

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
March 10, 2016
Selectmen's Chambers, 5:30 p.m.
Town of Avon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 5:30 pm by Mr. Johansen.

AWPCA

Present: Eric Johansen
Terry Ryan
Tom Armstrong
Chris Roy
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sanitary Sewers

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – January 14, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Johansen made a motion for approval of the January 14, 2016 minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – Mr. Alex White of Winding Lane mentioned he was in attendance for the Winding Lane discussion.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – 2016 – 2 Annual Discussion to establish sewer use (EDU) rate

Mr. Baril noted the current annual EDU rate is \$335.

Mr. Foster noted the total [new] connection for all sheds is approximately 20 connections [in 2015]. Mr. Baril noted the development behind the town hall is projected to be 415 residential units plus all the commercial connections. His connection projection for 2016 is not a big number. It was suggested to table the agenda item to the next meeting to gather additional information on what area towns are charging. A public hearing to consider this item is planned for the May meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS - 2015 – 1 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for Winding Lane and Portion of Stony Corners

Mr. Baril provided an update noting the field survey and soil boring program was completed and the design is approximately 80% completed. There are a couple elevation questions yet to be answered. The goal is to have the mainline design essentially completed by the end of March. There could be a possibility of holding an informational meeting at the May AWPCA meeting. Mr. Baril clarified that the goal is to catch everyone at first floor by gravity although the cost benefit has to be considered for properties that are low. These homes may require an individual pump system that lifts the effluent into the gravity system. Mr. Baril clarified Mr. White's question stating that such pumps are purchased, owned and operated by the homeowner. The homeowner is responsible for their own pump. The goal is to do as few pumps as possible. Mr. Baril noted the project will probably be done in one phase. Mr. Baril has not received any feedback from the utility companies. While on site at Winding Lane, he noted that staff have only met a couple residents who are opposed to the project. Mr. White extended his gratitude to the Commission.

2015 – 8 – Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for School Street

Mr. Baril provided an update on a prior plan to install lower pressure sewers.

With recent discussions relating to low pressure sewers, Mr. Baril does not think the Town should install low pressure sewers unless the AWPCA is willing to enforce a mandatory connection regulation. It is problematic to have one connection at the end of the line and no one in between with hundreds, or thousands of feet before the effluent exits to gravity. This will be a policy decision for the AWPCA to consider.

Mr. Baril commented about the pending pavement project planned and noting if there is to be gravity sewer for this area, it should be done now. The potential route was discussed noting it makes sense to cap the sewer for the possibility of future connections on New Road. The pavement project is slated for Fall 2016 or late Spring of 2017. Mr. Armstrong noted he would not have a problem supporting a regulation to mandatorily require people to connect in if the low flow is to replace an existing system as distinguished from new development as long as the Authority ultimately had the discretion as to whether to say it will go low flow. Mr. Johansen mentioned he agrees noting that financially / economically you can show people how much money you are saving.

2014 – 10 – Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for the Paperchase Trail neighborhood

Mr. Baril noted that both the Town and the AWPCA Board have the ability to dismiss the bids since there is language included in the bid specs indicating the Town reserves the right to reject all bids. Mr. Baril noted the project was put out to bid and is on the web site which does not allow an estimate of how many responses the bids have generated. Mr. Armstrong suggested requesting a bid pre-qualification form is completed by the contractor before receiving the bid package as a way to monitor who and how many contractors are planning to submit a bid. The bids are due March 28 and an addendum is planned. Mr. Baril plans to include a contingency of 20% when presenting a range of costs for the project. Mr. Baril reviewed the draft letter to residents. Mr. Armstrong suggested a subject line is added to the letter. Discussion included whether to refer to the public information meeting as a Public Hearing vs. a Public Information Meeting. Mr. Johansen noted after reading the letter he felt the language suggested a decision has already been made and the letter should include the word 'proposed'. The potential plan discussed will be to hold a Public Information Meeting in April where the Board hears from the residents and then hold the Public Hearing in May where the Board will make their decision.

Mr. Roy noted for the record that 1) a lot of people were not aware of the last public information meeting because of the late letter to residents and 2) The general underwriting feeling is that the project may become a bitter pill that needs to be swallowed. Mr. Roy noted it's not a deal breaker if public utilities are not included in the project. Mr. Foster provided his insight into the decision process by the Avon Water Company when installing public water. Mr. Baril noted his experience working with Connecticut Natural Gas on prior sewer related projects noting they have typically requested a commitment from residents before laying down the pipes.

Discussion included whether Mr. Roy is considered 'conflicted' when the Board makes their decision for the Paperchase Sewer Project. Mr. Roy noted he moved to the back of the room for the last public information meeting.

Mr. Roy inquired about the two vacant lots on Paperchase which are owned by the Avon Land Trust and how it will affect the overall assessment since those are technically building lots. The AWPCA will have to determine whether those two lots are going to be assessed. Should the figure for the project be divisible by 46 rather than 44? Mr. Armstrong said it is worth looking into. Mr. Baril inquired whether a lot can be transferred only if it's noted on the land records that there's a requirement stating the land will have permanent conservation. Mr. Armstrong noted research should be completed to determine what options are available when determining the number of homes to be included in the assessment calculation when there is a property owned by a land trust. Mr. Ryan mentioned he would like to be in favor of the neighborhood. Mr. Johansen noted the deed restriction could say a sewer permit cannot be granted for that particular property. Mr. Baril concluded the

discussion noting he will contact Murtha Cullina to inquire what the precedence has been regarding land trusts and sewer assessments.

Mr. Armstrong inquired about cisterns and the fire hydrant availability for those neighborhoods who are well water. Mr. Baril noted it's not a topic covered under the AWPCA.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – Mr. Armstrong noted the recent approval of the medical office building approved for Dale Road and inquired if the other town pump stations have regulations restricting what can and cannot go into a sewer. Mr. Baril responded noting there is a list of unacceptable items. For example, you cannot put something down that will melt plastic nor can you put something down that will kill the biological treatment system. Mr. Roy said the treatment system will not screen out medical waste. Mr. Armstrong noted that dead waste is becoming an environmental concern.

There is a new restaurant going into the old Stonewall Kitchen space. Mr. Baril noted they have contacted Tim regarding the Fats, Oils and Grease program and noted the new medical facility will be coming in to apply for a sewer permit agreement to extend the sewers enough so the medical office building past the bank can be serviced in the future.

Mr. Baril provided an update on the Avon Town Center based on his recent meeting. He noted the developer should have a plan for the whole site that considers the entire build out for the sanitary sewers.

Mr. Baril also provided information on a recent request the Engineering Department received regarding the potential sewer connection at 34 Hopmeadow Street. The necessary information to allow this parcel to connect to the Town of Avon sewer collection system was provided. A drawing needs to be submitted to the Town. A letter to the Town of Simsbury was sent which outlined the twelve conditions that will need to be met. Mr. Foster suggested the project manager attend the next AWPCA Meeting to review their plan.

Mr. Armstrong inquired whether there should be a charge from the Town of Avon based on the percentage of effluent flowing into Avon. Mr. Foster noted that the Town of Avon is charged \$350 from Canton for treating Avon's effluent while Avon is charging their residents \$335 annually. Mr. Baril noted the owner of this (Simsbury) development should have a proportionate maintenance share of the cost of this line. The mainline, meter and interceptor will be touched. They will have more units flowing into it than Town of Avon does. This has to be spelled out into the inter-municipal agreement. This is unique as the Town will be asking a private party to assume part of that cost where in the past the costs were shared by the towns. Mr. Baril agreed that this is unique.

Mr. Ryan noted that it makes sense to shoot for \$350.

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – None

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – None

IX OTHER BUSINESS – Mr. Bail responded to Mr. Armstrong's question that his budget item requests were carried over, with the exception of a full-time assistant for the Engineering Department.

X ADJOURNMENT –

MOTION: Mr. Johansen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk

