

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance.

The regular meeting of the Landis Sewerage Authority was called to order by Chairman Errickson at 6:00 p.m. The following members were present at roll call: Merighi, Gana, and Errickson were present. Villar and Silva were absent

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

Chairman Errickson 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/Chief Engineer
Robert A. Schwarz	Field Engineer
James J. Gruccio	Solicitor
Carol A. Ricci	Executive Secretary

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 6, 2014 be dispensed with and the same be approved in the form submitted to all members by mail. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson votes “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 Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-7, “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.....\$99,990.75”, be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-8, “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....\$300,290.35”, be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-9, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing payment from the Construction Fund of certain costs of the system in the amount of \$6,855.00 to Atlantic Concrete Products, Inc. for new dog house manhole for Magnolia and McMahan Drive in accordance with the provisions of the Authority’s General Bond Resolution...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-10, “A resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing payment from the Construction Fund of certain costs of the system in the amount of \$22,330.00 to Garrison Enterprise, Inc. to provide labor, material and equipment to install 8” sewer bypass at Magnolia and McMahan Drive in accordance with the provisions of the Authority’s General Bond Resolution...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-11, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing payment from the Construction Fund of certain costs of the system in the amount of \$894.53 to Duran, Inc. for a 24” bow; 15” outlet round back for 80” diameter manhole, SS pipe bracket for 18” pipe and anchor assemblies in accordance with the provisions Authority’s General Bond Resolution...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-12, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing an agreement for services with Cumberland Advisors/Cumberland Consulting as financial advisor from February 3, 2014 through February 2, 2015 in the amount of \$12,000...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-13, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage Authority authorizing correction on credits, charge-offs, refunds and cancellation of accounts in the amount of \$3,229.45...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-14, “A Resolution of the Landis Sewerage authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for Solicitor and legal services with Gruccio, Pepper, DeSanto & Ruth, P.A. for the period of February 3, 2014 through February 2, 2015...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that Resolution No. 2014-15, “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 personnel matters...” be adopted. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”

Chairman Errickson stated that the meeting would be closed to the public following new business. Motion please.

It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that the meeting be closed to the public after new business. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted "yes".

Reports:

Executive Director

Dennis Palmer reported that there are a couple of things that will lead to more publicity. Last week the general assembly and the senate started a new session and any bills that hadn't passed either house and gone to the governor end. There were several bills that we had worked on that dealt with Authorities did not get through that process and also today is the last day for the Governor, if he doesn't sign it, for the one time in maybe two years, he will do a pocket veto. He pocket vetoed a couple of bills we had worked on today as well.

As a brand new sworn in assemblyman, Sam Fiocchi was here on Friday to learn more about what Authorities are about. He had a tour of the facility and learned about what the LSA does which was nice to have an assemblyman know that. It is also useful if you go to Trenton and give testimony before a committee, you have a friendly face that can give you a little more room and ask you softball questions and let you get a little more information into the record which is very useful.

Dennis stated that we also had representatives from the National Wild Turkey Federation and Fish and Game here. We continue to work on the quail project where we are going to establish habitat for quail. These folks are going to put up thousands of dollars to help buy the plants and seed so we can grow a good habitat for bob white quail and give us advice how to do that. They also brought along a nationally renowned biologist to help on this and because of his interest, the money is available to the National Wild Turkey Federation which is countrywide as well as a state association. Mr. Gana asked if we had the acreage available and Dennis stated we did in the west spray field. It is called a pine savannah and it's an ecosystem the bob whites like and they are looking at this as a long term incubator project. Field and Stream magazine may be coming out this spring to do a story statewide or in the area on the habitat and restoration of game birds and it may possibly include us in that article. Hopefully we will have a few things planted when the guys from the farm come back in February. That will be one of the first things they will work on.

Dennis also reported that we had a union negotiation meeting earlier this month and another one on Monday. Last time we gave them a bunch of positions and statements. They are to analyze them and come back with counter proposals. We have pretty much blocked our four or five hours on the 27th which should be very beneficial.

In your packet there was information from the Authorities Association and also to let you know what that association has been doing on behalf of Authorities throughout the State in the last year.

We took action tonight on several things such as Magnolia and McMahan. We have continued work to go on that issue as well as Burns Avenue and Bob will update you.

Field Engineer

Bob Schwarz reported that LSA televised lines at Magnolia and McMahan Drive and determined that it will be necessary to replace approximately 500 feet of 18 inch pipe. Specifications and proposals are due on Wednesday, January 22, 2014 to be opened and read. Also bypass pumping will be necessary along with detours and proper signage. We reviewed with the City of Vineland Engineer's office for their approval.

