

**AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY****June 8, 2017****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 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Johansen.

**AWPCA**

Present: Eric Johansen, Chairman  
Terry Ryan, Vice Chairman  
Tom Armstrong  
Chris Roy  
Keith Jones  
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

**II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – May 11, 2017**

**MOTION:** Mr. Johansen made a motion for approval of the May 11, 2017 minutes. The motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan, received unanimous approval.

**III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – None****IV. NEW BUSINESS –**

2017 – 5 Cost of Service Analysis – Mr. Baril noted a contract has been signed with Raftelis and noted members received a copy of the proposal. Mr. Baril has requested a more definitive schedule as the AWPCA will be involved. The goal is to have it completed by the end of August. Mr. Baril spoke to the Town's Finance Director who will be involved also regarding additional details on how capital and operating projects are handled. Mr. Baril noted the report will be helpful as justification on the fee structures. A draft report will be provided. The Board will provide feedback to Raftelis such as the Board's philosophy on sewer extensions. Mr. Baril will have more to report at the next meeting.

**V. OLD BUSINESS -**

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

Mr. Baril noted he met with Simscroft, the contractor for the project and noted there was a potential start date for Tuesday, June 13. Mr. Baril expects to receive a project schedule soon. A letter will be sent to residents with an update on the project. Discussion included the possibility of extending the contract to Phase 2. Mr. Ryan inquired whether there is money in the budget to pave the roads should there be an extension in the contract. Mr. Baril stated he was not sure but noted the Public Works Director is aware the project is coming. Mr. Baril noted the project should not take more than eight weeks and the contractor's goal is between four and six weeks. The second phase could be constructed in August or September and completed by November. There's a possibility to go out to bid for the second phase as the unit price numbers can't be negotiated. Various scenarios were discussed on the best way to address the possibility of having the current contractor continue into the second phase and also the possibility of going to the second bidder on the list. Mr. Baril noted there seems to be a fair amount of residents in the project who are interested in connecting right away.

Discussion also included suggestions on what information (such as costs estimates on connecting to the Town's sewer) should be communicated to residents when offering information and addressing questions at public information sessions for potential sewer projects. There are many variables (depth, ledge, construction prices, etc.) for a potential sewer project and each homeowner's situation is unique such as topography and landscaping which can affect the cost. Mr. Johansen suggested a 'not to exceed number' when quoting costs for sewer projects. Mr. Roy noted there are a lot of unknown costs before a sewer extension project is completed. He suggests giving final numbers rather than cost ranges as homeowners want to know more definite outcomes. Mr. Jones noted the value proposition has to be connected to some level of transparency. Mr. Ryan offered his opinion on the process noting one has to heed what the Engineer says, heed what the Board believes about the master plan and have faith in the system. Mr. Roy responded that Mr. Baril does not know how much the final project cost is until after the project is completed, which is hard to sell to the general public. Mr. Johansen suggested homeowners call a contractor to obtain cost estimates for connecting. Mr. Baril agrees as every circumstance is unique. Mr. Baril suggests placing a cap on the assessments as it will settle people's minds about the open-endedness and addresses the concept of perceived value added to one's property which have been the challenges for sewer extension projects. Mr. Baril urged members to think about putting a cap on the Winding Lane / Stony Corners South project. The projected amount per household is closer to \$16,000. The cost of service analysis may also touch upon this. Mr. Baril responded to Mr. Johansen's comment noting that the benefit assessments are paid even if a homeowner does not connect right away. Mr. Johansen noted the cost of service study will be important to determine how much the cap should be to determine how much should be in the reserve.

Town of Farmington's pricing schedule for benefit assessments was discussed noting they have a three tier pricing schedule based on zone. Mr. Roy provided the flat rate amounts for each.

Mr. Johansen provided feedback from his colleague from the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority whose mission is not to put sewers everywhere – they do it on an as demanded, as requested and on as needed basis. Mr. Johansen compared this to the survey prepared approximately ten years ago where areas were mapped out based on need and paving schedule and the Board started initially at the top of the list but has since moved away from that. Mr. Baril noted that in his time with the Town, there have been four significant sewer projects. Verville Road was high on the list and it was identified as the worst road in Avon and needed to be re-built. It also needed drainage improvements. Deepwood Drive began as it was high on the list, the Town received a petition from residents and was in the reasonable realm of pavement management. The third project was Haynes Road as it was high on the list and the developer wanted to extend sewers. The Paperchase/Hurdle Fence and Winding Lane / Stony Corners projects were high on the list and the Town received petitions from residents from both neighborhoods. Mr. Johansen suggests a philosophy should be established on how to handle the list in the future. Mr. Armstrong suggested Mr. Baril identify the top five unsewered projects that are on the list and align that list with those on the road pavement schedule.

**2015 – 8** Potential Sanitary Sewer Service for School Street – Mr. Baril provided an update noting the Town met with Weston & Sampson and received the information needed to put the project out to bid. The project is 1,200 feet of sewer and will take two to three weeks at the most to complete. Mr. Baril noted that it's important to have a critical mass to connect to the low pressure system. Some communities mandate connections as there could be dry sewer if there is a gap in the connection. Mr. Baril believes there's enough interest in School Street

and it's not a long run so this won't be a problem. Mr. Baril noted it's been discussed that School Street would act as the pilot project for low pressure sewers. There are 18 residents in the project. There are three homeowners on School Street who are already on a pump system.

**2016 – 4** Potential Sewer Connection Charge Increase – Tabled until the report is received from Raftelis.

**2015 – 6** Research on Low Pressure Sewer Systems – Mr. Baril noted he made revisions to the draft policy Mr. Armstrong has prepared. Mr. Johansen raised the possibility of getting a quote for low pressure to the Paperchase neighborhood. He noted there isn't a policy for low pressure sewers and the Board is opening it up for other neighborhoods. Mr. Baril referenced two proposals from two developers for low pressure sewers for new subdivisions that were servable by gravity sewers. He noted the basis for rejection was the current policy is not for new subdivisions which can be served by gravity sewers. Gravity sewers were then installed in both subdivisions. Mr. Johansen noted the word 'feasible' keeps the options wide open and noted a developer could come in and request low pressure sewers. Mr. Armstrong noted the policy could be one that the School Street project will be considered a pilot project for low pressure sewers.

**VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS** – Mr. Armstrong commented on the Avon Village Center Project.

**VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF** – Mr. Baril noted he is 80% of the way through an RFP for the Riverdale Farms Pump Station and will have additional feedback for the next meeting.

**VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS** – Mr. Roy inquired about the easement for 30 Paperchase Trail. Mr. Baril stated activity will begin in late summer / early fall due to projected low ground water and wetlands. Mr. Armstrong provided feedback on his conversation with the Town of Canton. Canton will reduce the flow from Canton through Avon to Farmington and inquired whether this will take the pressure off of having to re-size the one connection in Unionville. Mr. Baril replied no since the flow being rerouted from Canton is small. Mr. Ryan found a piece of correspondence from Ms. Harding from the Farmington Valley Health District which outlines the benefits why one should connect to public sewer.

**IX OTHER BUSINESS** – None

**X ADJOURNMENT** –

**MOTION:** Mr. Johansen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Roy, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Essex, Clerk