

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

June 9, 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 5:40 pm by Mr. Ryan.

AWPCA

Present: Terry Ryan, Vice Chairman
Tom Armstrong
Chris Roy
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

Absent: Eric Johansen

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – May 12, 2016

MOTION: Mr. Armstrong made a motion for approval of the May 12, 2016 minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None

V. OLD BUSINESS -

2015 – 8 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for School Street

Mr. Baril provided an update on the project noting the current plan is to do low pressure sewers for this area. The Town learned there is water down the corner, the estimate to do the gravity up to Smith and New Road is extreme and there would likely have been blasting involved. Eric Hess from FRMA (an Eone representative) will design the system from the existing manhole on Volovski and School Street down to the intersection of New Road. Mr. Baril will provide more information for the next meeting. The project will have to go through the standard process of public hearing and public information meeting, etc. There are three homes currently connected to the gravity line via individual lateral lines that run up the right-of-way in front of other homes. When the sanitary line is completed, Mr. Baril recommended that these three homes, if feasible, are required to connect to the Town's system. Mr. Armstrong noted there's a need for a set of regulations for low (pressure). Mr. Baril clarified Mr. Armstrong's question noting there are three homes who have their own pumps, who pump into the Town's gravity system. Mr. Baril replied to Mr. Roy's question noting there won't be a requirement for all to connect to maintain the flow because Mr. Baril learned there is public water at the intersection of School Street and New Road. Because of the location of the hydrant, the Town will be able to flush the low pressure line as needed. Mr. Armstrong raised the question about stand-by generators and the appropriate size for holding tanks.

2016 – 4 Potential Sewer Connection Charge Increase

Mr. Baril noted he did not have anything more to add and promotes the idea of increasing the charge. Mr. Armstrong noted connection charges from area towns including the difference in costs based on zone classifications and apartment square footages. Mr. Armstrong noted he is still somewhat of the view for the Tier 2 System. One Tier would be for new construction and

the other Tier is for anything that is re-construction such as an existing leach field or a system of some kind that is failed and the residents wish to connect to the public system. The connection charge under the new construction tier would be higher and the connection charge where there is an existing septic system tier would be less.

Mr. Ryan raised the concern over the language of ‘connection charge’ noting possible confusion with residents. Mr. Ryan referenced prior connection rate increases and noted there is no lineage that shows the logical increases. Mr. Armstrong noted the Town of Farmington bases their connection rate on the Engineering Cost Index. Mr. Baril noted the Town needs a certain amount of money to do the kind of things the Town needs to do. The Town only has a couple ways to generate revenue such as connection charges and user fees. Mr. Baril explained how the industry works noting it’s common to have a connection fee.

Mr. Ryan noted that the number of connections to the system will decrease in time so that the connection charge revenues will similarly decrease forcing the user fees to increase to maintain the systems. Mr. Ryan would like to understand the concept and explain it logically. Mr. Ryan noted he views the connection fee as Engineering’s time and effort to get projects to bid level [and follow the project to its conclusion].

2016 – 6 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for portions of Winding Lane and Stony Corners South

Mr. Baril noted the project is out to bid. The bids are due 6-16-16.

2016 – 8 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for Paperchase Trail South (discussed under OTHER BUSINESS)

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – Mr. Baril provided an update on The Avon Village Center project noting the project continues to show progress. The developers have reduced their footprint a little bit. The developer has requested a preliminary approval from the Town to re-route some of the sewers. From concept, Mr. Baril noted he’s in favor of the concept to re-route the sewers but noted they would have to prove it works out engineering-wise. Mr. Baril provided an update on the Garden Homes project which will flow from Simsbury, into Avon, and back to Simsbury. The intermunicipal agreement is under consideration such that Avon and Simsbury are likely to receive fees from the development which currently includes 180 residential units. Mr. Baril confirmed Mr. Armstrong’s question stating that the Town of Avon will be responsible for paying any future repairs to the Town of Avon’s system.

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – Mr. Baril commented about a recent meeting he had with the Town’s Attorney regarding updating the AWPCA Manual. The goal is to create a new, up-to-date manual. Members will most likely see a draft by September.

Mr. Baril provided an update on the Towpath Condominiums. There are 57 condo units in this complex – several of which are connected to failed septic systems. Mr. Baril met with the Engineer who represents the Condominium to discuss the proposed route of the sewer. There will be a sewer permit agreement for members’ review. The Town of Avon will take ownership of those sections that have more than one connection to it.

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Armstrong recommended a letter should be drafted to the Health District to include the priority list and to advise them to inform the Authority when someone comes in with a failed system. Mr. Baril agreed and suggested the letter should come from the Authority. Mr. Armstrong commented about the potential future need to request bonding for potential sewer projects and noted that all the projects on the list will not be able to be funded by the reserves. Mr. Baril replied it’s possible. Discussion included the amount of projects done per year and the timeframe of Town of Avon’s payback during a 10 year period. It’s a topic to be aware of and one to monitor.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – Mr. Baril provided an informational report on the potential sewer project for the Paperchase Trail project and discussed the bids received. The bid amounts were higher than anticipated. Mr. Baril shared the comments from the contractors who were present during the bid opening. Specific language regarding prevailing wages were included in the bidding package yet it still caused some confusion with the contractors. There is a public hearing / public information meeting scheduled for June 23 to inform the residents. Mr. Baril commented he will issue an addendum for the Winding Lane and Stony Corners South project which is out to bid to include specific language regarding prevailing wages. Mr. Baril received feedback regarding the timing of the bid and bidding the project on a lump sum basis (where the contractor has to determine the unit estimates and takes the risk) vs. unit price (where the Town of Avon provides the unit estimates and takes the risk). Mr. Baril intends to continue to work on the easement for 30 Paperchase.

Mr. Baril noted that money requested for sewer projects that were approved but not completed, are still considered available and not part of the undesignated fund balance. The reserve fund is healthier than one sees from the quarterly report the members receive. Mr. Baril commented on frequent comments he receives from realtors who mention homebuyers prefer to purchase a home which has sewer available.

X ADJOURNMENT –

MOTION: Mr. Ryan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk