk about a very large building they want to put up. They need a wastewater management plan amendment which is the first thing they have to do. The first thing they need to do is go to DEP and try to get the plan amended to include that area. Then they have to go to City Zoning and Planning Board as well because it is a change in use. It would eventually have to go to County Planning, the County and then us and City Council to get endorsements for a plant. We talked about a number of things and one thing on the table is that it’s a very large building for an area with environmental constraints and sensitive areas. One of the offsetting things for the public good, and it came up the last time a project was there, is that you have high density residency on Weymouth Road right in front of the area to the west of 55 that have wells and septic systems. You have to get water and sewer to the project so you have to go past it and looking at that could be an environmental offset or benefit if the project went forward. Otherwise, it’s a very large building so we’ll see where it goes because they have a lot of high bars to get passed to get the project going.

Dennis also reported that he and Steve dealt with a couple of things which is a revised lease agreement that hopefully will be ready for the next meeting and some personnel issues we spoke about also.

#### Field Engineer

Anthony Tobolski reported that in accordance with Contract No. 5, Pioneer Pipe’s sub-contractor, Kmetz, has completed the 1220 feet of 10-inch HDPE directional bore work on North Mill Road and has 2900 feet of the 3400 feet of 12-inch HDPE installed on

South Mill Road. They should be finished the directional drill work by the end of this week. Then Pioneer will do the 24-inch casing under the railroad tracks and 840 feet of open cut installation to tie in and complete the 10-inch and 12-inch force mains.

Perna-Finnigan is installing 52 feet of 8-inch gravity main on Cavallo Drive for an upcoming sewer extension. We needed to get out of Palermo because the city is going to pave Palermo this year.

Solicitor:

Stephen Barse reported that as Dennis said we worked on personnel matters. Everyone knows that just about a year ago New Jersey approved recreational cannabis use and we use the word cannabis rather than marijuana because of the negative connotations for marijuana, which I learned from a seminar I attended. The State was supposed to come out with regulations and they did last week. I have not had a chance to go through them yet since they are voluminous. Regardless of the regulations, a lot of workplace testing has been affected by this. Previously in around 2012 or so, we had the compassionate use of marijuana act so that if you had a note from a doctor and they tested positive at work. Unless there was a real reason to be concerned about it at work, you couldn't take action against them, you had to accommodate it, presumably under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the New Jersey law against discrimination. That was limited and there were three cases in eight or nine years. This will be a little more impactful and it affects pre-employment testing, post-accident testing and a lot of things potentially. So, we will see where it plays out. We're not going to learn a lot until these cases work their way through the courts, but it's going to be a process and we will stay on top of it and keep you posted and I will certainly be in touch with Dennis and Carol for the day-to-day stuff to make sure we're not doing what we shouldn't be doing and are doing what we should be doing. It will be a challenge. The new regs they just developed have to do with cultivation and licensing. I have not seen too much about the employment aspects of it but I think it will be a big issue.

Dennis stated that we also have those safety sensitive employees with CDL's which are covered by the Feds and most of our operation staff have CDL's. Stephen stated that anyone with a CDL still has to comply with the Federal testing requirements. Although for the first time in a long time there's been some talk at the Federal level, because technically, in all aspects marijuana is illegal under federal law still. There has been some talk of loosening that but I haven't seen it done yet since there are a lot of other priorities in Congress but eventually it is going to make its way to the agenda. I don't think they will get rid of it for CDL drivers because of the impact of it for folks in those positions. It even affects lending and federally chartered banks. There is a bank that broke out of Philly and he closing set up which fell through because the lender said we're federally chartered and you're going to sell medical marijuana and it's not authorized for the pharmacy so we can't finance it and the deal fell through. Dennis stated that you can't make deposits either in a federally chartered bank. So many states have gone in a different direction it will be one of those cases where the tail wags the dog and the federal government will have to get on board with this. The discussion has started so we'll see where it goes.

Chairman: No Report

Issues and Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis reported that Contract No. 4 which is the grinders and muffin monsters, the preconstruction meeting was held the Thursday after our last meeting. We signed the contract at that point and had to take it back to his office for the corporate seal and it was returned to us and the contracts were signed and the Notice to Proceed was issued by the engineers.

Also, we had the administrative consent order with DEP over some air issues, we had a fine and we had to buy a car in addition to other things; we just got a letter this week releasing us and we've satisfied all of the requirements and reporting.

Budget/Finance: No Report

Human Resources:

Dennis stated that we had another interview today. We sat with another gentlemen who has both an S4 and a C4 license for the superintendent position which I thought was very positive. I'll be writing emails to the personnel committee tomorrow and hopefully have action for our next meeting. We are also doing interviews for the plant. We have over the next six months, four retirements in operations. When the plant was expanded in 1989, there were a lot of people hired in 1989 and 1990 and thirty years later or so those folks are all retiring.

Public Relations: No Report

Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci stated that everyone saw the letter in your packets regarding the major medical renewal and the prescription plan will stay the same since we are in the third year of the contract. There is no change in rates. They do review it every year even though it's a three-year contract to make sure there are no additions to our monthly contribution. Everyone understands that we have a self-insured prescription plan. We managed it really well this year. I knew we were trending well but I had no idea it was this good. We have a reserve or a surplus of \$162,964 that we have not spend but we have put into the coffers for coverage. \$38,964 of that sum is for billing credits where Express Scripts was still charging us for people that were no longer on the plan and another \$124,000 is the reserve or surplus and we have combined the two to come up with the figure. The

Authority will keep 77% of that amount and the remainder, 22.23% will be given back to the employees. This was our contribution into the fund and there will be some pretty decent checks for everyone. It's been an amazing year. What we discussed for the future with Health Insurance Solutions today is a semi-annual review to see how large or small the reserve is. If we have a substantial amount, we'll return it to the employees mid-year. If we do not, we'll let it roll over into the second half of the year.

The \$124,000 was actually over a little over \$150,000 but they kept \$25,000 in reserves for claims that have not been paid yet and just in case we come across something really big. Some of the specialty drugs are boutique drugs and they are very expensive. For example, a Humira shot is around \$2000 per dose. But these drugs really help people across a wide range of illnesses.

\$36,226 will be returned to the staff that participate in the plan and that is approximately 41 people and \$126,736 will come back to the Authority for their portion of what they paid for the plan. It's a little Christmas present early and it will be up for action by way of resolution at the September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting and all of the vouchers for the employees were approved tonight. The checks will not be given out until after the next meeting.

Allocations/Administration: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Dennis reminded everyone of the WRA dinner on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Water Works in Philadelphia.

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, Merighi, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

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CARLOS VILLAR, Secretary