



**CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**





65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov  
800-282-0370

Board of Directors  
Conneaut Port Authority  
P.O. Box 218  
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Conneaut Port Authority, Ashtabula County, prepared by Canter & Associates, for the audit period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Conneaut Port Authority is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State

Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM  
Chief Deputy Auditor

September 03, 2025

**This page intentionally left blank.**

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
**Ashtabula County**  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Title	Page
Independent Auditor's Report.....	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis.....	4
Basic Financial Statements	
Statement of Net Position.....	9
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position .....	10
Statement of Cash Flows.....	11
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements .....	12
Required Supplementary Information:	
Schedule of Authority's Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability/Net Pension Asset (OPERS) Last Ten Years .....	32
Schedule of Authority's Contributions (OPERS) Last Ten Years .....	33
Schedule of Authority's Proportionate Share of Net OPEB Liability (OPERS) Last Eight Years .....	35
Schedule of Authority's OPEB Contributions (OPERS) Last Ten Years.....	36
Notes to Required Supplementary Information .....	38
Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of Financial Statements Performed In Accordance With <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> .....	41

**This page intentionally left blank.**



6400 OLDE STONE CROSSING  
POLAND, OHIO 44514  
PH: 330.707.9035  
FAX: 888.516.1186

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

[WWW.CANTERCPA.NET](http://WWW.CANTERCPA.NET)

---

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Conneaut Port Authority  
P.O. Box 218  
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

To the Members of Board of Directors:

### ***Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements***

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Conneaut Port Authority (the Port Authority), Ashtabula County, Conneaut, Ohio, a component unit of the City of Conneaut, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Port Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Conneaut Port Authority, Ashtabula County, Conneaut, Ohio, as of December 31, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Conneaut Port Authority, Ashtabula County, Conneaut, Ohio, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Conneaut Port Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Conneaut Port Authority's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Conneaut Port Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require this presentation to include *Management's Discussion and Analysis* and Schedules of Net Pension and Postemployment Benefit Liabilities, Pension and Postemployment Benefit Contributions and Net Pension Asset, listed in the table of contents, to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements.

We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.



***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 30, 2025, on our consideration of the Port Authority's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Port Authority's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Port Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**CANTER & ASSOCIATES**

**Poland, Ohio**  
June 30, 2025

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024  
UNAUDITED

---

The discussion and analysis of the Conneaut Port Authority's (the Port Authority) financial performance provides an overall review of the Port Authority's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Port Authority's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Port Authority's financial performance.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

Total operating revenues decreased \$43,416 due to a decrease in dockage fees from 2023.

Total cash increased \$52,241 due to decreased operating expenses.

Capital assets increased \$43,518, or 3%, while total assets increased \$78,435, a 5% increase from 2023.

Total liabilities decreased \$302,311 which represents a 24% decrease from 2023, primarily due to decreases in the net pension and OPEB liabilities and unearned revenue.

Net Investment in Capital Assets increased \$92,247, or 8%.

Net position increased \$259,056 which represents a 46% increase from 2023.

## USING THIS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the Conneaut Port Authority as an entire operating entity.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position provide information about the activities of the Conneaut Port Authority presenting both an aggregated view of the Port Authority's finances and a longer-term view of that position.

## REPORTING THE CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE

The Port Authority's single fund is an enterprise fund with reporting focused on the determination of the change in net position, financial position and cash flows. An enterprise fund accounts for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users.

While this document contains information about the fund used by the Port Authority to provide services to its customers, the view of the Port Authority as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2024?" The financial statements answer this question. The statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Port Authority's net position and the changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader whether for the Port Authority as a whole, the financial position of the Port Authority has improved or diminished.

The Port Authority utilizes only one propriety fund to account for charges to customers for services provided such as dock rental or boat launching fees.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024  
UNAUDITED

**THE CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY AS A WHOLE**

The Statement of Net Position looks at the Port Authority as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the Port Authority's net position for 2024 compared to 2023.

**(TABLE 1)  
NET POSITION**

	Business Type Activities		
	2024	2023	Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Current and Other Assets	\$ 120,863	\$ 85,946	\$ 34,917
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	1,645,261	1,601,743	43,518
Total Assets	1,766,124	1,687,689	78,435
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Pension - OPERS	68,322	136,622	(68,300)
OPEB - OPERS	8,067	21,002	(12,935)
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	76,389	157,624	(81,235)
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Current and Other Liabilities	246,224	445,261	(199,037)
Long-term Liabilities due within One Year	81,316	44,729	36,587
Long-term Liabilities due in more than One Year	638,327	778,188	(139,861)
Total Liabilities	965,867	1,268,178	302,311
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>			
Pension - OPERS	51,832	12,800	39,032
OPEB - OPERS	3,812	2,389	1,423
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	55,644	15,189	40,455
<b>NET POSITION</b>			
Net Investment In Capital Assets	1,231,396	1,139,149	92,247
Restricted	-	3,356	(3,356)
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(410,394)	(580,559)	170,165
Total Net Position	\$ 821,002	\$ 561,946	\$ 259,056

Total assets increased \$78,435. Current and other assets increased \$34,917, due to an increase in cash and cash equivalents due to decreased operating expenses.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024  
UNAUDITED

Net position increased \$259,056 which includes capital asset depreciation/amortization for the current year of \$81,482.

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the year ended December 31, 2024, compared to the year ended December 31, 2023.

**(TABLE 2)**  
**CHANGES IN NET POSITION**

	Business-Type Activities		
	2024	2023	Change
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>			
Dockage & Fuel Sales	\$ 718,046	\$ 761,638	\$ (43,592)
Property Rentals	112,543	78,752	33,791
Other Revenue	2,424	36,039	(33,615)
Total Operating Revenues	833,013	876,429	(43,416)
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	153,433	177,709	(24,276)
Marina Management Contract	15,917	782,214	(766,297)
Contractual Services	179,935	200,800	(20,865)
Insurance	41,309	35,800	5,509
Utilities	44,882	14,184	30,698
Materials and Supplies	192,481	30,187	162,294
Other Expenses	17,685	8,453	9,232
Depreciation Expense	81,482	80,093	1,389
Total Operating Expenses	727,124	1,329,440	(602,316)
Operating Income (Loss)	105,889	(453,011)	558,900
<b>NON-OPERATING REVENUES(EXPENSES)</b>			
Total Non-operating Revenues/Expenses	153,167	47,876	105,291
Change in Net Position	259,056	(405,135)	664,191
Net Position Beginning of Year	561,946	967,081	124,880
Net Position End of Year	\$ 821,002	\$ 561,946	\$ 259,056

Total operating expenses decreased \$602,316, or over 45%. The main reason is the decrease in the marina management contract fee from the prior year, as the Authority terminated the contract in early 2024.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024  
UNAUDITED

As a result of implementing the accounting standard for pension and OPEB, the Authority is reporting a significant net pension liability and related deferred inflows of resources for the fiscal year which have a negative effect on net position. In addition, the Authority is reporting a net OPEB asset, deferred outflows of resources and a decrease in expenses related to pension and OPEB, which have a positive impact on net position. The change in pension and OPEB expense is the difference between the contractually required contributions and the pension and OPEB expense resulting from the change in the liability that is not reported as deferred inflows or outflows. To further explain the impact of these accounting standards on the Authority's net position, additional information is presented below.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Deferred outflows - pension	\$ 68,322	\$ 136,622
Deferred outflows - OPEB	8,067	21,002
Deferred inflows - pension	(51,832)	(12,800)
Deferred inflows - OPEB	(3,812)	(2,389)
Net pension liability	(205,778)	(353,299)
Net OPEB asset (liability)	<u>6,616</u>	<u>(7,024)</u>
Impact of GASB 68 and GASB 75 on net position	<u>\$ (178,417)</u>	<u>\$ (217,888)</u>
Net expense impact	\$ 39,471	\$ 51,749

For 2024, the net expense impact of GASB 68 and 75 was \$39,471. This was from reporting the decrease in the Authority's proportionate share of the pension and other post-employment benefit liability of the Ohio Public Employment Retirement board. This adjustment was a negative expense which decreased expenses.

### CAPITAL ASSETS

The largest portion of the Authority's net position is its net investment in capital assets. The Authority uses these capital assets to provide services to the businesses and public using the Authority. Table 3 shows 2024 balances compared with 2023.

(Table 3)  
**CAPITAL ASSETS AT DECEMBER 31, 2024**  
**(NET OF DEPRECIATION/AMORTIZATION)**

	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>		
	<u>2,024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
Land	\$ 114,821	\$ 114,821	\$ -
Land Improvements	31,021	31,021	-
Other Nondepreciable Assets	286,714	286,714	-
Building and Improvements	534,790	428,091	106,699
Dock Improvements	615,898	651,831	(35,933)
Machinery and Equipment	39,204	54,067	(14,863)
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	<u>22,813</u>	<u>35,198</u>	<u>(12,385)</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 1,645,261</u>	<u>\$ 1,601,743</u>	<u>\$ 43,518</u>

Capital assets increased \$43,518 due to building improvement additions of \$125,000 being offset by current year depreciation/amortization of \$81,482. For additional information refer to Note 5 of the basic financial statements.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024  
UNAUDITED

---

**DEBT**

At December 31, 2024, the Port Authority had \$388,000 in a long-term obligation to the City of Conneaut to re-pay a note issued on behalf of the Port Authority for new marina and storage unit development, and also \$100,000 note payable to the Ashtabula County Commissioners for economic development to its marina. The Port Authority also had a five-year lease payable of \$23,432, for the purchase of two trucks; and a three-year lease payable of \$2,433 for the purchase of equipment. For more information, see Note 6 of the basic financial statements.

**THE FUTURE**

The Port Authority is planning to continue with the capital improvements to the marinas and aggressively pursuing economic growth for the community.

**CONTACTING THE PORT AUTHORITY TREASURER**

This financial report is designed to provide the board with a general overview of the Port Authority's finances and to show the Port Authority's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Patrick Arcaro, Treasurer, 929 Broad Street, Conneaut, Ohio 44030, 440-593-1300, or e-mail at [cpaadmin@conneautportauthority.com](mailto:cpaadmin@conneautportauthority.com).

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Statement of Net Position*  
*December 31, 2024*

<b>Assets</b>	
<i>Current Assets:</i>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$78,007
Prepaid Assets	22,708
Fuel Inventory	13,532
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>114,247</u>
<i>Non-Current Assets:</i>	
Net OPEB Asset	6,616
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	432,556
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	1,212,705
<i>Total Non-Current Assets</i>	<u>1,651,877</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$1,766,124</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
Pension	68,322
OPEB	8,067
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>76,389</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>	
Accounts Payable	\$44,571
Accrued Wages and Benefits	3,084
Unearned Revenue	197,056
Accrued Interest Payable	1,513
Current Portion of Long-term Debt	81,316
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>327,540</u>
<i>Non-Current Liabilities:</i>	
Due In More than One Year:	
Net Pension Liability	205,778
Other Amounts Due in More than One Year	432,549
<i>Total Non-Current Liabilities</i>	<u>638,327</u>
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>965,867</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Pension	51,832
OPEB	3,812
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>55,644</u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	1,231,396
Unrestricted (Deficit)	(410,394)
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$821,002</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position*  
*For the year ended December 31, 2024*

<hr/> <hr/>	
<b>Operating Revenue</b>	
Dockage	\$534,781
Property Rentals	112,543
Fuel Sales	183,265
Other Operating Revenues	2,424
	<hr/>
<i>Total Operating Revenue</i>	<i>833,013</i>
	<hr/>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Salaries and Benefits	153,433
Marina Management Contract	15,917
Contractual Services	33,945
Insurance	41,309
Utilities	44,882
Materials and Supplies	192,481
Professional Fees	145,990
Other Operating Expenses	17,685
Depreciation & Amortization Expense	81,482
	<hr/>
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>727,124</i>
	<hr/>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<i>105,889</i>
	<hr/>
<b>Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	
Capital Contributions and Donations	125,000
Grant Income	57,170
Interest Income	994
Interest and Fiscal Charges	(29,997)
	<hr/>
<i>Total Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</i>	<i>153,167</i>
	<hr/>
<i>Change In Net Position</i>	<i>259,056</i>
	<hr/>
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<i>561,946</i>
	<hr/>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<i>\$821,002</i>
	<hr/> <hr/>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements



**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Statement of Cash Flows*  
*For the year ended December 31, 2024*

<b>Cash Flows From Operating Activities:</b>	
Cash Received from Customers	\$695,933
Other Operating Revenue	2,424
Cash Paid for Marina Management Contract	(15,917)
Cash Paid for Goods and Services	(405,439)
Cash Paid to Employees	(197,946)
Other Operating Expenses	(106,189)
	<hr/>
<i>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</i>	<i>(27,134)</i>
	<hr/>
<b>Cash Flows From Investing Activities:</b>	
Interest on Investments	994
	<hr/>
<b>Cash Flows From Capital and Related Financing Activities:</b>	
Cash Received from Grants	57,170
Proceeds of Notes	100,000
Principal Payments on Debt	(48,729)
Interest Payments	(30,060)
	<hr/>
<i>Net Cash Provided by Capital and Related Financing Activities</i>	<i>78,381</i>
	<hr/>
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	52,241
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	25,766
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$78,007</u></u>
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Loss to</b>	
<b>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</b>	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$105,889
	<hr/>
<b>Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to</b>	
<b>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities:</b>	
Depreciation	81,482
<i>(Increase) Decrease in Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources:</i>	
Accounts Receivable	25,432
Prepaid Assets	(3,691)
Inventory	2,199
Deferred Outflows of Resources - Pension	68,300
Deferred Outflows of Resources - OPEB	12,935
<i>Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities and Deferred Inflows of Resources:</i>	
Accounts Payable	(33,844)
Accrued Wages and Benefits	(5,042)
Unearned Revenue	(135,088)
Deposits on Future Revenue	(25,000)
Net Pension Liability	(147,521)
Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	(13,640)
Deferred Inflows of Resources - Pension	39,032
Deferred Inflows of Resources - OPEB	1,423
	<hr/>
Total Adjustments	(133,023)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Used for Operating Activities	<u><u>(\$27,134)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**1. DESCRIPTION OF CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY**

The Conneaut Port Authority, Ashtabula County, (the Port Authority) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Port Authority for the City of Conneaut is directed by a seven-member Board appointed by the City Manager with the approval of Conneaut City Council. The Port Authority is a component unit of the City of Conneaut.

Charged with the responsibility of industrial development and the improvement of Conneaut's interconnecting waterways, the Port Authority is empowered with the ability to carry out the actions they consider necessary to achieve these responsibilities. The Port Authority operates two marinas and leases other lakefront facilities at the Port to private entities. The Port Authority's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Port Authority is financially accountable.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the Port Authority have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The Port Authority's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position, statement of revenues expenses and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows. The Port Authority reports its operations in an enterprise fund. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges or where it has been decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes. The Port Authority follows the business-type activities reporting requirements of GASB Statement No. 34. In accordance with this Statement, the accompanying basic financial statements are reported on a Port Authority-wide basis.

GASB Statement No. 34 requires the following, which collectively make up the Port Authority's basic financial statements:

Management Discussion and Analysis  
Basic Financial Statements  
    Statement of Net Position  
    Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position  
    Statement of Cash Flows

**B. Measurement Focus**

The enterprise fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of this fund are included on the statement of net position. The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in total net position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the Port Authority finances and meets the cash flow needs of its activities.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### C. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The single proprietary fund used the accrual basis of accounting.

**Revenues – Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions** Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the Port Authority receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from grants and donations is recognized in the year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Port Authority must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Port Authority on a reimbursement basis.

**Unearned Revenue** Unearned revenue arises when assets (cash) are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied.

**Expenses** On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

**Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources** In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the Port Authority, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are explained in Note 8.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. For the Port Authority, deferred inflows of resources were reported on the Statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are explained in Note 8.

### D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

All monies of the Port Authority are maintained in one bank account. Investment procedures are restricted by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. During 2024, the Port Authority maintained no investment accounts.

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, all bank deposits, including investments with maturity of less than three months are considered to be cash equivalents.

### E. Inventory

Inventories are presented at cost on the first-in, first-out basis and expensed when used.

### F. Capital Assets

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition value as of the date received. The Port Authority maintains a capitalization threshold of \$500. Improvements are capitalized; the cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized. Interest incurred on related debt during the construction of capital assets is also capitalized.

When assets are sold, or otherwise disposed of, the related cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts and any profit or loss arising from such disposition is included as income or expense in the year in which sold.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### F. Capital Assets (Continued)

All capital assets, except land, land improvements, other non-depreciable assets, and construction in progress, are depreciated. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Lives
Buildings and Improvements	15 – 40 years
Dock Improvements	10 – 40 years
Machinery and Equipment	3 – 10 years
Vehicles	5 – 20 years
Intangible Right to Use Assets	5 – 20 years

### G. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets, consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

### H. Operating Revenues

Operating revenues are those revenues generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary fund. For the Port Authority, these revenues are dock rentals and property leases. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods or service that is the primary activity of the fund. Revenue and expenses which do not meet these definitions are reported as non-operating.

### I. Pension and Other Postemployment Benefits

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, net OPEB asset, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions/OPEB, and pension/OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

The current accounting standard requires the Authority to report their proportionate share of the net pension/OPEB liability or OPEB asset using the earning approach to pension and OPEB accounting instead of the funding approach as previously used. The funding approach limited pension and post-employment costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's net pension/OPEB liability or OPEB asset. Under the new standards, the net pension/OPEB liability or OPEB asset equals the Authority proportionate share of the pension plan's collective present value of estimated future pension/OPEB benefits attributable to active and inactive employees' past service minus plan assets available to pay these benefits.

Pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the employment exchange. The employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. The unfunded portion of this benefit of exchange is a liability of the Authority. However, the Authority is not responsible for key factors affecting the balance of this liability. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Benefit provisions and both employer and employee contribution rates are determined by State statute. The employee and employer enter the employment exchange with the knowledge that the exchange is limited by law. The pension system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

## **2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

### **I. Pension and Other Postemployment Benefits (Continued)**

There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability. The Authority has no control over the changes in the benefits, contributions rate, and return on investments affecting the balance of these liabilities. In the event that contributions, investment returns, and other changes are insufficient to keep up with required payments, State statute does not identify the responsible party for the unfunded portion. Due to the unique nature of how the pension liability and the OPEB liability are satisfied, these liabilities are separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position.

### **J. Extraordinary and Special Items**

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Port Authority management and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. No extraordinary or special items occurred during 2024.

### **K. Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

## **3. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

For 2024, the Authority has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 62", and Statement No. 101, "Compensated Absences".

GASB Statement No. 100 aims to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Authority.

GASB Statement No. 101 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for compensated absences. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 101 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Authority.

## **4. CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

State statutes classify monies held by the Port Authority into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the Port Authority Treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

#### 4. CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Port Authority has identified as not required for use within the current five-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

Protection of Port Authority's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the treasurer by the financial institution or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited with the institution.

Monies held by the Port Authority which are not considered active are classified as interim monies. Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury notes, bills, bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations, or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All Federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or its political subdivisions, provided that such political subdivisions are located wholly or partly within the Port Authority territory;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts, including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Port Authority and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only with delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

**4. CASH AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

**Deposits**

**Custodial Credit Risk** Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Port Authority will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, all of the Port Authority's bank balance of \$102,171 was insured. The carrying amount of all Port Authority deposits was \$78,007 at year-end, which included \$550 in cash on hand.

The Port Authority has no deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to the Port Authority and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured, or participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

**Investments**

Investments are reported at fair value. As of December 31, 2024, the Port Authority had no investments.

**5. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2024 was as follows:

	Balance 12/31/23	Additions	Deductions	Balance 12/31/24
<b><i>Capital Assets, not being depreciated:</i></b>				
Land	\$ 114,821	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114,821
Land Improvements	31,021	-	-	31,021
Other Nondepreciable Assets	55,012	-	-	55,012
Construction In Progress	231,702	-	-	231,702
<i>Total Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>432,556</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>432,556</u>
<b><i>Capital Assets, being depreciated:</i></b>				
Building and Improvements	2,819,716	125,000	-	2,944,716
Dock Improvements	1,379,374	-	-	1,379,374
Machinery and Equipment	233,523	-	-	233,523
Intangible Right to Use Lease - Equipment	66,522	-	-	66,522
<i>Total Depreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>4,499,135</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,624,135</u>
<b><i>Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization:</i></b>				
Building and Improvements	(2,391,625)	(18,301)	-	(2,409,926)
Dock Improvements	(727,543)	(35,933)	-	(763,476)
Machinery and Equipment	(179,456)	(14,863)	-	(194,319)
Intangible Right to Use Lease - Equipment	(31,324)	(12,385)	-	(43,709)
<i>Total Depreciation/Amortization</i>	<u>(3,329,948)</u>	<u>(81,482)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(3,411,430)</u>
<i>Total Depreciable Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>1,169,187</u>	<u>43,518</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,212,705</u>
<b><i>Total Capital Assets, Net</i></b>	<u>\$ 1,601,743</u>	<u>\$ 43,518</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,645,261</u>

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

**5. CAPITAL ASSETS (Continued)**

Of the current year depreciation/amortization total of \$81,482, \$12,385 is related to the Port Authority's lease of two trucks and a zero-turn mower, which are included as an Intangible Right to Use Leases. With the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87 Lease, a lease meeting the criteria of this statement requires the lessee to recognize the lease liability and an intangible right to use asset.

**6. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

Changes in the Port Authority's long-term obligations were as follows:

Business-Type Activities	Interest Rate	12/31/2023 Balance	Additions	Deletions	12/31/2024 Balance	Due Within One Year
City of Conneaut	6.74%	\$ 422,000	\$ -	\$ (34,000)	\$ 388,000	\$ 34,000
County Economic Development	0.00%	-	100,000	-	100,000	33,333
Capital Lease 1	2.88%	34,659	-	(11,227)	23,432	11,550
Capital Lease 2	4.95%	5,935	-	(3,502)	2,433	2,433
Net Pension Liability	n/a	353,299	-	(147,521)	205,778	n/a
Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	n/a	7,024	-	(13,640)	(6,616)	n/a
Total Long-Term Liabilities		<u>\$ 822,917</u>	<u>\$ 100,000</u>	<u>\$ (209,890)</u>	<u>\$ 713,027</u>	<u>\$ 81,316</u>

The City of Conneaut issued notes beginning in 2020 on behalf of the Port Authority for a new marina and storage development opportunities. The City and Port Authority revisit and reevaluate the terms of the note each year, so there is no set repayment schedule. The Port Authority is expected to pay approximately 10 percent of the outstanding principal balance over ten years but can change the amount if cash flow needs arise and both sides agree to the payment. The Port Authority made a principal payment of \$34,000 in 2024, and an interest payment of \$28,364. All long-term obligations will be paid with dock rental receipts and the sale of capital assets.

On March 12, 2024, the Ashtabula County Commissioners issued a \$100,000 zero percent note to the Port Authority for the purpose of economic development in the Authority's district and marina. The note is to be paid back in three years starting in January of 2025 2026 and 2027 for \$33,333.00 each year.

There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability; however, employer pension and OPEB contributions are made from the operating Port Authority fund. For additional information related to the net pension liability and net OPEB liability, see Note 8.

In 2021, the Port Authority entered into a lease for two trucks. In 2022, the Port Authority entered into a lease for a zero-turn mower. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate stated, or implicit, in the lease. This discount is being amortized using the interest method over the life of the leases. As summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining terms of the leases is as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 13,983	\$ 720	\$ 14,703
2026	11,882	342	12,224
	<u>\$ 25,865</u>	<u>\$ 1,062</u>	<u>\$ 26,927</u>



**7. RENTAL AGREEMENTS**

The Port Authority has entered into a fifty-year, non-monetary, rental commencing June 1, 1988, and ending May 31, 2038, with the City of Conneaut for specified lands in the lakefront area owned by the City.

The Port Authority has entered into a fifty-year rental commencing July 1, 1989, through June 30, 2039, with the State of Ohio for submerged land at the lakefront. The annual lease amount is \$1, due and payable the first day of June of each year for property that does not generate revenues for the Port Authority.

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN**

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the retirement systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when they are due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The retirement systems report investments at fair value.

The net pension liability reported on the statement of net position represents a liability to employees for pensions. Pensions are a component of exchange transactions - between an employer and its employees - of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee, on a deferred payment basis, as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension liability represents the Authority's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and other variables. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the Authority's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The Authority cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the Authority does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension.

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. A liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *intergovernmental payable* on the accrual basis of accounting.

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)**

***Plan Description - Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)***

Plan Description – The Authority participates in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan, and the combined plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan with defined contribution features. Beginning January 1, 2022, new members may no longer select the combined plan, and current members may no longer make a plan change to the combined plan. While Authority employees may elect the member-directed plan, substantially all employee members are in OPERS' traditional plan; therefore, the following disclosure focuses on the traditional pension plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits and annual cost of living adjustments to members of the traditional pension plan. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (800) 222-7377. Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group.

The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional plan as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS ACFR referenced above for additional information):

<b>Group A</b> Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013 or five years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group B</b> 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013 or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group C</b> Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
State and Local	State and Local	State and Local
<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
<b>Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35

Final average salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career. Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The amount of a member's pension benefit vests at retirement.

When a benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) is provided. This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. For those retiring prior to January 7, 2013, the COLA will continue to be 3 percent simple annual COLA. For those retiring subsequent to January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the COLA will be based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent. A death benefit of \$500 to \$2,500 determined by the number of years of service credit of the retiree, is paid to the beneficiary of a deceased retiree or disability benefit recipient.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)**

Funding Policy – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	<u>State and Local</u>
<b>2024 Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>	
Employer	14.0%
Employee	10.0%
<b>2024 Actual Contribution Rates</b>	
Employer:	
Pension *	14.0%
Post-Employment Health Care Benefits	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Employer	<u>14.0%</u>
Employee	<u>10.0%</u>

\*These pension and employer health care rates are for the traditional plan. The employer contribution rate for the combined plan has allocated 2 percent for health care with the remainder going to pension.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The Authority's 2024 contractual required contribution was \$23,425 for the traditional plan. The entire amount was used to fund pension benefits.

***Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred inflows of Resources Related to Pensions***

The net pension liability for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Authority's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Authority's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Proportion of the pension liability - prior measurement date	0.0011960 %	0.0013170 %
Proportion of the pension liability - current measurement date	<u>0.0007860 %</u>	<u>0.0011960 %</u>
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.0004100 %</u>	<u>-0.0001210 %</u>
Proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ 205,778	\$ 353,299
Pension expense	\$ (16,765)	\$ 29,702

At December 31, 2024, the Port Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)**

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>		
Net differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 3,363	\$ 11,735
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	41,534	100,702
Changes of assumptions	-	3,732
Changes in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	1,941
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date	23,425	18,512
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 68,322</u>	<u>\$ 136,622</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>		
Changes in proportionate share and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	\$ 51,832	\$ 12,800
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 51,832</u>	<u>\$ 12,800</u>

\$23,425 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending December 31, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	<u>OPERS</u>
Year ending December 31:	
2025	\$ (26,981)
2026	(543)
2027	26,504
2028	(5,915)
Total	<u>\$ (6,935)</u>

***Actuarial Assumptions - OPERS***

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

---

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)**

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2023, using the following actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67:

Wage Inflation	2.75%
Future Salary Increases, Including Inflation	2.75 % to 10.75 % (includes wage inflation at 2.75%)
COLA or Ad hoc COLA	Pre 1/7/2013 retirees: 3% Simple; Post 1/7/2013 retirees: 2.3% Simple through 2024, then 2.05% Simple
Current Measurement Period - Investment Rate of Return	6.90 Percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.9 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the statutorily required rates, as actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

The allocation of investment assets within the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. The long-term expected rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Defined Benefit portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN (Continued)**

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)
Fixed Income	24.00 %	2.85 %
Domestic Equities	21.00	4.27
Real Estate	13.00	4.46
Private Equity	15.00	7.52
International Equities	20.00	5.16
Risk Parity	2.00	4.38
Other Investments	5.00	3.46
Total	100.00 %	

During 2023, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Defined Contribution portfolio and the Health Care portfolio. The Defined Benefit portfolio contains the investment assets of the Traditional Pension Plan, the defined benefit component of the Combined Plan and the annuitized accounts of the Member-Directed Plan. Within the Defined Benefit portfolio, contributions into the plans are all recorded at the same time, and benefit payments all occur on the first of the month. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Defined Benefit portfolio was a gain of 11.2 percent for 2023.

***Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate*** The following table presents the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 6.9 percent, as well as what the Authority's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.9 percent), or one percentage point higher (7.9 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (5.9%)	Current Discount Rate (6.9%)	1% Increase (7.9%)
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	\$323,950	\$205,778	\$107,493

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan**

***Net OPEB Liability (Asset)***

For purposes of measuring the net OPEB liability (asset), deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB, and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the retirement systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The retirement systems report investments at fair value.

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan (Continued)**

The net OPEB liability (asset) reported on the statement of net position represents a liability (asset) to employees for OPEB. OPEB is a component of exchange transactions-between an employer and its employees-of salaries and benefits for employee services. OPEB is provided to an employee, on a deferred-payment basis, as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for OPEB is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net OPEB liability (asset) represents the Authority's proportionate share of each OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments, cost trends and other variables. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

The Authority's share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net other postemployment benefit liability (asset)* on the accrual basis of accounting.

Ohio Revised Code limits the Authority's obligation for liabilities to OPERS to annual required payments. The Authority cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which OPEB from the cost-sharing, multiple-employer plans are financed; however, the Authority does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including OPEB.

GASB Statement No. 75 assumes the liability (asset) is solely the obligation of the employer, because they benefit from employee services. OPEB contributions come from these employers and health care plan enrollees which pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. The Ohio Revised Code permits but does not require the cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement systems to provide health care to eligible benefit recipients. Any change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

***Plan Description—Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)***

Health Care Plan Description - The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan, and the combined plan is a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan with defined contribution features.

OPERS maintains one health care trust, the 115 Health Care Trust (115 Trust), which was established in 2014.

The OPERS health care plans are reported as other post-employment benefit plans (OPEB) based on the criteria established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Periodically, OPERS modifies the health care program design to improve the ongoing solvency of the plans. Eligibility requirements for access to the OPERS health care options have changed over the history of the program for Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan members. Prior to January 1, 2015, 10 or more years of service were required to qualify for health care coverage. Beginning January 1, 2015, generally, members must be at least age 60 with 20 years of qualifying service credit to qualify for health care coverage or 30 years of qualifying service at any age. Effective January 1, 2022, retirees must generally be at least age 65 with a minimum of 20 years of qualifying service credit, or a minimum of 30 years of qualifying service credit at any age, to qualify for health care benefits.

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan (Continued)**

Beginning in 2016 for Medicare retirees enrolled in Medicare A and B, and beginning 2022 for non-Medicare retirees, eligible retirees were able to participate in the OPERS Connector (Connector) in lieu of comprehensive health care coverage. The Connector, a vendor selected by OPERS, assists eligible retirees in the evaluation, selection and purchase of a health care plan on the open market. Eligible retirees may receive a monthly allowance in their health care reimbursement arrangement (HRA) account that can be used to reimburse eligible health care expenses.

The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require OPERS to provide OPEB benefits to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml#CAFR>, by writing OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 1-800-222-7377.

Funding Policy - The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund health care through their contributions to OPERS. A portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2024, the Authority contributed at a rate of 14 percent of earnable salary. The Ohio Revised Code currently limits the employer contribution rate not to exceed 14 percent of covered payroll. A portion of each employer contribution may be set aside for the funding of post-employment health care coverage. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care was zero for 2024 for the traditional and combined plans. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the member-directed plan for 2024 was 4.0 percent.

***OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB***

The net OPEB liability (asset) and total OPEB liability (asset) for OPERS were determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2022, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2023, by incorporating the expected value of health care cost accruals, the actual health care payments, and interest accruals during the year. The Authority's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the Authority's share of contributions to the retirement system relative to the contributions of all participating entities. The following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability or asset:		
prior measurement date	0.001114%	0.001226%
current measurement date	<u>0.000733%</u>	<u>0.001114%</u>
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.000381%</u>	<u>-0.000112%</u>
Proportionate share of the net		
OPEB liability (asset)	\$ (6,616)	\$ 7,024
OPEB expense	\$ 720	\$ (11,753)

At December 31, 2024, the Port Authority reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:



CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY  
ASHTABULA COUNTY  
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024

---

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan (Continued)**

	<u>OPERS</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>		
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	\$ 3,976	\$ 13,951
Changes of assumptions	1,703	6,861
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	2,388	190
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 8,067</u>	<u>\$ 21,002</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>		
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 942	\$ 1,753
Changes of assumptions	2,844	565
Changes in proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	26	71
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 3,812</u>	<u>\$ 2,389</u>

No amount reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Port Authority contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	<u>OPERS</u>
Year ending December 31:	
2025	\$ 1,342
2026	1,160
2027	3,093
2028	<u>(1,340)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,255</u>

***Actuarial Assumptions - OPERS***

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of health care costs for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of coverages provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between OPERS and plan members.

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan (Continued)**

The actuarial valuation used the following key actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 74.

Key Methods and Assumptions used in Valuation of the Total OPEB Liability (asset):

Wage Inflation	2.75 Percent
Projected Salary Increases	2.75 - 10.75 Percent (includes wage inflation at 2.75 percent)
Single Discount Rate:	
Current Measurement Period	5.70 Percent
Prior Measurement Period	5.22 Percent
Investment Rate of Return	6.00 Percent
Municipal Bond Rate:	
Current Measurement Period	3.77 Percent
Prior Measurement Period	4.05 Percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate:	
Current Measurement Period	5.50 Percent initial, 3.50 Percent ultimate in 2038
Prior Measurement Period	5.50 Percent initial, 3.50 Percent ultimate in 2036

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

**Discount Rate** A single discount rate of 5.70 percent was used to measure the total OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2023; however, the single discount rate used at the beginning of the year was 5.22 percent. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) a tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on the actuarial assumed rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00 percent and a municipal bond rate of 3.77 percent.

The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through the year 2070. As a result, the actuarial assumed long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2070, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan (Continued)**

The allocation of investment assets within the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. The System's primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric real rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Health Care portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2023, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation as of December 31, 2023	Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)
Fixed Income	37.00 %	2.82 %
Domestic Equities	25.00	4.27
REIT's	5.00	4.68
International Equities	25.00	5.16
Risk Parity	3.00	4.38
Other Investments	5.00	2.43
Total	100.00 %	

During 2023, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Defined Contribution portfolio and the Health Care portfolio. The Health Care portfolio includes the assets for health care expenses for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan eligible members. Within the Health Care portfolio, contributions into the plans are assumed to be received continuously throughout the year based on the actual payroll payable at the time contributions are made, and health care-related payments are assumed to occur mid-year. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Health Care portfolio was a gain of 14.0 percent for 2023.

***Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate.*** The following table presents the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using the single discount rate of 5.70 percent and the expected net OPEB liability (asset) if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1.0 percent lower (4.70 percent) or 1.0 percent higher (6.70 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (4.70%)	Current Discount Rate (5.70%)	1% Increase (6.70%)
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$3,636	(\$6,616)	(\$15,107)

**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) Plan (Continued)**

***Sensitivity of the Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (asset) to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates.*** Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB liability (asset). The following table presents the net OPEB liability (asset) calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB liability (asset) if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate:

	1% Decrease	Current Health Care Trend Rate	1% Increase
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	(\$6,890)	(\$6,616)	(\$6,304)

Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost trend assumption with changes over several years built into that assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2024 is 5.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is the health care cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

**10. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Port Authority is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. To manage this exposure, the Port Authority is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Authority's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31, 2023 (the latest information available):

	<u><b>2023</b></u>
Assets	\$43,996,442
Liabilities	<u>(19,743,401)</u>
Net Position	<u><b>\$24,253,041</b></u>

## 11. CONTINGENCIES

### Grants

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Port Authority are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the Federal government. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed cost or excess reserve balances. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow or recapture. However, based on prior experience, management believes any such disallowed claims or recapture amounts would not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position at December 31, 2024.

### Litigations and Claims

In the normal course of operations, the Port Authority may be subject to litigation and claims. At December 31, 2024, the Port Authority was not aware of any such matters that would have a material effect on the financial statements.

## 12. MARINA MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

In August of 2022, the Port Authority entered into a management agreement with Oasis Marina LLC, to provide comprehensive facility management services of the marinas under the control of the Port Authority. The Port Authority terminated the contract effective February of 2024.

During 2024, Oasis incurred expenses of \$15,917 on behalf of the Port Authority before the contract was terminated.

## 13. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There were no subsequent events noted through the date of the report, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Any subsequent events after that date have not been evaluated.

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) - Traditional Plan*  
*Last Ten Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Authority's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00078600%	0.00119600%	0.001317%	0.001276%	0.001224%	0.001235%	0.001144%	0.001195%	0.001077%	0.009410%
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$205,778	\$353,299	\$ 114,584	\$ 188,948	\$ 241,932	\$ 338,241	\$ 225,908	\$ 271,365	\$ 186,550	\$ 113,495
Authority's Covered Payroll	\$132,229	\$185,450	\$191,193	\$179,650	\$172,236	\$166,792	\$151,222	\$154,537	\$134,059	\$115,383
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	155.62%	190.51%	59.93%	105.18%	140.47%	202.79%	149.39%	175.60%	139.16%	98.36%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	79.01%	75.74%	92.62%	86.88%	82.17%	74.70%	84.66%	77.25%	81.08%	86.45%

Amounts presented as of the Authority's measurement date which is the prior year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of Authority Pension Contributions*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) - Traditional Plan*  
*Last Ten Years*

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Contractually Required Pension Contribution	\$23,425	\$18,512	\$ 25,963	\$ 26,767
Pension Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(\$23,425)	(\$18,512)	(\$25,963)	(\$26,767)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Authority Covered Payroll	\$167,321	\$132,229	\$185,450	\$191,193
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$ 25,151	\$ 24,113	\$ 20,014	\$ 18,147	\$ 18,544	\$ 16,086
(\$25,151)	(\$24,113)	(\$20,014)	(\$18,147)	(\$18,544)	(\$16,086)
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$179,650	\$172,236	\$166,792	\$151,222	\$154,537	\$134,059
14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%	12.00%	12.00%



**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)*  
*Last Eight Years (1)*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Authority's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	0.00073300%	0.00111400%	0.001226%	0.001191%	0.001175%	0.001201%	0.001122%	0.001174%
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	(\$6,616)	\$7,024	\$ (38,400)	\$ (21,219)	\$ 162,298	\$ 156,582	\$ 121,624	\$ 118,578
Authority's Covered Payroll	\$132,229	\$185,450	\$191,193	\$179,650	\$172,236	\$174,194	\$158,922	\$162,237
Authority's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-5.00%	3.79%	-20.08%	-11.81%	94.23%	89.89%	76.53%	73.09%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability (Asset)	107.76%	94.79%	128.23%	115.57%	47.80%	46.33%	54.14%	54.05%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available

Amounts presented as of the Authority's measurement date which is the prior year end

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of Authority OPEB Contributions*  
*Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)*  
*Last Ten Years*

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Contractually Required OPEB Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
OPEB Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Authority Covered Payroll	\$167,321	\$132,229	\$185,450	\$191,193
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,848	\$3,243	\$2,835
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,848)	(\$3,243)	(\$2,835)
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
\$179,650	\$172,236	\$174,194	\$158,922	\$162,237	\$141,759
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%	2.00%	2.00%

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Notes to Required Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

---

**Net Pension Liability**

*Changes in Actuarial Assumptions and Methods – OPERS*

2024 - 2023: There were no OPERS pension plan amendments adopted or changes in assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial contributions.

2022: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Reduction in actuarial assumed rate of return from 7.2% to 6.9%
- Decrease in wage inflation from 3.25% to 2.75%
- Change in future salary increases from a range of 3.25%-10.75% to 2.75%-10.75%

2021-2020: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for this period.

2019: OPERS Board adopted a change in the investment return assumption, reducing it from 7.5% to 7.2%.

2018: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions.

2017: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Reduction in actuarial assumed rate of return from 8.00% to 7.50%
- Decrease in wage inflation from 3.75% to 3.25%
- Change in future salary increases from a range of 4.25%-10.02% to 3.25%-10.75%

2016-2014: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions.

*Changes in Benefit Terms - OPERS*

2024-2014: There were no changes in the benefit terms for the period.

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset)**

*Changes in Actuarial Assumptions and Methods – OPERS*

2024: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The single discount rate increased from 5.22% to 5.70%.
- The municipal bond rate decreased from 4.05% to 3.77%

**Conneaut Port Authority**  
Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Notes to Required Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

---

2023: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The single discount rate decreased from 6.00% to 5.22%.
- The municipal bond rate increased from 1.84% to 4.05%

2022: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond rate decreased from 2.00% to 1.84%.
- The initial health care cost trend rate decreased from 8.5% to 5.5%.
- Decrease in wage inflation from 3.25% to 2.75%.
- Change in future from 7.5% to 10%.

2021: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The single discount rate increased from 3.16% to 6.00%.
- The municipal bond rate decreased from 2.75% to 2.00%.
- The initial health care cost trend rate decreased from 10.5% to 8.5%.

2020: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The single discount rate decreased from 3.96% to 3.16%.
- The municipal bond rate decreased from 3.71% to 2.75%.
- The initial health care cost trend rate increased from 10.0% to 10.5%.

2019: The following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The single discount rate increased from 3.85% to 3.96%.
- The investment rate of return decreased from 6.5% to 6.0%.
- The municipal bond rate increased from 3.31% to 3.71%.
- The initial health care cost trend rate increased from 7.5% to 10%.

2018: The single discount rate changed from 4.23% to 3.85%

*Changes in Benefit Terms – OPERS*

2024 - 2023: There were no changes in benefit terms for the period.

2022: Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

2021: There were no changes in benefit terms for the period.

**Conneaut Port Authority**

Ashtabula County, Ohio

*Notes to Required Supplementary Information  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

---

2020: On January 15, 2020, the Board approved several changes to the health care plan offered to Medicare and pre-Medicare retirees in efforts to decrease costs and increase the solvency of the health care plan. These changes are effective January 1, 2022, and include changes to base allowances and eligibility for Medicare retirees, as well as replacing OPERS-sponsored medical plans for pre-Medicare retirees with monthly allowances, similar to the program for Medicare retirees.

2019-2018: There were no changes in benefit terms for the period.



6400 Olde Stone Crossing  
Poland, Ohio 44514  
Ph: 330.707.9035  
Fax: 888.516.1186

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

WWW.CANTERCPA.NET

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND  
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Conneaut Port Authority  
Ashtabula County  
P.O. Box 218  
Conneaut, Ohio 44030

To the Members of the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Conneaut Port Authority, Ashtabula County, (the Port Authority) a component unit of the City of Conneaut, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 30, 2025.

***Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Port Authority's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Port Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Port Authority's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

**Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Port Authority's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Port Authority's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Port Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



**CANTER & ASSOCIATES**

Poland, Ohio

June 30, 2025



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**CONNEAUT PORT AUTHORITY**

**ASHTABULA COUNTY**

## **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



**Certified for Release 9/16/2025**

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)