

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

March 10, 2011
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 5:32 pm by Michael Farrell, Chairman.

Present: Michael Farrell
Thomas Armstrong
Lawrence Baril
Terry Ryan
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sewers, Town of Avon

Absent: James Miller
Eric Johansen

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – February 10, 2011

MOTION: Mr. Armstrong motioned for approval of the February 10, 2011 minutes, as submitted. The motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – None

IV. NEW BUSINESS -

2011 – 3 Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Mr. Foster provided an overview of FOG. CTDEP has issued an amendment to the general permit for the discharge of wastewater for food preparation establishments incorporating language concerning FOG removal and disposal. This will affect class III and IV food preparation establishments. The restaurants/ kitchens will file with their local Water Pollution Control Authority. It will be the AWPCA's responsibility that they meet the guidelines. The City of Torrington and Cromwell have a package that has been in use for many years that relate to this topic. Mr. Baril confirmed it is the responsibility of the AWPCA to determine and administer the regulatory requirements. Mr. Foster receives the list of applicable establishments from the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD).

The CTDEP has mandated that restaurants need to be compliant by July 1, 2011. This will be costly for the restaurant owners. Mr. Baril noted that any fixture that touches grease needs to be included. The City of Torrington and Cromwell are the two models promoted by the CTDEP as having model regulations and administration. There was a meeting held in February at CTDEP concerning the program. Mr. Baril mentioned this is a program the WPCA should adopt as part of WPCA's regulations. There is someone at the Town of Simsbury dedicated to monitoring fat, oil and grease. There is a part time inspector at the Town of Canton. Mr. Baril noted that FVHD is not interested in taking on the inspection responsibility. Mr. Foster mentioned he would need everyone [AWPCA and Restaurants] to get on board as quickly as possible. The DEP has provided model information for use by WPCAs. Mr. Armstrong suggested conducting a seminar/meeting on a Monday to meet with the restaurants to start the process and provide an overview on FOG. Mr. Foster mentioned that select Class II establishments may also be required to meet the standards, depending upon how they prepare and serve food. Mr. Foster noted that one restaurant has a single tank with a 6 inch lateral taking everything. This set up will need to change based on the new requirements. There are options to take. There have been letters sent from the DEP beginning in 2006 to the restaurants regarding the pending ordinance. There have been non-stop reminders from inspectors to restaurants in the Farmington Valley that the new ordinance is imminent. The paper trail is very important, will determine the process. Each establishment will be different. Mr. Armstrong will talk to someone at the DEP and identify a contact with someone in the food trade organization. Mr. Foster noted the two major components of the FOG process are administration and compliance. Mr. Armstrong mentioned the DEP has a compliance officer who issues a ticket for noncompliance, which is time consuming. Mr. Farrell noted there would be an informal analysis available for the April meeting with the intent of scheduling a meeting with businesses. Mr. Armstrong suggested calling the meeting a hearing to make sure the ordinance is out and available for comment. This will allow for a quicker timeframe for approval. Mr. Baril mentioned it might be possible to meet with the businesses in April. Mr. Farrell agreed the meeting should be formalized.

2011-4 Connection Charge and Sewer Use Fee

Mr. Baril discussed the current connection charge and sewer use fee. There is no specific reason to change now, although the fee is lower than neighboring towns and the cost for treatment will continue to rise based on DEP, who continues to add new mandates. The Town has always operated with a positive balance in the sewer fund. Mr. Baril suggested that the Commission should predict increases coming in the future and not end up in trouble. It's been four years since these fees have changed, and costs have risen so perhaps the rate should be changed next year - as an incremental increase each year. Mr. Foster mentioned the Town makes payments to Farmington to pay for our portion of a plant upgrade. Mr. Baril mentioned the cost to treat our effluent will continue to increase as the costs of treatment and energy rise. The \$300 use fee goes directly to The Town of Avon and the payment goes back out to Canton, Farmington, and Simsbury for our share of the treatment costs. The payment to Simsbury is based on estimation, which goes up and down. Mr. Farrell mentioned the fund is healthy and believes the inequities in the flat fee should be addressed and suggests a tiered system so it's not one size fits all. There are residents who still live in the same home they purchased fifty years ago. It will be a challenge to address but it needs to be boiled down and simplified. Connection charges won't provide as much revenue as user fees will. Mr. Baril responded he intended to revisit the matter and just wanted others to keep it in mind. Mr. Armstrong suggested the Commission look in to what other towns charge for user fees who discharge into the same places. It would be worthwhile to look

into their connection charges. There should be something that is universally consistent that should not need examination every year. Mr. Farrell believes this is an issue that the Commission will hear about in the near future. Mr. Baril mentioned there is a limited flow to Farmington. The terms in the Farmington contract are over 20 years old and the onus falls on Farmington if they wish to change the terms of the agreement. The Town now has the ability to retrieve remote meter rates for the primary flow into Farmington on a daily basis. The meter is down at the Avon/Farmington line. Mr. Foster mentioned the data is sent to his office so he has a daily accounting of the flow. The flow has increased based on the amount of recent rainfall. There may be some repairs needed to reduce I&I as parts of the collection system are 40 years old. There is a 12-inch flume on the Simsbury side and Mr. Foster is working with Mr. Baril to arrange a system which would generate instant data from that flume. There isn't a meter at Canton. The Town is billed by the number of connections to Canton. The Town is charged \$300 per connection and the Town is only getting \$300 back, which makes for a wash. Mr. Foster's goal is to have each location metered. Mr. Baril clarified there's some inter-town connections whereby there's flow from Simsbury that goes through Avon and then back out again. Mr. Baril mention the fund is healthy but repairs are not cheap. Mr. Farrell agreed the Commission should be proactive about this issue. Mr. Baril mentioned Simsbury and Farmington are a paid-for capacity. The amount paid to Canton is based on known connections. Payment to Simsbury and Farmington is based on metered flow. Rainwater and groundwater is included in the calculation. It's for the Town's advantage to tighten up the system.

V. OLD BUSINESS –

2010-9 Haynes Road Update – Mr. Baril provided an update on Haynes Road. Bill Ferrigno held two meetings, which were well attended. Bill Ferrigno mentioned he has 45 people for the project, so therefore he anticipates that the project will most likely move forward. There is money in the FY11/12 CIP budget for this project. Mr. Farrell confirmed there is nothing new for the Commission to act on. Mr. Baril met with Bill Ferrigno and his lawyer. They discussed the sewer permit agreement, which includes all the variables that the Town and the Developer will agree to for the construction of the sewers. Because of the length of sewer, there were unusual requests such as the developer payback timeframe. Usually, it's a 10-year payback but given the additional risks, Mr. Ferrigno has requested a 20-year payback. The payment options, which is affected and other variables will be included in the contract. Mr. Ferrigno does not wish to go through Scoville Road. Mr. Foster has scheduled a meeting with Avon Health to discuss the project and request an easement across their property to connect to the existing sewer. The most likely route would be north of Avon Health Center. The Meadowbrook property of Ms. Landis would not be considered if an easement with Avon Health is successful. There was some discussion regarding provision of benefits to Avon Health as compensation for the easement. Mr. Foster mentioned the use charge they pay is based on metered flow, which is the total number of gallons per year divided by 76,650 gal./EDU. This amounts to 210 gallons per day, Mr. Armstrong suggested a possibility of reducing their use fee for a period of time.

2011-2 Deepwood Drive Assessments

Mr. Farrell and Mr. Armstrong reviewed the ordinance for benefit assessments. Mr. Farrell inquired whether anything needs to be changed based on findings given what is included in the statutes regarding unapproved land. Mr. Baril mentioned he did not have any new information to give the members other than what the group knows. He has not heard from Superior Court that indicates someone has filed anything. Mr. Farrell confirmed there hasn't been anything formally pending from

either Mr. DaSilva or Mr. Dubiel. They both have been notified about the process with the courts and there isn't anything the Commission needs to act upon, other than a discussion. Mr. Farrell mentioned he spoke to Mr. DaSilva and he was notified about the assessment process and he is interested in pursuing the payment plan, which he was amendable to. Mr. Farrell received an email from Mr. Dubiel. Mr. Dubiel's email is not specifically stating he is appealing anything. Mr. Armstrong would like to look further into the matter and have a discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Baril mentioned Mr. Dubiel has informally made a request. Mr. Farrell mentioned he has received two notices from two residents on Deepwood who are seeking relief based upon the low-income / elderly tax relief program.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – None

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – None

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Farrell formally welcomed Terry Ryan to the Commission.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:45 pm. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Essex, Clerk