

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 22, 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, Miranda, 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
Joseph Ruth	Solicitor
Carol A. Ricci	Executive Assistant

It was moved by Villar and seconded by Barse that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 7, 2022 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

A 30-year service award was given to Tim Foyle.

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. 2022 – 17 “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.... \$98,777.14”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2022 - 18, “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....

\$304,900.85”, be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Miranda that Resolution No. 2022 - 19, “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, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2022 – 20, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing correction on credits, charge-offs, refunds and cancellation of accounts in the amount of \$40,127.96...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

It was moved by Miranda and seconded by Villar that Resolution No. 2022 – 21, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing the award of a contract to South State, Inc. in the amount of \$146,300.00 for Cavallo Drive sanitary sewer extension...” be adopted. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted “yes”.

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that for Resolution No. 2022-21, this was an outstanding price on the Cavallo Drive project. South State is doing the water line for the City. There was a lot of interest with some very competitive pricing.

Resolution No. 2022-20 the City had foreclosures and when they are in foreclosure, everyone’s liens are wiped out including ours. The notices were in the local paper. This is a significant size and Steve is talking to the City Solicitor so we can get notice ahead of time.

I will be on a DEP Zoom meeting on Thursday dealing with food waste. There was a law passed that if you have a very large food processor and have a lot of food waste, they are supposed to direct that waste to recycling facilities. In our case, putting it into a digester and making gas and using that gas in a n engine to make electricity is an acceptable recycling process.

Tonight, we will have a motion that it’s time for a public hearing on our rates. We’re not only looking at the rates on user fees, but the tipping fees at the receiving station especially on the thicker loads we get. When we review applications, there’s an escrow fee that developers give us and its based on salaries. That has not been revisited in at least 10 years so we need to know we’re charging properly for my time, Anthony’s time and anyone’s staff time. The issues that were brought up at the last meeting regarding Gold Star families, specifically the spouses who lost that income, we’re going to revisit that issue.

Carol spoke about the fire we had in the trailer; our guys have basically leveled the site. We will have to backfill it and look at a replacement sometime in the near future. The trailer where our union guys dress, shower and have lunch is well in excess of 35 years. The floor is rotted in a couple of spots so we're thinking of a butler building with heat, air conditioning and we'll need file storage.

Yari Miranda asked if it had to be bid and Dennis stated yes. Carlos asked about the money from the insurance company for the fire and Dennis stated that we will use it, but as a public agency it's not in and out of pocket. The bid threshold is \$45,000 because we have a qualified purchasing agent so we do have a higher threshold. We can do some of the work ourselves.

Last week, DEP had a public hearing on permit fees. We commented and we're still in litigation before an administrative law judge at this time. There are some inequities where they have not changed the minimum fee in excess of 15 years around 2007. If the minimum fees don't change and the cost of the permit goes up, those costs are unfairly shifted over to us that have to pay higher fees and we pay one of the highest fees in our category of groundwater discharge if not the highest. We have for all these years carried an unfair burden and every time rates go up; they stay the same and we go up. We asked that they look at a reform program for the permit fee program. They had proposed something in 2014 and it just died. We've been bringing it up now for 8 years. Let's get back to the table. Business and the Chemical Industry Council was on, AEA and we were all on the same page. Let's get something done in reforming this program.

#### Field Engineer

Anthony Tobolski reported that in accordance with Contract No. 5 which is the North and South Mill Road Force Main Project, Pioneer Pipe pressured tested the 12-inch force main on South Mill Road today. It passed. However, they will be boring under the railroad tracks on North Mill Road next week because they scheduled the lane closure with the Vineland Police Department assisting with traffic control. Then the following week, they will return to South Mill Road to make the final connection.

Solicitor: No Report

Chairman: No Report

Issues and Correspondence: It was moved by Barse and seconded by Villar that the Executive Director be authorized to advertise to hold a public hearing on rate setting. Roll call: Barse, Miranda, Villar, Angelo and Reuben voted "yes".

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant:

Dennis stated that as a follow-up to the conversation regarding food waste and making gas from the digester, we will market that as a renewable natural gas rather than a fossil fuel. It's not a fossil fuel. It's made now; present tense. It's from food waste, fats, oils and grease and cooking grease. I have a meeting tomorrow afternoon at 2:00 p.m. to continue to explore with a vendor with whom we have an agreement on renewable natural gas.

Shop drawings are coming in on the muffing monsters. Do we have the slide rails? Anthony stated that they are 4 to 6 weeks out. Dennis stated that they are grinders for the pumping stations because personal wipes are the bane of this industry and it's worse since COVID came along.

#### Budget/Finance:

Yari Miranda reported that income is \$5,213 or .5% over budget and expenses are \$15,681 or 1.6% under budget. Accounts receivables increased \$395,613. The Authority continues to be affected by the economy and is keeping a close watch on its budget.

#### Human Resources:

Dennis reported that we still have the cascade of positions because of retirements. We'll be moving one of the existing electricians to Jere Formento's position as senior electrician.

#### Public Relations:

Dennis stated that he received an email and hope will have some photos to share. Last year, we hosted with our partners, the National Wild Turkey Federation and NJ Fish and Game, a mentored women's hunt for turkeys on our property. Three or four women got turkeys on our property. Last week was the national conference for all of the turkey associations throughout the country. This project, with our partners from New Jersey and Fish and Game, received the national award for the best first year program. If we get pictures, we'll publish it or put it on our Facebook page. The next hunt will be two days on May 5th and 6<sup>th</sup>. They women go through training, wear full cammo, they sit out in the woods and learn how to call. When the hunt comes you have to be here before sunrise before the turkeys come out of the trees. Each one has a mentor with them who knows how to call the birds and has hunted them. We had a newsletter in the NJ Water Environment Association.

#### Insurance Committee:

Carol Ricci reported that at our last meeting, I mentioned that we were getting ready for the property and casualty renewal and we had received the check for approximately \$238,000 for the building and there was a possibility that our premium may go up 5%. Things got a little more complicated over the last couple of weeks.

Because of inflation, the insurers are coming down to take a look at the entire facility on April 7<sup>th</sup>. They are going to do a risk analysis. Mike Snyder from Glatfelter will meet with Dennis and our superintendent and they will go through the plant. They feel that the \$81,000,000 blanket that we have right now is probably insufficient at a 2% increase in property values because of inflation and the difficulty in getting products to repair things. Nothing will happen all at once, not all of the pump stations will go down or the plant. We could be seeing and it is a possibility that we could see a 10% increase in premium after the cost of the building is re-assessed.

They will also be doing what they call a Security Score Card on us. We won't even know they are doing it. Everything is about cyber liability and vulnerability because of situations overseas. They will also be looking at our pollution liability policy which is also due this year. Utilities are in the line of fire for all of the hackers. Dennis prepared a memo last week and sent it out to all of the staff regarding emails and not to open your personal email on your work computer. If you see anything suspicious on your work computer, do not open it and get rid of it. We've been hacked once and they feel it's a definite possibility, they'll come for us again even though we've done everything for our protection. Yari asked if we had an on-staff IT person and we use LookFirst Technologies and a separate company for our SCADA system which Tom Post manages.

Dennis stated that we've done a lot to strengthen our firewalls. We back up hourly from once a week and daily. So, all you can lose is the last hour. Carol stated that back up is off site. Utilities are vulnerable and we're doing everything to make sure we're ok. Our Public Officials Liability policy will be due also. We'll have to see how the premium shakes out. We have a really great record with Glatfelter, but the fact that the blanket will have to be raised 10% would bring the blanket up to over \$91,000,000.

Allocations/Administration:

Dennis stated that regarding liquified natural gas storage tank project we're looking at, the gas company has had their environmental engineer here doing soil borings and groundwater sampling. It's their due diligence of the Phase 2 evaluation. Phase 1 is desk top looking at historic records of the site.

I sent a memo out to the supervisors with the governor moving students off of masks March 7<sup>th</sup>, we are doing the same thing as well as open the lobby and staff back to full schedule. If staff is riding two in a vehicle they should be masked and its your choice if you want to wear a mask for other employees.

Old Business: None

New Business: Carol Ricci informed the Commissioners of the GVCC President's Party on May 18, 2022 at the Grove. Please check the date as LSA has a table for 10 and we will be reaching out.

Adjournment:

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

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

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PERRY D. BARSE, Assistant Secretary