

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

September 11, 2014

Selectmen's Chambers, 5:30 pm

Town of Avon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 5:33 pm by Mr. Farrell.

Present: Michael Farrell
Eric Johansen
Tom Armstrong
Chris Roy
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Collection

Absent: Terry Ryan

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – May 8, 2014, June 2, 2014 and July 31, 2014

MOTION: Mr. Roy made a motion for approval of the preceding three meetings. The motion, seconded by Mr. Johansen, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE - None

IV NEW BUSINESS –

2014 – 9 Approve AWPCA Meeting Dates for 2015

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the AWPCA schedule for 2014. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

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

Mr. Farrell invited the gentleman in the audience to speak regarding the potential sewer service for the Paperchase Trail neighborhood. Mr. Foster stated the Engineering Department received a petition from 42 residents in the Paperchase Trail neighborhood requesting the Town to investigate the possibility of connecting to the Town of Avon's sanitary sewer collection. Mr. Foster reviewed the map provided for members which illustrated the affected parcels. The green shaded lots are those parcels that signed the petition. Mr. Farrell mentioned that the affected area has appeared in the top third or 10th highest for priority based on the master facilities plan. Mr. Robert Bernaduci of 41 Paperchase Trail introduced himself stating he was the originator of the petition and discussed his findings from visiting with neighbors. There are septic tanks in his neighborhood that are from 1964 and 1966. He learned that a couple neighbors have complained about odor. Mr. Robert Bernaduci met one neighbor that did not sign the petition due to financial reasons. The roads need to be addressed in the neighborhood. Catch basins were placed near his home due to a water dam which froze over the winter. This issue was recently addressed. One concern a neighbor has is that there might be a mass involuntary assessment for every single septic system in the neighborhood and if there were any failures during a time when there isn't Town sewer available, they would be immediately asked to replace the septic system at the cost of the homeowner. Mr. Farrell inquired to Mr. Baril if there was any record of septic failures for the Paperchase neighborhood. Mr. Baril noted that he reviewed the procedure with Mr. Bernaduci the steps to take to request connecting to sanitary service. The neighborhood is on the list to be sewered and it is close to an existing sewer. Mr. Roy mentioned that one property, 55 Hurdle Fence, has installed a new system which was installed two years ago with a cost of \$24,000. Mr. Bernaduci mentioned this parcel has signed the petition but does not plan to

connect. Mr. Baril noted the purpose of the meeting was to have the members agree or disagree that this project is worth pursuing from an engineering or a preliminary engineering standpoint. Mr. Farrell noted an Avon Land Trust owned parcel on the eastern and lowest portion of the neighborhood which would abut the middle school. Mr. Baril noted the physical challenges, such as ledge and lack of elevation changes, when routing a sewer line. Mr. Farrell noted that additional work will need to be done such as contacting Farmington Valley Health District to ascertain the amount of failures. Mr. Farrell noted the AWPCA will move forward with the project but not necessarily the neighborhood will be sewerred. Mr. Johansen noted it may make sense to continue the petition. Mr. Bernaduci said he will continue the petition. Mr. Farrell noted this project will continue as a recurring agenda item. Mr. Bernaduci expressed gratitude to the members for reviewing and considering the project. Mr. Farrell noted Mr. Bernaduci is welcome to attend the AWPCA meetings. Given the high number on the master facilities plan, the Paperchase Trail neighborhood is rather high on the list. There's a possibility the Town would be looking at this neighborhood independent of a petition. Mr. Baril noted he will conduct a preliminary engineering study such as borings to determine the amount of ledge and groundwater which will impact the construction. An easement route will need to be reviewed. Mr. Foster conducted a base estimate. Mr. Baril noted that the neighbors do not have to hook up. In addition to the cost of the assessment, there is a connection fee, currently it is \$2,500, a \$50 permit fee and whatever cost it will take for the connection from the lateral stub right of way line to the connection in the homeowner's house. Landscaping features and the route are part of the cost factors to connect to the sewer. Mr. Farrell confirmed that the residents are on the hook for the assessment. The homeowner will be responsible for the initial assessment but there isn't anything mandatory stating the homeowner needs to hook up immediately or in the future. If they choose to connect, there are connection fees such as connection fee, permit fee, landscaping fee and possibly a pump. It's not clear what parcels will need to be pumped. Mr. Baril encouraged members to attend a public information meeting where the assessment figure will be more defined. It is too early to quote a figure. Mr. Baril noted a reasonable estimate could be given in December or January 2015. Mr. Roy identified parcels near his home which would need to be pumped. Mr. Roy inquired whether it's a possibility to tie in five lots to one easement to get out to Paperchase. Mr. Baril responded that he will look into that option, although it's a challenge when more mainlines are installed. Mr. Baril provided the reduction amounts for those lots who needed to pump in the Verville Road sewer project. Discussion included the Avon Land Trust parcel which is a private land owner and their option to sell the land. Mr. Farrell noted there are two Avon Land Trust parcels – 46 and 54 Paperchase Trail. Mr. Roy commented that there is an interest from neighbors in the Paperchase neighborhood to have natural gas service installed. Mr. Baril responded that the gas company receive a certain amount of homeowners who are willing to convert. Mr. Johansen noted that maybe Public Works could agree to a Capital Project to pave the road. Otherwise, it would cost more if the pavement is patched. Mr. Baril noted that paving would not begin until 2016. Mr. Farrell noted that Avon Water may have an interest also.

