

**Avon Water Pollution Control Authority
November 14, 2019 — 7:00 p.m.
Avon Town Hall / Selectmen's Chambers**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Selectmen's Chambers by Chairperson Eric Johansen.

AWPCA

Present: Eric Johansen, Chairperson
Tom Armstrong, Vice-Chairperson
Chris Roy
Randall Bowers
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer
Tim Foster, Sewer Superintendent

Absent: Keith Jones

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

October 10, 2019

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

RESOLVED: That the Authority approves the minutes of the October 10, 2019 Meeting as drafted.
Messrs.: Roy, Armstrong, Bowers, and Johansen, voted in favor.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE - See Public Hearing 2019 - 5

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

RESOLVED: That the Authority address Agenda item 2019 – 5 prior to item 2019 - 12.
Messrs.: Roy, Armstrong, Bowers, and Johansen, voted in favor.

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

RESOLVED: That the Authority go into Public Hearing to discuss 2019 – 5
Messrs.: Roy, Armstrong, Bowers, and Johansen, voted in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 – 5 Sewer-Use Fee Changes – Public Hearing

Mr. Baril began the discussion by describing the revised semi-annual billing process as recommended by the Engineering Department. Mr. Baril suggested the first bill be a fixed-fee and

second billing be variable based on water usage. Also recommended was to have the first October bill be fixed but include a sample water-use bill to give Residents an opportunity to see how billing changes will affect them.

Mr. Armstrong opened discussion to Residents in attendance. Mr. Ralph Dorset suggested using first and last quarter usage and taking away the two high quarters as an accurate accounting of what goes into the system and bill from that. Mr. Baril described CT Water's use of a "staggered" system of meter reading. Residents are not all billed for the exact same months clarified Mr. Baril. Using first and last quarters may not be beneficial to all residents depending on how the quarters fall.

Ms. Clair Henderson questioned the proposed April/October billing period, preferring instead a July/October billing period. Ms. Henderson believed it would be a financial hardship for some as (income) taxes are due in April. The Authority acknowledged Ms. Henderson's concerns while noting Town taxes are due in July. At an earlier AWPCA meeting, residents voiced concerns over a July billing period which prompted the AWPCA to choose an April billing date explained Mr. Johansen. Ms. Henderson thought it important for the Authority to adopt a sewer-use based billing component as soon as possible. The Authority acknowledged the need for a revised billing but stressed the need to be fair to all residents affected by a billing change. To ensure the accuracy and fairness of sewer-use billing the Authority must consider several variables explained Mr. Johansen. There is no easy fix which is why several Towns around Avon utilize a flat-rate system explained Mr. Foster. It is the goal of the Authority to come up with a system that is fair to everyone without being unique to anyone stated Mr. Bowers.

Mr. Bowers recommended the 2020 billing be semi-annual with the first bill being scheduled for April 1st in the amount of \$250 and October in the amount of \$265. A future October variable rate to be determined by the Authority at a later date based on information to be provided by Staff.

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

RESOLVED: That the Authority accept a revised residential sewer-use billing schedule of April 1st and October 1st beginning in 2020 with April to be a flat rate of \$250, October to be \$265, and inclusion of a hypothetical water-consumption bill example as described by Mr. Baril.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Authority end Public Hearing.

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

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

2019 – 12 Sewer Connection Fee Review

Mr. Baril recommended increasing sewer-connection fees reasoning that connection fees have not

been increased in 12 years and are currently one of the Avon sewer fund's few revenue streams. For commercial developments, Avon's current connection charge policy is based on acreage of the parcel being served in which Avon charges \$4500/acre regardless of facility demands or building size. Avon's residential connection charge is \$2500 per residential unit regardless of size or type (single vs multi-unit). Simsbury determines the charge based on the category of building use type and square footage of the building. Mr. Baril gave an example by citing the connection charge estimate for Phase 1A of the Avon Village. Avon's connection charge for the entire Phase 1A of the project is estimated to be \$62k, whereas Simsbury's charge for just the Whole Foods building would calculate to approximately \$81k. In Simsbury, the additional buildings would also be charged a connection fee. Avon needs to change their policy to a square footage-based program that accommodates for future potential building changes stressed Mr. Baril. Mr. Baril suggested addressing an increase in connection fees during the December 2019 AWPCA meeting. Simsbury's fee structure is based on square footage and bedroom count which is reasonable explained Mr. Baril. A 1 bedroom/1200 square feet home in Simsbury pays 70% of an EDU. Mr. Johansen requested further justification for recommended increase. Avon has two pump stations that are over 30 years old and 93 miles of underground pipe that all will require upkeep/repair explained Mr. Baril.

Mr. Armstrong recommended a consensus from the Authority directing Larry Baril and Tim Foster to continue work on detailed revisions to current connection fee policy until the December AWPCA meeting.

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

RESOLVED: That the Authority direct Town Staff to continue sewer connection fee review until December meeting.

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

V. **PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS** - No new items were discussed.

VI. **COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF** - No new items were discussed.

VII. **COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS** - No new items were discussed.

VIII. **OTHER BUSINESS** - No new items were discussed.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT** -

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

RESOLVED: That the Water Pollution Control Authority adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

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