**May 6, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Cleona Borough Authority was held via Zoom on May 6, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Hoffman.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT: **Chairman Brian Hoffman, Ms. Sue Bowman, Mr. Matt Ditzler, Ms. Ashlea Good, and Mr. Les Powell.**

AUTHORITY MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: **Mr. Scott Rights, Solicitor Amy Leonard, Manager Michael Peiffer, and Ms. Melody Vanderveer.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Hoffman.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**: The minutes of the April 1, 2026 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Ditzler to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Good. Motion passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**: The Treasurer's Report for April 2026 was presented and reviewed. Discussion occurred regarding the conversion of 17 South Mill Street into two apartments, and the second EDU has been added.

A motion was made by Ms. Bowman to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Powell. Motion passed unanimously.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**: It was noted that there is one additional bill for the stormwater work by Custer. As such, approving the bills was deferred until later in the meeting under New Business.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**: No citizens were present.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**:

## STORMWATER

Mr. Rights reported that work on the storm sewer project had been delayed due to rain and ongoing rock excavation issues on the Dodson and Schultz properties. Additional equipment would likely be required to continue excavation through the bedrock encountered during installation.

Mr. Rights stated that flowable fill had been placed into the sinkhole area as part of stabilization efforts. He also reported that a throat extending toward the Brickly property had been discovered

and plugged within the trench area, although its full extent remained unknown. No settlement had been observed in the surrounding yard area.

Mr. Rights reviewed Custer's first pay request in the amount of $33,980.05.

Mr. Rights advised that remaining work on South Christian Street included completion of piping work on the Dodson property, inlet installation, curbing work, and final grading. Grass growth had already begun within completed areas.

Discussion occurred regarding tree planting associated with the project. Mr. Rights indicated that the trees would likely be planted within approximately two weeks.

Mr. Rights further reported that following completion of work on South Christian Street, construction activities would move to South Center Street and then Dairy Road after the school year ends so they don't have to contend with the school buses.

Regarding the Consortium SQ6 project, Mr. Rights reported that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection had completed a site review and issued a permit review letter containing only minor comments. A permit was expected within several weeks.

Discussion occurred regarding the project timeline, future regulatory requirements, grant reimbursement eligibility, and the consortium's anticipated position regarding implementation timing under pending MS4 regulatory changes.

## WASTEWATER

Mr. Rights also reported that North Cornwall Township continued preparations for transferring flow operations to the new pump station facility. Operator training was underway, with flow transfer anticipated by the end of May. The Authority planned to monitor impacts to existing pumps once the new system became operational.

**PUMP STATION REPORT**: Mr. Powell reported that the pump station continued operating well. A new rotating assembly had been installed due to a leaking seal, and the grinder system had been serviced.

Mr. Powell further reported that North Cornwall personnel had attempted preliminary testing of flow meters associated with the new station transfer process and continued coordinating operational flow data.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**: Manger Peiffer reported that as of April 30, 2026, the Authority had billed $134,529.94 and balance of $78,289.03. Discussion occurred regarding lower quarterly sewer bill collections due to prepayments associated with the sale of Cleona Square.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**: Solicitor Leonard reported on a pending Pennsylvania Supreme Court case involving potential Public Utility Commission regulatory authority over municipal

authorities that provide services outside their jurisdiction. Discussion occurred regarding possible implications for municipal authorities and utility operations if the court determined that municipal authorities would become subject to PUC regulation.

Solicitor Leonard also discussed a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision involving the Borough of West Chester and municipal stormwater fees. The court determined that stormwater fees constituted a tax rather than a fee. Discussion occurred regarding potential impacts on municipal authorities, tax-exempt properties, stormwater billing practices, possible millage increases, and future legislative or regulatory responses.

Board members discussed concerns regarding future stormwater funding mechanisms, tax uniformity requirements, billing authority, potential impacts to municipalities statewide, and future guidance expected from municipal organizations and legal associations.

Additional discussion occurred regarding the broader implications of possible PUC oversight and potential privatization pressures involving municipal utility systems.

**NEW BUSINESS**: A motion was made by Ms. Good to approve Custer's Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of $33,980.05. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ditzler. Motion passed unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: No unfinished business was discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**: A motion was made by Ms. Bowman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Good. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Peiffer