The contractor has begun work on the Burns Avenue Sewer Extension on Monday, January 20, 2014 with the excavation of jacking pits. They intend to perform the bore under the railroad tracks and boulevard next week.

Bob also reported that we had problems with a lateral at 1082 Valley Avenue. It will need replacement in the near future. This is a newly paved road.

Bob also stated that he attended a pre-construction meeting with Jennifer Ketcham on Thursday, January 16, 2014 for the Route 40 Food Center, formerly Meredith Farms. They anticipate starting on or around the week of January 27, 2014. Eagle Construction is the contractor.

Solicitor

James Gruccio thanked the Board of Commissioners for the passage of Resolution 2014-14 demonstrating the board's continued confidence in the law firm and we appreciate it. It has been a pleasure for all of these years to represent the Authority.

Mr. Gruccio also stated that we could use five more Mr. Gana's. He is one of the brightest people I have ever encountered. Mr. Gruccio said he wanted to congratulate Frank for his service on the Authority board. We have known each other going back years and years, probably back to 1972. Mr. Gruccio also stated that it is a pleasure having been associated with Mr. Gana both personally and with the Authority and much continued good health and success.

Chairman

Steve Errickson stated that he would save his remarks for the end.

Issues and Correspondence:

Dennis stated that with respect to that, we have the second meeting on Thursday at 10:00 a.m., not counting the joint meeting we had here with council, but the following up meeting to the cost sharing program. Dennis stated that there are some changes to the agreement that reflect our discussions from the last meeting and we will probably have

one more meeting after this where we will have it resolved or be at a point where both bodies can take action by voting on it.

Committee Reports:

Engineering/Plant

Dennis stated that Bob talked about the projects we are working on in house.

Budget/Finance

Tom Merighi that everyone received a copy of the financials in their statement this week and we do not have our P & L for the month because of year-end adjustments on the P & L and that will be forthcoming over the next couple of months. We did decrease our accounts receivable by approximately \$977,634.00.

Dennis stated that we had a lot of walk-ins. We have one person that continues to ask me when will we start taking credit cards. Every six months he asks that question. We did investigate that the cost of the machine and we do have to pay a certain percentage of every bill we process on the machine. As a public agency why would we want to lose the money to set it up and the money you lose on that or you will tell the customers you have to pay a \$10 service charge to make up for the loss of the money. Dennis stated that he always writes back to him thanking him for his suggestion and you are the only person that asks the credit card question and he writes back you are the only person I deal with that takes real checks.

Human Resources

Dennis stated that we continue to work with Jim's office with one of our personnel that is an ongoing issue and we also have union negotiations. With respect to the posting of jobs, we have those in and we have also posted and put ads in the paper for farm help since we are pretty sure two of the guys from the farm will be coming over here. I am holding off on making some of these movements until we get some new farm guys in and get them some training before we do the transfers.

Public Relations

Dennis stated that when Sam Fiocchi came we had some picture taken while touring the plant and I sent a news package over to the paper which a picture of him and I up on the tanks and a little write up with some very good comments. At the very end we e-mailed back and forth and I thanked him for coming. He said we should be very proud of our facility and he was impressed with how neat and clean everything looked in the facility and how great the operation was. He was impressed with all of the innovative things that we are doing here.

Insurance Committee: No Report

Allocations/Administration: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business:

Dennis said as just a reminder that the next meeting is re-organization and it tends to be a longer meeting with resolutions and the Chairman and I will be reaching out to you if you are interested in a change of committees or anything similar. There will be a memo so those absent tonight will know as well.

At 6:19 p.m. Chairman Errickson asked for a motion to go into closed session. It was moved by Gana and seconded by Merighi that the public meeting go into closed session. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:02 and Chairman Errickson thanked Francis Gana for a great job as a Commissioner and thank you for being my friend. I have known you for quite a while before you came on this board but being together on this board has been a real pleasure. I have learned a lot from you and I appreciated all of your input that you have had; your questions, your comments, your intelligence and I think sitting beside you, may a little bit rubbed off on me. Thanks you.

Adjournment:

At 7:04 p.m. there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Gana and seconded by Errickson that the meeting be adjourned. Roll call: Merighi, Gana and Errickson voted “yes”.

THE LANDIS SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

CARLOS E. VILLAR, Secretary