

Cleona Borough Authority Minutes

May 7, 2025

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The regular meeting of the Cleona Borough Authority was held via Zoom on the above date. Members attending were Sue Bowman, Matt Ditzler, Ashlea Good, Bryan Hoffman and Les Powell. Also attending were Scott Rights, Steckbeck Engineering; Amy Leonard, Solicitor; and Jonathan Johnson, Borough Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Chairman Hoffman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS:

Motion by Mr. Ditzler to approve April 2, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Powell. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Ditzler to approve the April 2025 Treasurer's report, seconded by Mr. Powell. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Good, to pay the bills for the months of April 2025. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Larry Minnich, (3632 Hill Church Road) discussed the Authority's sewer rates, noting his belief that the Authority's tiered rate structure financially penalizes large families. He favored a flat rate based solely on consumption and stated he feels Cleona residents are paying more for sewer treatment than residents of other municipalities. Mr. Hoffman explained that the current rate structure is designed to incentivize water conservation and discussed how the graduated rates benefit the majority of Borough residents. Mr. Minnich thanked the Authority for the opportunity to express his views.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Scott Rights

South Christian Street and Dairy Road Stormwater Projects: Mr. Rights reported that all involved property owners have now said they will sign the requested easement agreements.

South Center Street Stormwater Project: Mr. Rights indicated the stormwater pipe on South Center Street near its intersection with Penn Avenue has rusted and requires repairs. He suggested replacing the old pipe and connecting the new pipe to storm drains at the intersection of South Center and Chestnut Streets. Mr. Right estimated the project cost will be about \$151,000.

Cost for Stormwater Projects/Scheduling: Mr. Rights suggested that the bid for the South Center Street project be combined with the South Christian Street and Dairy Road projects. He estimated the total cost for the three projects to be around \$500,000. Mr. Hoffman noted this cost was greater than the stormwater account's current balance; however, he added this should not be a concern, given its income stream and the Authority not owing any money to the Consortium presently, nor likely within the next two to three years.

Ms. Bowman questioned whether the bid could be written in such a way, so that if the cost is excessive, the Authority could choose which project(s) to proceed with. Mr. Rights agreed this can be done through unit cost bidding. His goal to bid the project in June, with work beginning on South Christian Street by early September, followed by the Dairy Road and South Center Street projects.

Ms. Bowman made a motion to include the South Center Street project in the scope of work with the South Christian Street and Dairy Road project bids, seconded by Ms. Good. Motion carried.

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Consortium Project: Mr. Rights talked with Dan Kreider (185 Royal Road) about allowing engineers onto the Kreider property for design-related purposes. Mr. Rights believes Mr. Krider may be willing to consent to the project as long as it remains within 30 feet of the stream. Mr. Rights feels that parameter is workable.

Dairy Road Pumping Stations: Mr. Rights reported that the contractor for the Dairy Road pumping station has reached an agreement with DEP about pumping water out of the construction site and into the Quittapahilla Creek, which puts the project back on track.

PUMP STATION REPORT: Les Powell

Mr. Powell reported everything is running well at the pumping station.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jonathan Johnson

See the attached report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Amy Leonard

Ms. Leonard discussed NCT's sewer tier rate structure and its similarity to Cleona's rate structure, noting that using a graduated rate structure is not inappropriate. She reported that the easement agreements with Cleona Borough regarding 212 South Christian are completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Turf Maintenance at Pumping Station: Mr. Johnson was asked to get three multi-year quotes for turf maintenance at the Cleona Blvd. pumping station and present them at the June meeting.

Resolution 2025-02: **Ms. Bowman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-02 authorizing the shredding of certain financial documents from 2017, seconded by Mr. Ditzler; the motion was approved, and the Resolution shall be attached to these Minutes.**

15 Dogwood Lane: **Mr. Ditzler made a motion to write-off the \$88.00 sewer and stormwater bill from 15 Dogwood Lane for the period between December 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025, seconded by Ms. Good; the motion was approved.** This bill had been accrued following the write-off from the Sheriff's Sale.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

South Center Street Stormwater Drains: See Engineer's Report above.

NCT Pump Station Agreement: Mr. Johnson said the signed agreement from North Cornwall Township has been returned to the Cleona Authority

Stormwater drain on South Mill Street: **Ms. Good made a motion for Mr. Rights to obtain three verbal quotes to repair the stormwater catch basin drain and adjacent curbing on South Mill Street; to proceed with the project using the lowest responsible contractor; and to report back to all Authority members with this information. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ditzler and approved.**

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, **Ms. Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Johnson