

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

April 14, 2016

Selectmen's Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

Town of Avon

PUBLIC HEARING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 7:05 pm by Mr. Johansen.

AWPCA

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

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – March 10, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Johansen made a motion for approval of the March 10, 2016 minutes. Mr. Armstrong noted a correction on page 3 to change 'dead waste' to medical waste. Mr. Johansen noted a change on page 2 to correct the word to read 'underlying' and to correct the text on page 2 to indicate Mr. Roy doesn't 'think' it's a deal breaker... Mr. Johansen noted the correction in Other Business the spelling of Mr. Baril's name should be corrected. Mr. Armstrong made a motion for approval of the March 10, 2016 minutes, as amended. The motion, seconded by Mr. Johansen, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS – 2016 – 3 Public Hearing – Accept sewer extensions at Avon Place Condominiums, Avonwood Road

Mr. Baril noted that Avon Place Condominiums extended sewers to their facility in 2012. Paperwork is in place such as affidavit of costs, as-built and easements. It is now appropriate to take in the sewers to become part of the Town's network. Mr. Baril noted there are approximately 186 units and each one gets their own charge. Anywhere where there is more than one connection is a Town-owned sewer. Mr. Armstrong noted that there was no public comment.

MOTION – Mr. Johansen made a motion to accept the sewer extensions at Avon Place Condominiums, Avonwood Road. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

V. OLD BUSINESS -

2011 – 10 I/I Study – Mr. Baril provided an update. Video inspection work is happening. Significant rainfalls are beneficial for the project. Leaks have been identified and additional methods such as video monitoring will help in locating where the leaks are. Fuss & O'Neill will continue to work on the project – there is no hard deadline. Mr. Baril noted a solution to the problem would be to line the pipe and/or sometimes replacing the pipe. In most cases, we will be fixing manholes. Mr. Baril noted that it is illegal to have a combined sewer.

In response to Mr. Roy's question, Mr. Baril noted the interceptor pipe that takes the majority of Avon flows into Farmington will be replaced. There is specific language concerning this interceptor outlined in the current inter-municipal agreement. There is a budgeted item in the CIP budget. There appears to be quite a bit of flow from Farmington into the subject interceptor. Specifics regarding the project will need to be addressed with Farmington so that design can proceed. The target date to replace the interceptor is two years.

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

Mr. Baril reviewed the map noting the sewer route and the plan to construct the project as two separate ones. This way, the costs will be in line with prior sewer projects. Plans are about 90 – 95% complete and he would like to go out to bid once complete. Mr. Johansen inquired about the paving. The pavement will be in accordance with the pavement management program handled by DPW. There is no public water or gas in the neighborhood causing Engineering to reach out to those utility companies. It may make sense to have a public information meeting in May or June. Mr. Baril responded to Mr. Roy's question that having two separate projects will increase the construction time. Mr. Armstrong noted it won't be much of a problem due to more than one entry/exit point to the neighborhood. Mr. Armstrong is concerned about the reserve and building it out piece mail as opposed to allowing one segment of Avon consume the entire reserve, or alternatively having to go to the Town. Mr. Johansen noted there are a few good reasons to keep it small and manageable. Mr. Armstrong said he is willing to go out to an RFP and have an informational meeting for the first project. Mr. Baril noted that an information meeting in June is advisable versus a meeting in May to allow sending out and receiving the bids. Mr. Baril responded to Mr. Foster's question that there is a possibility both projects (Winding Lane and Stony Corners South and Paperchase/Hurdle Fence South) can happen simultaneously. Discussion included the timing of having the public information meeting and it was agreed that having one public information meeting for two projects was not advisable.

MOTION: Mr. Armstrong made a motion to allow Engineering to go out for an RFP for the section of Winding Lane South. The motion, seconded by Mr. Johansen, received unanimous approval.

2015 – 8 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for School Street

Mr. Baril noted that Mr. Brown is on schedule to conduct survey work. The design will be discussed in the future.

2016 – 2 Annual discussion to establish sewer use (EDU) rate

Mr. Johansen commented on the point that Mr. Foster made at the last meeting noting the Town of Canton charges the AWPCA more for sewer treatment than the current sewer use rate charged covers. Mr. Baril commented that in fact, the AWPCA is paying close to \$440 per connection. There are about 120 connections. We paid Canton about a little over \$12,000 more than we collected from the residents for the treatment of their effluent. The plan is to meet with the sewer superintendent at the Town of Canton to understand the increase in their billing. Mr. Armstrong inquired about the calculation of \$440. Mr. Foster provided an explanation noting the formula outlined in the municipal agreement. Mr. Baril noted it would be beneficial to meter the flow from Canton and the Town of Avon's flow to Canton. The rough cost of a meter is approximately \$30,000. Mr. Armstrong noted his concern that Canton is charging their residents \$350 and the Town of Avon \$440. Mr. Baril noted they are billing the AWPCA in accordance with the agreement. The agreement will need to be re-written if a revised method of flow determination is used.

Mr. Johansen noted that every year the Town budget increases and we should be following suit. A little under 5% would be an increase from \$335 to \$350. There will need to be a public hearing to set the rate.

MOTION: Mr. Armstrong made a motion to set the EDU rate FY 2016 to be increased \$15 to \$350 and it will then go before a public hearing. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

Mr. Foster noted the rate did not change for several years and that we are still in the norm with other towns.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – Mr. Baril discussed the Avon Village project noting the developer has come in with a plan to excavate a fair amount of material and they still don't have a plan to present their infrastructure design. Eventually the Developer will need to come in to an AWPCA meeting to discuss the commercial and residential sewer connections. They are anxious to get things started. More detail needs to be submitted into the Town. Mr. Foster noted that Simsbury charges a \$4,000 connection fee, Canton is \$8,500 and will jump to \$8,650 over the next four years. We are \$2,500. Mr. Foster noted each Town has their special niche on how they calculate the amount. Commercial connection fees are based on several factors including acreage. Mr. Baril noted he could offer a primer on the topic of connection fees and the opportunity to treat residential customers different than commercial. These two connections are treated differently. Mr. Baril noted that people can pay their connection fee at any time and it can be paid without connecting. Mr. Armstrong suggested continuing the discussion. Mr. Foster suggested having the decision done before July 1.

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – Mr. Baril provided an update on the Garden Homes project on the Simsbury/Town of Avon line. Fuss and O'Neill is doing the site design work. The subject parcel is one of three parcels. The current design includes all sanitary sewer flows from the three parcels to connect through Avon Meadow sewers and flow to Simsbury via the interceptor. Correspondence has been received from the Town of Simsbury. There is a flow allocation with a cap for the entire property – all three parcels. There is no issue with capacity. There will be an inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Simsbury to offer the Town of Avon a credit, subtracting metered flows from the subject parcels from the metered flows from Avon into Simsbury. This will be a direct credit. A resolution needs to be made to allow Town of Avon staff to develop an agreement with Simsbury Developers, LLC unless the AWPCA does not want to allow this. Mr. Baril replied to Mr. Armstrong's question stating the capacity going into at that point does not affect Avon Town Center. Mr. Baril replied to Mr. Johansen's question that there is not a financial benefit for the Town of Avon – as presented the AWPCA won't receive any money, we won't charge anyone. We will write the agreement that they will have some responsibility for any of the Avon infrastructure they will touch, which is about a couple hundred feet of pipe and the meter. Mr. Armstrong suggests the Town of Simsbury should pay a proportional share for any damage [damage to include wear and tear] to the pipe between the new project that's going in and when it goes into the Simsbury line. Mr. Johansen mentioned it would be difficult to calculate the wear and tear and suggests imposing a transaction fee. Mr. Foster noted they are anxious to connect. Various options for payment for the possibility of wear and tear on the pipe were discussed. Mr. Baril clarified his direction based on discussion. This is to be discussed at the next AWPCA meeting.

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Johansen noted he received a question from Mr. Usich [Avon Resident] regarding the priority list and what the plan/strategy is when determining which neighborhood becomes a viable consideration for installing sewers. Mr. Baril noted that the pavement management program becomes a factor. Public Works has their own priority listings for paving streets. Mr. Baril compares the pavement management roads for repaving to the priority list for public sewers. Mr. Baril also would like to be more proactive rather than reactive. Sending a survey out to residents is a possibility. Mr. Johansen agreed how important it is to be proactive, from an environmental standpoint. It's not good to have failing septic systems. Mr. Baril prefers advance notice from the FVHD when there are major sewer repair acceptances. Mr. Roy inquired whether there is any information he can take to the neighborhood. Mr. Johansen replied that bids have been received and no award has been offered. The project is being reevaluated.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT –

MOTION: Mr. Johansen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk