MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF CONNEAUT LAKE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES – October 13, 2025

ATTENDEES: ***Carl McLean, Mario DeBlasio, Jim Tigri, Bob Morrow, Eddie Trzeciak, Julie McVay. By Phone: Chris Gates. Absent: Brian Cagle.***
Guests: Customers – Mr. Ray Andel, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Arnett, Ms. Pat Kaider.

I. Carl McLean called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes of the September 8th board meeting.
MOTION: To approve the September 8th board meeting minutes as submitted. (DeBlasio/Baldarelli/Approved). (Motion carried).

III. MOTION: To approve/adopt the rules for public comment as submitted by Mario DeBlasio (same as the Borough's rules). (DeBlasio/Gates/Approved). (Motion carried).

The following customers are in attendance to discuss the 2025 customer rate increase:
Ray Andel, Customer/Resident – Mr. Andel presented a document he created listing water/sewer rates in various townships/municipalities. He stated that Crawford County is over 200 years old, and in that time, there has never been a $40 rate increase. His concern about our rate increase was addressed by Carl McLean, Mario DeBlasio and Alan Baldarelli. The board members explained that MACL pays their customer share (27.39%) to CLJMA for sewage processing and how I&I increases our flows which then increases our costs to them. They also explained how improvement phases CLJMA is committed to increases our costs to them tremendously. Mario shared that MACL experienced a loss in the past two years and that charging by EDUs is no longer the typical method by AWA standards. Mr. Andel offered to assist the board in any way he can; Mario stated we will email our financial statements and budget to him so he can contribute suggestions. Alan explained the number of grants we have submitted (currently over a million) and how we are trying to obtain "free money" thru grants to cover necessary improvements. Alan also stated he heard a rumor is circulating that our rates went up because of "Reflections", and that is absolutely not true as we are not selling water to any development in the area. MACL only sells and provides water to our 390 customers.

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Arnett, Owner of Ladd's Laundry – Mr. Arnett informed the board of his long-standing association with Conneaut Lake and the background of his ownership of Ladd's Laundry. He is requesting the board reconsider another option for his rate increase as it would create an extreme hardship on them, possibly resulting in the closure of the business. He hopes we can find a "middle ground" that would serve both parties. The board has agreed to have our Engineer review the impact of charging for sewer only on an EDU basis instead of meter size. Mr. Tigri stated we need the laundry and don't want to see them close. He also explained the role of the DEP and how they mandate improvements to the CLJMA which ultimately results in MACL's need to increase customer water/sewer rates. Mr. Arnett has offered his assistance to the board.

Pat Kaider, Customer/Resident – Ms. Kaider questioned Mr. Tigri about the DEP mandate. He explained the multiple upgrades the DEP is requiring of the CLJMA which amount to approximately $16-20 million in total. She also asked about the water and sewer improvement charges listed on the invoices. Carl McLean explained the projects and loans those funds were used for (6th Street project, middle school lift station, water tower etc.) and that these charges will be eliminated with the new pricing structure. Ms. Kaider stated she volunteers with the Samaritans, and she expects an increase in requests for customer assistance with their bills once the new rates are in effect. Mario explained how we also changed our interest rate from 99% to 22% per annum so disadvantaged customers won't be charged so much in interest.

Mario asked Ms. Kaider about an anonymous letter being circulated in the borough being attributed to her and her fellow write-in candidates as a "key voter issue". The letter accuses MACL of supplying water to an outside entity (Pittsburgh developer in Sadsbury Township) which will "raise local costs" (issue #2). Mario wanted to know how it would raise local costs. Ms. Kaider said they were more concerned about MACL selling water to an outside entity and how that would affect MACL customers negatively by not having enough water for major issues such as fires. Mario assured her there was no truth to the letter, there is no active contract with anyone and that MACL sells water only to their existing 390 customers. Mario stated that one of the write-in candidates has a husband who has actively and quite bitterly and ugly attacking a member of this board. Ms. Kaider stated she has attended some of the borough council meetings. Mario again stated there is no truth to this letter, and Ms. Kaider has agreed to relay this to her co-candidates. Mario has offered to send Ms. Kaider the proposed 2022 contract from Reflections which the board did not accept and has never reconsidered to date.

All guests exited the board meeting after this discussion.

III. REPORTS

Brian Cagle, Attorney –

a. Discuss and Vote: To accept and approve the revised water/sewer rules & regulations to reflect customer fees based on meter size. ***This topic will be tabled until next month when the attorney is present. (DeBlasio/Gates/Approved). (Motion carried).***

Carl McLean

a. Discuss and Vote: Rate increase for multiple EDU accounts and accounts sharing meters. Sewer EDU rate change. This issue no longer needs to be voted on by the board. KLH will review Carl's suggestion for charging only the sewer rate by EDU.
b. Discuss and Vote: Respecify board members' discount, no overage charge.

MOTION: To charge board members by meter size for the basic water/sewer rate only plus 2000 gallons of water, no overage charge, effective 11/1/25. Board members can voluntarily opt out provided it is legal to do so. (McLean/Gates/Tigri/Baldarelli "yes", DeBlasio "no"/Approved) (Motion carried). This topic will be tabled until next month when the attorney is present.

c. Discuss and Vote: Approval of 2025 CLJMA reconciliation report.

MOTION: To approve and accept the 2025 CLJMA reconciliation report and authorize payment of $98,295.00 to CLJMA immediately. (McLean/DeBlasio/Approved) (Motion carried).

MOTION: To transfer $99,000 from our high-yield savings account to our regular checking account for the reconciliation payment to CLJMA. (DeBlasio/McLean/Approved) (Motion carried).

d. Discuss and Vote: Emergency notification procedure form. Boil water alert or conserve water notice – how, when and who. Carl stated all customers have been set up in the emergency system software, and it has been tested successfully with board members. The step-by-step procedures are in the google system entitled "emergency notification procedures". The board has suggested an "Emergency Procedures" binder be created and distributed to them to include the step-by-step guide to creating an emergency message and the emergency notification flowchart document previously approved. KLH will approve documents for binder beforehand. The mayor stated he should be one of the first notified

of an emergency as part of his Mayoral role. Mario stated KLH, Bob and Julie should be in the number one position for notification of an emergency also.

e. Discuss and Vote: Engineer to evaluate the cost of fixing our entire sewer system. Discuss the cost vs long-term savings for a complete or partial repair of sewer lines and laterals.

MOTION: ***To approve up to $2000 for KLH to do a feasibility study for a full/partial repair of the sewer system to include a metrix on ROI (revenue payback by years versus cost of repairs). Bob will provide information on line changes to KLH based on blueprints recently provided to them. (DeBlasio/Gates/McLean/Tigri "Yay" and Baldarelli "Nay"/Approved). (Motion carried).***

Jim Tigri –

a. Litigation costs of fighting DEP Phase II. ***This topic will be tabled until the November board meeting when the attorney is present.*** The Engineer suggested discussing topic in an executive session format versus "litigation" stated on agenda as this hints to a court case which there is not.

KLH Engineers

a. Review and discuss CE report.
b. Discuss and Vote: Resolution No. 2025-04 for the application of a Statewide LSA Grant application for the *Water Tank Improvements Project*.
c. Discuss and Vote: Resolution No. 2025-05 for the application of a Statewide LSA Grant application for the *Emergency Monitoring and Alarming System Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System.*
d. Discuss and Vote: Resolution No. 2025-06 for the application of a Statewide LSA Grant application for the *Distribution and Collection System Improvements*
e. Discuss and Vote: Status of other two DEP violations not resolved: flowmeters for wells & backflow preventors. KLH will follow up with Laurel Holdings regarding the quote they provided to Bob today. ***This topic will be tabled until the November board meeting.***
f. KLH will prepare a lead service line investigation. Bob gave KLH the customer updates that were not included on the last version of the spreadsheet.

MOTION: ***To approve up to $2000 for KLH (including $100 for each application fee) to write and submit three grant applications to LSA before November 30, 2025 (previously submitted in April to PA small water grant program). (DeBlasio/Baldarelli/Approved). (Motion carried).***

MOTION: ***To adapt the grant amounts on the three grant applications as per the Engineer's instruction (10%+) and with MACL's new customer rate structure included. (DeBlasio/McLean/Approved). (Motion carried).***

Bob Morrow, Superintendent.

a. Discussed flows.
b. Violation repair completed on number one well – replaced electrical conduit at a cost of $200.
c. Repair completed on broken sewer lateral at filter building on 2nd street. It was discovered the foundation drain was not properly installed - there was no gravel around it so the shifting of the ground caused the break.

d. Bob stated he can get a chemical containment device (55-gallon drum) for $600. This was a minor violation on our DEP report.
e. Bob stated he can get a test cylinder for the chemical feed pump for $300. This was a minor violation on our DEP report. This will conclude the small violations we needed to complete.

MOTION: ***To approve up to $1000 for Bob to purchase a new chemical containment device and test cylinder. (DeBlasio/Gates/Approved) (Motion carried).***

Julie McVay, Secretary/Treasurer

a. Status of Riley Paris' "Munibridge Solutions" water software program use and new meter reader. Julie reported the printing the 2nd month of invoices through Munibridge and QuickBooks was successful. Riley reviewed meter read uploads each month and tweaked numbers as needed. He will also make changes to A/R reporting functions at Julie's request. Bob discussed the difficulty in using the new meter reader mainly due to its size.

IV: OLD BUSINESS – none.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and vote on Profit & Loss Statement as presented.

MOTION: To accept the Profit & Loss Statement as submitted. (Baldarelli/McLean/Approved) (Motion carried).

b. Review and discuss Aged Accounts –

c. Review and vote on bills presented for payment.

MOTION: To approve monthly bills for payment as submitted. (McLean/Tigri/Approved) (Motion carried).

Adjournment –

MOTION: To adjourn meeting at 9:11 p.m. (DeBlasio/McLean/Approved) (Motion carried).

Respectfully Submitted,

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Julie McVay, Secretary/Treasurer