

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

July 12, 2018

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. Eric Johansen.

AWPCA

Present: Eric Johansen, Chairman
Terry Ryan, Vice Chairman
Chris Roy
Tom Armstrong
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sanitary Sewers

Absent: Keith Jones

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING –

MOTION: Mr. Johansen made a motion for approval of the June 14, 2018 minutes. Tom Armstrong had some minor adjustments which were noted and corrected. Eric Johansen moved motion to accept minutes with suggested changes. Mr. Armstrong accepts; Seconded by Mr. Terry Ryan, received unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE –

Eric Johansen opened the meeting by questioning the audience's attendance in this evening's regularly scheduled meeting. Audience members indicated they were Avon residents who had a strong interest in the Nod Road/Blue Fox Development presentation. Mr. Baril explained the Blue Fox Presentation had been cancelled on short notice by the Developers as they were not prepared at this time and plan on rescheduling at a later date.

Residents posed several questions to the Board regarding Blue Fox. One resident inquired what would be necessary to keep the Blue Fox Development from being approved by the Board. Eric Johansen explained the AWPCA is responsible for sewerage in Avon but does not have the authority to reject a proposal submitted by a developer for any reasons other than related to sewer feasibility. A second resident questioned the environmental impact of having sewerage affecting the aquifers and potential run-off to the Farmington River. Mr. Johansen reiterated that as the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority their focus is on maintaining sewerage in the Town of Avon while, Farmington Valley Health District controls the septic systems.

Another resident presented several questions to the Board about sewer capacity in Avon with increased housing developments and therefore denser populations. Mr. Baril addressed the questions with examples of Avon's sewer capacity for such locations as Nod Road. Mr. Baril informed residents

that Nod Road, for example, is in the Simsbury sewer shed for which Avon has an excess of capacity. That excess capacity is allocated for future development. Mr. Baril further explained how new developments could reduce Avon's excess capacity however, the Town takes that into consideration and will not infringe upon residents ability to connect to public sewer due to increased residential/commercial developments. Mr. Baril informed residents of the outcome of studies done in the past to predict Avon's capacity by sectioning off the Town and allocating usage. Those same studies were used to determine if an area has the potential to exceed the predicted-allocated flow. If a developer approaches their build-out they will have to purchase additional capacity from Simsbury or from another town according to Mr. Baril. A resident questions Simsbury's capacity and Mr. Baril noted Simsbury does have a max capacity but did not have the numbers readily available. No further questions from the residents who thanked the board and exited shortly thereafter.

MOTION: Mr. Eric Johansen made a motion to move on to regular business. Received unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS –

2018 – 5 Dale Road – Sewer Extension

Mr. Baril described an issue that arose on Dale Road in which a landowner approached the Town seeking approval for a sewer extension plan. Mr. Baril notified the landowner of specific information that would need to be presented to the AWPCA in order for the Board to approve any plans prior to the start of construction. Mr. Baril requested a motion for the AWPCA to allow Avon's Engineering Department to work with the developer in an effort to formalize the sewer agreement allowing for the extension.

MOTION: Tom Armstrong made a motion approving Engineering Department's continued discussion on sewer extension with Dale Road Development planners in an effort to finalize Dale Road sewer agreement. Seconded by Mr. Chris Roy, received unanimous approval.

V. OLD BUSINESS –

2018 – 1 Potential Sewer Extension for the Highwood Area

Mr. Baril informed the Board of the installation of approximately 6 standpipes placed in the Highwood area to monitor groundwater. Mr. Baril described how the standpipes will be monitored once a month or more depending on rainfall for the next 8 or 9 months. We have data points and soil samples for comparison and will reassess the same points over the next several months. Eric Johansen determined Highwood Area Sewer Extinction should be kept open as old business and revisited for groundwater updates on a monthly basis though no immediate action should be taken until next spring at the earliest. Mr. Baril agreed with the Board's suggestion and confirmed postponement on further activity until spring of next year.

2018 – 2 Proposed Sewer Extension for the remainder of Stony Corners and Stony Corners Circle

Mr. Baril began with the suggestion of survey work being done with the intent of proceeding with the sewer extension project in the future. Mr. Baril mentioned that he intends to create a proper design over the course of the next two or three months.

2017 – 5 Cost of Service Analysis

Mr. Baril stated there are no real updates other than Town commentary on sewer connection fees and their impact. Eric Johansen suggested Mr. Baril work with Tom Armstrong on the fees, their impact, and possibility of updating to a rate based on user-consumption. Mr. Armstrong agreed stating he would like more information about modification of our user-fees based on consumption. Mr. Baril mentioned Raftelis had recommended adopting a user-based standard rather than a standard EDU.

2013 – 6 Farmington Treatment Plant Upgrade

Mr. Baril introduced billing issues with the Town of Farmington. Mr. Baril stated that our agreement with Farmington is old and not logical especially when determining the amount the Town of Avon is responsible for paying for the treatment plant upgrade. Mr. Baril explained, that the agreement seems to indicate that Avon's share in upgrades is to be based on the previous quarter's flow through their Water Treatment Plant compared to the total flow of the Plant. Mr. Baril also explained he was informed by the Town of Farmington's Engineer of past billing errors nearly doubling Avon's cost for treatment. Mr. Baril, to put it into perspective, noted Avon was billed \$296,484.00 for all of the prior year however, in just the first Quarter of the current year billed \$111,000.00. Mr. Baril informed the Board that the rate billed went from \$1.73 / 1,000 gallons to approximately \$3.20 / 1,000 gallons nearly doubling costs. Lastly, Mr. Baril described how this increase will cause the sewer fund to exceed its budget significantly which will require supplemental funds via the Board of Finance and Town Council. Mr. Johansen questioned whether there were State Statutes governing these types of Agreements and wondered if there were any precedents in place. Mr. Johansen also expressed concerns over Farmington's ability to charge usage fees at random regardless of whether Farmington's Town Engineer agrees with Avon's interpretation of the Agreement. There was additional discussion regarding Avon's share in the treatment plant upgrade and relating it to Avon allocation of flow through the plant. Mr. Armstrong clarified for the Board that if correct, Farmington's interpretation of the Agreement should allow for a much higher capacity than 600,000 gallons per day. Mr. Baril stated that in his opinion if Avon is paying for 20% of the Plant, Avon should own 20% capacity of the Plant. Mr. Armstrong reminded the Board that Avon is entitled to have one non-voting person on Farmington's WPCA Board. Mr. Baril recommended engaging a WPCA-experienced attorney to review the matter and provide recommendations.

VI. PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS

Mr. Armstrong had some questions about increased EDU's from added developments and Phase 1 of the proposed Village Center Project. Mr. Baril explained Village Center had presented to Planning & Zoning with the intent of getting approved at the end of the month. Weston & Sampson was hired to

do a peer review including drawings, traffic studies, and downstream capacity. Mr. Baril stated the Village Center buildout will require a greater amount of flow and the full build-out projection is greater than the allocation for that site. We are going to have to come up with a policy for the purchase of additional capacity. Mr. Baril provided some suggestions on future policy but reminded the Board it could be some time before such policy would need to be put in place as the project is still in its early stages.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

A discussion was held on the construction in process behind Engineering Building 7. Mr. Baril explained rather than penalize the developer for an error on his part, (removing viable trees), the Town opted to have them move the bike trail out of the Town Hall parking lot and build additional parking to compensate. The excess soils that came out of this project were used for the betterment of other areas of Avon, such as Sperry Park noted Mr. Baril.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS

Mr. Baril described Avon residents' reaction to the increased "Sewer Use" billing and as a result, the multiple calls and visits from residents the Engineering Department fielded. Mr. Baril suggested that should Avon adopt a "User-Based" billing system in the future, it would be advisable to be more proactive in notifying the public of the upcoming changes in their bills. Mr. Baril strongly recommended a plan be put in place in an effort to raise awareness prior to another proposed billing change. The Public needs to be informed in an effort to ease their anxiety about future rate increases. We have limited options, but are determined to incorporate a plan of action that will benefit all involved.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion to adjourn made by Eric Johansen; seconded by Tom Armstrong; received unanimously.