

**Avon Water Pollution Control Authority**  
**July 29, 2019**  
**Selectmen's Chambers – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Town of Avon**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority meeting was called to order at 5:44 p.m. in the Town Selectmen's Chambers by Chairperson Eric Johansen.

**AWPCA**

Present: Eric Johansen, Chairperson  
Tom Armstrong  
Randall Bowers  
Keith Jones  
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer  
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sewers

**II. OLD BUSINESS –**

**2019 – 5      Sewer-Use fee changes**

Mr. Baril began the discussion with Item 1 on prepared meeting outline, giving a brief explanation of issues faced when determining a fair and equitable means of establishing sewer-use fees for the residents of Avon who are connected to the Town's sewer system and public water. Mr. Baril explained the need to focus on water that does not enter the collection system, methods to adjust for irrigation use, and the resulting impact of both on subsequent sewer-use fees. Mr. Baril felt there were two ways in which to approach the problem of irrigation use. Options, pros and cons are outlined below:

Option One: Installation of sub-meters by participating residents. Cost of meter installation, plumbing, hardware acquisition from CT Water, and meter readings would be responsibility of the resident who could then receive a deduction based on sub-meter readings. Cost benefit information would be readily available for any interested residents. A cost-benefit worksheet will also be available to help residents determine whether installing a sub-meter would be advantageous.

Pros: Metering would provide the most accurate estimation of effluent entering the collection system, resulting in a reasonable billing approximation. Town of Avon could easily implement as process already exists for commercial customers.

Cons: Installation cost could be significant, depending on the extent of internal plumbing needed at participating residence. Meter installation process may be considered invasive to some residents. CT Water charges quarterly for the reading of meters.

Option Two: Delete a period of metered water use, and annualize the remaining meter readings. CT Water divides the Town into thirds, reading meters every three months, though not the same three-month period for every resident. One area is read in month one, next area in month two, the third in month three with the process repeated. Irrigation often spans more than a single quarter so it is important to establish how many and which quarters to deduct.

Pros: Deducting a quarter as a means to account for water used that does not enter the collection system will offer some relief to residents while addressing perceived cost-of-service disparities.

Cons: CT Water's process of rotating/alternating monthly readings may exclude common irrigation months (June, July, August) for some residents, thereby not eliminating all resident irrigation use. Deleting the disproportionate water-use period for residents who don't irrigate skews calculations, resulting in a reduced billing not based on actual use.

Mr. Baril, after considerable review of CT Water data, Avon's own resources, and surrounding communities' sewer-use procedures for Public water not entering the Town collection system recommended residents connected to Public water be given the choice of selecting option 1 or option 2.

Next, Mr. Baril outlined Item 2 describing sewer-use billing issues for residents on wells. There are approximately 600 sewer users on private wells. Metering is not an option for well users since CT Water is averse to meter reading of wells and having residents supply their own metering and subsequent meter reads is impractical. CT Water recommended continued use of a flat-rate system. When contemplating flow estimates there are several options:

- Number of bedrooms
- Number of bathrooms
- Number of fixtures
- Square footage of resident home
- Zoning district
- Number of people in the residence

Only one option appears truly practical – utilizing CT Water data from residents on public water, and deriving flow estimates based on number of bedrooms in the residence. Existing CT Water data suggests a strong correlation between number of bedrooms and typical water usage.

Pros: Initial data analysis using practical data, indicates number of bedrooms correlates as expected with average water use. Smaller homes (fewer bedrooms) generally average less water use than moderate-sized ones, and significantly less than larger homes. The number of bedrooms is a primary driver for septic system design, which is relevant to sewer billing.

Cons: Suggested method does not address irrigation use satisfactorily, unless a reduced percentage could be used based on the number of fixtures in the residence. Existing outliers

have been identified, such as homes with fewer bedrooms with more than average usage and homes with several bedrooms using less than average usage.

Lastly, there are several items that should be considered at the September AWPCA meeting stated Mr. Baril. Consideration should be given to semi-annual billing, possible reductions for low-income elderly residents, ways to keep the public apprised/informed of potential changes, and determining the fixed and EDU rates.

On a motion made by Mr. Johansen, seconded by Mr. Bowers it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Authority continue Sewer-Use fee discussion.

Messrs.: Johansen, Armstrong, Jones, and Bowers voted in favor.

### III. **ADJOURN** –

On a motion made by Mr. Bowers, seconded by Mr. Johansen, it was voted:

**RESOLVED:** That the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourn the special meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Messrs.: Johansen, Jones, Armstrong, and Bowers voted in favor.

Attest: Victoria DiCenso, Clerk