

**Avon Water Pollution Control Authority
Public Hearing
February 9, 2023—7:00pm
Via GoToMeeting**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00pm via GoToMeeting by Chairperson Johansen.

AWPCA – Roll Call:

Present: Eric Johansen, Chairperson
Tom Armstrong, Vice-Chairperson
Chris Roy
Micah Rousey
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

Absent: Keith Jones

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

December 8, 2022 & January 19, 2023

On a motion made by Mr. Armstrong and seconded by Mr. Roy it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Authority approves the minutes of the December 8 & January 19, Meeting as drafted.

Messrs.: Johansen, Armstrong, Rousey, and Roy voted in favor.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE – None in attendance.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

2023 – 1 Sewer Billing 2023 – Public Hearing

The Authority gave consensus to enter into a Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m. to discuss item 2023-1.

Mr. Baril provided a basis for a recommended sewer-use rate increase of 3% for both commercial and residential properties. Mr. Baril suggested a continuation of the same protocol from 2022 with two installments for residential sewer-use bills. Single family residential accounts on public water would be charged a flat-fee of \$265.23 in April and the October fee would be based on the low-two quarters from Connecticut Water annualized at a rate of \$4.67 / thousand gallons with a minimum charge of \$185.40. Residences whose water comes from a private well, apartment units, condominium units, and properties that transferred ownership in 2022 would all pay a flat fee of \$265.23 in April and \$265.23 in October. Commercial accounts would pay \$636.54 per equivalent business unit (EBU) in which an EBU equals 76,650 gallons. The minimum commercial charge would be one EBU.

The Authority agreed to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Armstrong seconded by Mr. Roy it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Authority approve both the residential and commercial sewer-use billing rate increase of 3% for calendar year 2023 billing cycle as described in provided information.

Messrs.: Johansen, Armstrong, Rousey, and Roy voted in favor.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2021 – 7 Benefit Assessments – Sub-dividable lots

The Authority agreed to continue discussion on item 2021-7

2021 – 8 Timber Lane – Sewers

Mr. Baril shared the results of the bids received for Timber Lane. Based on a review of the project with Richard Jones (lowest bidder), the owner of Jones Construction. Mr. Baril believes they are capable of performing the project. Additionally, Mr. Baril suggested that in the past the AWPCA has considered a Benefit Assessment cap and to have the Sewer Fund absorb costs that exceed the revenues to be collected via the Benefit Assessment so that the benefitting property owners know what their maximum assessment will be. Mr. Baril stated, as in the past, the AWPCA has provided a 15% reduction in the Benefit Assessment for those lots that require installation of a pump to access the sewer, shifting the difference to the lots that can connect by gravity. With that, Mr. Baril requested that the Authority decide as to how they would like to proceed and then present this information in a Public Information meeting to be held at the March meeting. Mr. Armstrong stated his concern giving the residents a fixed price, if there is a chance the project amount increased. Mr. Johansen inquired as to the pump cost breakdown information provided by Mr. Baril and if the total project cost came in lower, then would the residents on pump be capped at \$16,000, and those not on pump be capped at \$20,000. Mr. Baril confirmed that was how he would recommend the assessment cap. Mr. Armstrong clarified his position to delete the contingency and cap at \$22,000 and \$18,000. Mr. Baril explained the contingency further and suggested a notice to proceed based on Jones Construction bid number and anything beyond that would be a change order with a project start in late Spring 2023. Mr. Baril also noted all residents would be notified of the Public Information with a direct letter and recommended setting a time for the March meeting.

The Authority gave consensus to hold a Public Information meeting on March 16, 2023 at 7:00pm.

The Authority gave consensus for Mr. Baril to present the information provided for the Public Hearing at the Public Information meeting on March 16, 2023.

VI. PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS -- None

VII. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF -- None

VIII. COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS -- None

IX. OTHER BUSINESS – None

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Rousey and seconded by Mr. Roy, it was voted:

RESOLVED: That the Authority adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm.

Messrs.: Johansen, Armstrong, Roy, and Rousey voted in favor.

Attest: Nicole Chambers, AWPCA Clerk