

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

March 12, 2015

Selectmen's Chambers, 5:30 pm

Town of Avon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 5:32 pm by Mr. Farrell.

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

Absent: Eric Johansen

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – January 8, 2015

MOTION: Mr. Roy made a motion for approval of the January 8, 2015 minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – Mr. Farrell welcomed the audience members and noted their agenda item of interest will appear under New Business.

IV NEW BUSINESS –

2015 – 1 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for Winding Lane and Portion of Stony Corners

Mr. Farrell welcomed the audience members and Mr. Baril provided a background on the potential project stating that his office has received a petition from a resident on Winding Lane. Mr. Baril reviewed the process with the resident such as submitting a petition, understanding costs in developing sewers in the area and the sewer facilities plan. Mr. Baril provided a map which illustrated the proposed sewer route and which streets would be affected. He mentioned this would be a two phase project, occurring in two separate fiscal years. The first phase would encompass most of Winding Lane and a piece of Stony Corners while the second phase would include the remaining homes on Winding Lane, Stony Corners Circle and the remaining of Stony Corners. The petition received does not encompass all of the proposed phases but does reflect phase one. Mr. Baril noted an easement will need to be granted. Audience members approached the table and viewed the map also.

Mr. Alex White of 158 Winding Lane introduced himself and noted that his neighbor, Tom Deicidue, started the petition and asked Mr. White and neighbors if he could attend in Mr. Deicidue's absence. Mr. White stated he is in favor of the project and noted his neighborhood septic system is at least 50 years old. He noted many septic tanks needed to be replaced and repaired. They would like to see the project go forward. Mr. Tom Diecidue presented the petition to 26 households and the vast majority are in favor for the project. Mr. Baril acknowledged Mr. White's comments stating the Winding Lane / Stony Corners area is in a high groundwater area and there are drainage issues. Mr. Farrell reviewed the sewer facilities

plan noting that Stony Corners is listed as sixth from the top of the priority list. Mr. Farrell reviewed the process for the feasibility study the Engineering Department would conduct before moving to the next step of conducting borings. He noted that the petition is not a guarantee that the Board will or will not sewer a neighborhood in an area. Also, the lack of names on a petition is also not a guarantee the Town won't come into a neighborhood and run sewers. The next step is to determine whether the Board will appeal to Engineering to move forward with their next step. Board members were in favor of moving to the next step.

Mr. Farrell appreciated the audience members for attending the meeting.

Mr. David Gravel of 140 Winding Lane inquired about next steps for neighbors to do in the process. Mr. Farrell noted the neighbors will receive a letter from the Engineering Department noting you may see workers in their area conducting borings. He encouraged residents to contact the Engineering Department with any questions. Mr. White responded to Mr.

Armstrong's question noting that the neighborhood has neither gas nor public water in the neighborhood. Mr. Foster explained the process of the Town contacting and coordinating with the public utilities with the proposed sewer project, similar to the Haynes Road sewer project.

Mr. Armstrong noted the gas and water companies will want a headcount on those residents who are interested in connecting to public water and gas. Mr. Gravel noted there's a section on Winding Lane that did not get re-paved. Mr. Baril mentioned he will reach out to the public utilities to let them know the Town is looking into these neighborhoods for a potential sewer project. Mr. Baril noted the residents should expect a letter from the Engineering Department once the project hits the ground (after the Paperchase project). He mentioned he needs to begin borings (locating groundwater and ledge) and a field survey. He encouraged residents to contact the Engineering Department with any questions rather than asking the field workers.

Mr. Baril reviewed the assessment criteria noting that people who benefit will be required to pay an assessment. At the time of the public information meeting, costs will be provided. Mr. Farrell noted a public informational meeting will be held and encouraged people to attend as that's a great time for residents to learn about the findings and ask questions.

Mr. Gravel mentioned he owned a home in Wallingford where there was water and sewer. There was an additional fee for the sewer included with the water bill. He inquired how this would be handled. Mr. Foster noted the Town of Avon's sewer rate is a flat rate for residential whereas commercial properties are water in / water out. Mr. Armstrong suggested the audience members contact the remaining neighbors about the project who appear on the map but who have not been contacted.

Mr. Farrell expressed appreciation to the residents for attending the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Roy made a motion to appeal to Engineering to move forward on the preliminary study for the potential sewer project for the Winding Lane area. The motion, seconded by Mr. Farrell received unanimous approval.

2015 – 2 Annual discussion to establish sewer use (EDU) rate – Mr. Baril provided background on the prior year EDU rates dating back to 1976. Mr. Farrell reviewed prior discussions regarding the EDU rate noting the Board should become more contemporary with the annual increases in order to support projects such as easement access, staff and sewer extensions. Mr. Baril noted that the Town's residential connection charge of \$2,500 has not changed and is lower than surrounding towns Simsbury (\$4,100 yearly fee) and Canton (\$8,300). Connections will continue to decrease with time and that revenue source will dry up eventually. The Town of Farmington will be undergoing a treatment plant upgrade and it is anticipated that Simsbury and Canton will be required to comply with

State mandates in the future as well. The Town of Avon pays the Town of Canton more money in sewer use fees than they receive from Avon residents. Mr. Foster suggested everything should be put on the table when making rate changes, including connection charges. Mr. Armstrong believes the annual rate should be done separately and then with more information, evaluate the connection fee. Mr. Baril agreed as there's a time sensitivity issue when changing the EDU based on the billing cycle parameters.

Mr. Farrell suggested an EDU increase of approximately 3% to \$335 and inquired if members are okay with that increase. Mr. Armstrong mentioned a \$340 increase and noted he would like to keep it in line with the other municipalities and noted he has no problem with \$335 or \$340. Mr. Ryan noted there are projects that the Town should be doing such as making improvements to the Rt. 44 Lift Station and believes the proposed \$335 increase is fair. Mr. Armstrong noted that costs associated with sewer projects should be built in to the assessment figure so the Town can recover the costs. Mr. Foster noted there is more of a possibility of getting pushback from residents for raising the sewer use fee than raising the connection fee as the connection fee is considerably lower than area towns. Mr. Armstrong expressed concern regarding the possibility of having the connection charge rolling into the assessment which was mentioned in a prior meeting. Mr. Farrell noted that is a possible discussion to continue under Communication from Members but considering Mr. Roy needs to leave, he suggested staying with the agenda item of raising the fee.

MOTION Mr. Farrell made a motion to raise the EDU rate from \$325 to \$335 effective this coming fiscal year. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong received unanimous approval.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2013 – 7 Assessment Conveyance – Mr. Armstrong described the latest changes to the Assessment Policy such as the number of installments allowed, timing of first installment, the effect of the installments when a property is transferred, relief for elderly/low income property owners. Mr. Armstrong noted there is a clear distinction between assessment, connection and use based on researching the statute. A two year continuance may be necessary in order to preserve the lien a homeowner incurs. Mr. Foster explained the process involved before allowing a sewer connection permit. Determining whether assessments are due and confirming the \$2,500 connection fee has been paid are important steps to take before a permit can be granted.

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion to accept the proposed language and bring it forward to a public meeting at the April meeting for adoption. The motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan received unanimous approval.

(Note: Mr. Roy departed at 6:25 p.m.) Discussion included the possibility of including the revised policy in the sewer permit agreement the Town signs with the developers. Mr. Baril noted that a connection can't be made until the payback has been taken care of and the connection charge has been paid. Mr. Baril commented there are benefits of receiving notice from the Town Clerk's office to Engineering whenever a property is transferred.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – Mr. Armstrong inquired about the Plan of Conservation and Development's map properly illustrating what has been sewered and what will be sewered. Mr. Baril suggested a meeting with Mr. Steven Kushner, Director of Planning, would be beneficial to address any questions and/or concerns.

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – None

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Members followed up on an earlier discussion that construction costs should be rolled into the assessment. Mr. Baril noted it's legitimate to put in any costs associated with construction costs into the assessment. Mr. Baril responded to Mr. Farrell's question that such costs as legal fees and preliminary studies could be included.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT -

MOTION: Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk