

**Avon Water Pollution Control Authority  
September 12, 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 5:30 p.m. in the Town Selectmen's Chambers by Chairperson Eric Johansen.

**AWPCA**

Present: Eric Johansen, Chairperson  
Tom Armstrong, Co-Chairperson  
Chris Roy  
Keith Jones  
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer  
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sewers

Absent: Randall Bowers

**II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING:**

**July 11, 2019 & July 29, 2019 Special Meeting**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Authority approves the minutes of the July 11, 2019 Meeting and July 29, 2019 Special Meeting as drafted. Messrs.: Johansen, Roy, Armstrong, and Jones, voted in favor.

**III. COMMUNICATION FROM AUDIENCE**

Resident Claire Henderson of Keystone Circle requested clarification on present and future sewer-use fees. Ms. Henderson agreed to hold questions as item was next on the agenda (see 2019 – 5; *Sewer-Use fee changes*).

Resident Emma Rotondo of Paper Chase Trail in attendance for discussion on Paper Chase Trail (see 2019 – 9; *24 Paper Chase Assessment*).

**IV. NEW BUSINESS –**

**2019 – 5      **Sewer-Use fee Changes – Update****

Mr. Baril provided the Authority with updates on communications with CT Water regarding sewer-use fee data. Mr. Baril relayed CT Water's database lacks consistency however, CT Water is willing to examine the database to ensure its accuracy for billing purposes. The Authority requested a sample of current database which Mr. Baril will provide prior to the October meeting of the AWPCA.

To further the discussion, Mr. Baril proposed developing a worksheet allowing residents on wells to determine if installing an irrigation meter is a cost-effective alternative. Mr. Baril recommended the Authority come to a decision on a revised sewer-use billing structure with goal of implementing in next year's billing cycle. Discussion continued on various billing options available, such as billing based on number of bedrooms, metering, etc. Also discussed was the option of a \$250 flat fee for the first part of the billing cycle and usage-based fee for latter part of billing cycle for a total of two billings/year.

Ms. Henderson of Keystone Circle asked for clarification of the sewer-use billing process as she understood the billing to be prospective. Ms. Henderson supposed the sewer-use bill was for the period of July 1 - June 30. Mr. Baril explained historically the billing period had been poorly defined, prompting the AWPCA to review billing practices and procedures. The AWPCA has been working on implementing a more equitable system of billing. The Authority hopes to have a new billing system in place next year that will account for actual resident water usage but not neglect the cost to Avon to treat as recommended by the Avon Engineering Department.

Ms. Henderson questioned how the Town plans on publicizing any changes ultimately made to sewer-use charges and questioned whether any alterations will be addressed at the next AWPCA meeting. The Authority wondered what approaches Ms. Henderson would suggest to get potential sewer-use changes known to the residents of Avon. Ms. Henderson recommended the use of sandwich board signs as one option for the Town to employ as publication in the Hartford Courant did not appear to be overly effective. The Authority noted Ms. Henderson's recommendation and determined further discussion on sewer-use billing options necessary.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Authority table Sewer-Use fee discussion until next AWPCA meeting. Messrs.: Johansen, Roy, Armstrong, and Jones voted in favor.

#### **2019 – 6      Simsbury Inter-Municipal Agreement – Amendment for Climax Road Development**

Mr. Baril provided brief update on the project since the last AWPCA meeting noting an agreement has not yet been reached as such, no ground-breaking at this time.

#### **2019 – 8      Village Center Project – Sanitary Sewer Review**

Mr. Baril informed the Authority that work has begun, bond amount and agreement being reviewed by Town's Attorney Murtha Cullina, overall, progress being made. Authority requested status of total amount of commercial connection fees to be gained from project. Mr. Foster estimated approximately \$61,000.00 for five buildings.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Authority approve Mr. Baril, Town Engineer's collaboration for agreement finalization with Developer and Town Attorney.

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

## **2019 – 9      24 Paper Chase Assessment**

Mr. Baril described the Benefit Assessment established for property located at 24 Paper Chase Trail and lack of disclosure of set Benefit Assessment to current/new owners of said property. Mr. Baril explained the Benefit Assessment was determined by the AWPCA in April of 2019. The new owners, Jordan Bouchard and Emma Rotondo, were not made aware of the set assessment until recently. They are requesting a determination of an installment plan for assessment.

Homeowner, Ms. Emma Rotondo explained after discovering the existence of a benefit assessment on their newly purchased property she and her husband determined they could not pay the total assessment amount of \$19,000.00 in full. Ms. Rotondo requested an installment payment plan. Further mentioning, homes existing septic is deteriorating and necessity of connecting to Town sewer in the near future. Ms. Rotondo explained the former owners relayed the costs associated with connecting to the Town sewer system, but neglected to disclose assessment.

Mr. Baril explained 10 year payback option, how interest rate and installment numbers are established, and assessment must be paid in full upon transfer of ownership. The established 10-year installment plan must be noticed before and after unless waived by homeowner. A three year option with no interest, same process without required public notice also available according to Mr. Baril.

Mr. Armstrong concluded on behalf of the Authority the two options available to the present homeowners. Option one being a 10-year installment period; interest rate to be determined; payment in full if ownership transferred; Public notice given unless waived by homeowner; compensation awarded present homeowners from any benefit-assessment related lawsuit against previous owners must be used to pay off installment plan. Option two would allow for a 3 year, no interest installment plan of equal payments not requiring public notification, same legal obligations as Option one.

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

**RESOLVED:** Authority approves options defined by Authority to pay in 3 annual installments without interest or 10 year installment plan with interest as determined by Town. Public hearing to be scheduled in October to finalize, unless waived by homeowners.

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

## **2019 – 10      Approve AWPCA Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2019-2020**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Authority approve meeting dates for 2020.

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

V.      **OLD BUSINESS** – No items were discussed.

VI.     **PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS** – No new items were discussed.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF – No new items were discussed.

VIII. COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – No new items were discussed.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS – No other items were discussed.

X. ADJOURN –

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 7:15 p.m.  
Messrs.: Johansen, Roy, Armstrong, and Jones voted in favor.

Attest: Victoria DiCenso, Clerk