

**AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**December 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  
Tom Armstrong  
Chris Roy  
Terry Ryan  
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

Absent: Eric Johansen

**II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – September 11, 2014 (rev) and October 9, 2014**

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell made a motion for approval of the revised September 11, 2014 minutes and minutes from October 9, 2014. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

**III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE –** Mr. Farrell welcomed the gentleman in the audience who introduced himself as Paul Valente of 21 Paperchase Trail. He was present for support of the measure to do the study and preliminary design for the sewer project. He expressed concern regarding a few septic failures he was aware of and that he is on borrowed time with his septic system. Mr. Valente noted he signed the petition. Mr. Farrell invited Mr. Valente to stay to address the AWPCA for Agenda Item 2014 – 10, which appears later in the meeting.

**IV NEW BUSINESS – None**

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**2013 – 5 Easement Access Management Report –** Mr. Ryan noted he met with Mr. Tim Foster who has a plan in place which follows what the I & I Study report indicates. A master plan will be presented to the AWPCA. Mr. Baril responded to Mr. Armstrong's question regarding easement rights stating the Town has the rights to clear the easements and there are no open space issues to contend with. There is one place in the Weatherstone subdivision where there is a provision in the part of the sanitary easement which indicates there is space for the public to use as a walking trail.

**2013 – 7 Assessment Conveyance –** Mr. Baril passed out documents Mr. Armstrong prepared. Mr. Armstrong reviewed the background regarding how the assessment is conveyed when a property is transferred. Potential changes to the current regulations were discussed. Currently, homeowners can make a one-time payment for their assessment or pay in installments. Mr. Armstrong noted that the current regulation does not state that a homeowner can prepay without penalty. He noted that the better way to require payment at property transfer is to send a notice to the affected homeowners, which would avoid making changes to the regulations. A public hearing is required if changes are made to the regulations. Mr. Farrell suggested Mr. Armstrong provide to members for the next meeting the exact language that happens when a property is conveyed, and upon conveyance of the property and the lien/assessment has to be satisfied. Mr. Baril noted a conveyance needs to be defined. For example, if a property is quit claimed from a husband to a wife, will this require full payment of the assessment? Mr. Armstrong responded that the language currently is worded as any sale or transfer from an owner.

If someone has a hardship, they can come before the Board. Mr. Baril said that should be covered in the regulation. Mr. Farrell summarized what was discussed so members can review for the next meeting and proper notification is made for announcing the date of the public hearing. Mr. Baril suggested to combine the public hearing for the sewer use rate and the assessment conveyance. The timing of combining both agenda items was discussed.

**2011 – 10 I & I Study** – Mr. Baril noted a project status meeting is scheduled the following week with Fuss & O'Neill. The dilution testing needs to be done but can only happen when there's a high ground water situation. This is planned for the spring. Mr. Baril will have an update to share for the next AWPCA meeting. Mr. Baril noted that the grant money from the Clean Water Fund will financially assist in the study and off-setting costs from rehabilitation work based on the study's findings.

**2014 – 10 Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for the Paperchase Trail Neighborhood** – Mr. Baril noted he will move forward to conduct preliminary design, procure the services to get borings completed and complete the survey. He noted he drove through the neighborhood and noted the basic lay of the land compared to the topographic sheets he has. Mr. Farrell handed Mr. Valente the AWPCA meeting minutes from September 11, 2014 and noted the formal motion which was made to move forward with the design study. Mr. Baril described the process to be followed before the public information meeting will be held. Mr. Farrell responded to Mr. Valente's question regarding what happens at the public meeting noting an engineering plan will be presented and this will be an opportunity for residents to raise questions. After the meeting, the AWPCA moves forward based on engineering findings and feedback from residents. Mr. Farrell responded to Mr. Valente's question that a resident does not have to connect, but typically all benefitting residents are assessed. If a resident chooses to connect, costs include the connection fee payable to the Town, a permit fee typically taken out by the hired contractor, and the costs negotiated with the contractor to physically connect to the system. After that, users would be charged the annual user fee. Mr. Roy commented on the process of compiling the cost of the assessment. Whether a homeowner connects or not, that is up to the homeowner. Mr. Valente inquired about the likelihood of if the street would be dug up and the sewer lines go in and then Avon Water Company decides that city water will not go in. Mr. Farrell noted Avon Water Company is a private company and is independent of what the Town does. Mr. Farrell mentioned that sewer goes in the street and historically water goes under the shoulder. A neighborhood who was part of a prior sewer project, approached the utility companies to have gas and water installed. The timing was right. Mr. Valente inquired whether he should petition Avon Water Company. Mr. Farrell responded that it would be a good time to start asking although he does not know what their assessments are. Mr. Roy noted that gas is nearby on Cambridge Crossing. Mr. Valente noted that Indian Pipe has city water and gas. Mr. Baril noted the Engineering Department would reach out to the gas company and Avon Water to mention there is a potential sewer project to be considered and the Town would try to coordinate efforts with the utility companies. Mr. Farrell noted that there's not a guarantee the road will be paved after the utilities are installed. Mr. Baril noted it can be a challenge working with numerous crews at once during a sewer installation project. Mr. Roy suggested to Mr. Valente there should be a community meeting which would be beneficial to see who is and who is not on board. Mr. Valente noted one neighbor did not sign the petition as they felt it would mean the Town would come in and test everyone's septic system. Mr. Farrell noted AWPCA meeting minutes are on-line for residents and encouraged residents to attend the meetings. Mr. Roy mentioned he has information, such as a map, the proposed plan which includes the potential route to share with the neighborhood and can review once the neighborhood gathers as a group. Mr. Baril noted a letter to affected residents will be mailed out outlining the preliminary engineering plan. The Engineering Department will touch base with the Avon Water Company and Connecticut Natural Gas to mesh projects should they all move forward.

**VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS** – Mr. Armstrong noted Planning & Zoning is taking a look at redrafting the ten-year plan of conservation and development (POCD). Input will be requested from every Town's agency, including the AWPCA. If an area is going to be sewerred in the next ten years that is not already on the plan, input will be requested. Mr. Farrell noted he is not aware of any requests.

**VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF** – None

**VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS** – Mr. Armstrong noted that a reimbursement check may be forthcoming from the Clean Water Fund for the remainder of the Sewer Facilities Plan completed in 2007. January is the deadline.

**IX OTHER BUSINESS** – None

**X ADJOURNMENT -**

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Essex, Clerk