MOTION: Mr. Johansen made a motion to request a feasibility study for Paperchase and Hurdle Fence. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval. Mr. Roy abstained from the vote.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2013 – 5 Easement Access Management Report – Tabled for the next meeting

2013 – 7 Assessment Conveyance – Mr. Armstrong noted there are no issues to report.

2011 – 10 I & I Study – Mr. Baril noted he met with Fuss & O'Neill. They began to develop the digital model. The chemical flow test will occur in the fall. The project is on schedule and an initial report is expected in December. The flow meters have been removed and were telling. A few manholes that were problematic have been sealed.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – Mr. Baril reviewed the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which is the overall plan of development for the Town of Avon. Avon Old Farms School (AOFS) has a property that has 800 acres that is physically developable but it is inaccessible and is zoned educational but has some significant restrictions based on the current POCD. The Town has an interest of changing the route of Old Farms Road which would provide access to this property. The AOFS has recognized the property as an asset for the school. Planning and Zoning has been working to make changes to the current POCD. A potential change may include adding cluster development. This will provide more compact development with more open space. In order to do this, it is easier to proceed to include sewers in this area. The current facility plans have identified this area as a non-sewered area. The potential changes to the POCD can move forward without any action from AWPCA relating to sewer availability. If the property is sold for development and they wish to use public sewers, a request to connect would need to be sent to the AWCPA. Currently, the area is in the Simsbury Sewer Shed, although it's adjacent to Farmington. Mr. Armstrong mentioned that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP) does not like to run a sewer line over designated open space as this may create housing development. Mr. Farrell inquired where the closest part of the Simsbury Shed a connection would occur. Mr. Baril responded the closest line is near the rail trail near M.H. Rhodes. The potential route would go west of Thompson near the rail trail down Beaver Pond, swing back to Old Farms and then to west of Tillotson.

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – None

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Armstrong went to DEEP and did a rough calculation regarding the plant upgrade. The three towns of Avon, Canton and Burlington would pick up \$9 million plus for the cost of improvements. The contribution on unit owners to Farmington, the Town of Avon would pick up 82 ½ % of that. Mr. Armstrong provided additional calculations including base flow. The Town of Farmington is not projecting any increase capacity for the Town of Avon. Mr. Armstrong discussed figures from a Wright & Pierce study dated from April 2012. Mr. Baril noted there is a current 600,000 gallons per day capacity that is in the inter-municipal agreement. The base flow is below 600,000 gallons. The average daily amount exceeds on rainy days. Mr. Baril noted a letter was mailed to the Town of Farmington requesting an increase in the capacity amount of daily flow. Discussion continued regarding when and how much the Town of Avon will pay the Town of Farmington for the upgrade. Discussion also included the cost of replacing the interceptor pipe in the Town of Farmington which flows effluent from the Town of Avon. Mr. Baril noted this repair will need to happen in the coming year.

Mr. Farrell noted these projects, Town of Farmington plant upgrade, potential issues arising from the I & I Study and the interceptor issue near Sanford and Hawley, are costly. Therefore, the yearly review of the sewer user fee is an important item to visit each year as such projects are not cheap. Mr. Johansen noted there's history to note that the sewer rate has stayed the same because there haven't been any issues. Now with issues, it's important to review.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT -

MOTION: Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk