

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**July 12, 2012****Selectmen's Chambers 5:30 pm****Town of Avon****I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 5:34 pm by Mr. Farrell.

Present: Thomas Armstrong
Michael Farrell
James Miller
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

Absent: Eric Johansen, Terry Ryan

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – May 10, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion for approval of the May 10, 2012 minutes.
The motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE – Ms. Flo Stahl (*see Section VIII*)**IV NEW BUSINESS – None****V. OLD BUSINESS**

2012 – 2 Meadowbrook Pump Station Mr. Baril expects to receive a third quote for the proposed project which will include a pitched roof, power washing and painting. Mr. Baril will announce his recommendation at the next meeting whereby he'll request a resolution from members.

2011 – 10 Haynes Road– Mr. Baril provided an update. There are two laterals left to install. Almost all the trench work has been paved. Mr. Ferrigno has been testing and has corrected the two tests that have failed. The final loam and seeding will occur in the fall but a letter was sent to residents offering them the option to contact Mr. Ferrigno if they would like to loam and seed before fall. Springbrook Drive will be paved through the Town of Avon, rather than Sunlight Construction which will be a cost saving measure for the Town. The Springbrook paving will occur in late August or early September. The Sanitary Easement is now in place and the License & Acquisition Agreement has been signed by all three parties. Both are now in place and filed with the Town Clerk.

Mr. Farrell welcomed Ms. Flo Stahl and noted the meeting was past Communication from Audience but the user fees will be addressed later in the agenda.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – None

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – Mr. Baril provided an update on Avon Place. They have submitted a set of plans for engineering review for a proposed sanitary sewer connection. Mr. Baril contacted Avon Place once he noticed a CBYD mark out. A sewer permit agreement will likely arise noting the extension of town sewers and the intent of connecting to River Mead through Avon Mill. There will be a large connection fee which will potentially offset rebuilding the existing Nod Road Pump Station which is 35 years old.

Mr. Baril is in an investigative mode with developing an I&I study. Mr. Foster has identified pump stations, such as Riverdale Farms, which would serve well with an I&I study. There have been issues with grease accumulation in the pipeline due to the large number of restaurants at Riverdale Farms.

The Engineering Department hired a company to flush and video the lines. It was discovered that it's a possibility there's a connection from the storm drain lines in Riverdale Farms. This potential connection was noticeable when there are heavy rains, which leads to a spike in flows there.

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Farrell inquired about the FOG Program. Mr. Baril explained that the program has not been initiated mostly due to Mr. Foster's accident who is working part-time. The FOG permit tracking system will be rolled into the new Engineering Department permit system, which also handles sewer, driveway and excavation permits. Mr. Baril believes fall will be the revised schedule to implement the FOG program. He also provided an update on Mr. Foster including his modified work schedule.

Mr. Farrell noted he would like to discuss sewer use fees and would like to find equity in the system. He recognizes the system works but wonders if it's fair for everyone. The same obstacles are present as they were four years ago. He followed up with members regarding the email he sent requesting their input. Mr. Armstrong noted the Town has the right to abate certain taxes. Mr. Farrell believes the AWPCA has the statutory authority to set rates and to adjust rates. While Mr. Armstrong believes, environmentally, it makes sense for people to pay less if they use less, the higher cost to the homeowner to meter lower water usage would not likely result in a lower cost to the homeowner. Mr. Farrell noted that, ideally, the system should be where the onus is on the homeowner to approach the commission for relief and somehow plead their case. Mr. Armstrong inquired whether there's relief in the Town for seniors and those at a certain economic level. Mr. Farrell does not want to overburden the Engineering Staff but would like to be responsive to residents who have a legitimate issue. Mr. Baril noted the Town of Avon has a deferred special benefit assessment program based on income levels and age requirement, which is handled through the Assessor's Office. Mr. Farrell reiterated that the homeowner would need to come on an annual basis and plead their case each year. Mr. Armstrong noted that a possible cap could be \$20,000 to \$25,000 available for a discount. The deduct would vary each year, depending upon on how many people apply. This way, we don't over budget. Mr. Farrell encouraged members to continue to think of preliminary proposals for the next meeting to make something work.

Mr. Farrell opened the floor to the audience.

Flo Stahl of 2 Sunset Trail addressed the members. Ms. Stahl mentioned there's a list of people in the Assessor's Office who qualify based on their income and age. Ms. Stahl noted that almost every town in Connecticut has some kind of relief. Mr. Farrell acknowledged that relief is available but certain factors could impact the sewer system if someone meets the criteria yet may also have six or seven others living in the same home. Regarding the income relief, there's a possibility that a family of four or five people may receive income relief yet that large amount may impact the sewer system. The Town of Avon pays for sewer capacity. Ms. Stahl agrees that it's logistically not feasible to install meters. However, Ms. Stahl believes relief based on income or need speaks to her. But she understands it's a possibility for twenty people to live in one house yet meet the poverty income. She mentioned we don't have much of that in Avon and there are other regulations that may come into play if such a situation existed in Avon, such as zoning regulations? Are we creating a problem, a hypothetical, in terms of percentage of application is very low in Avon. Are we missing the bigger picture of everyone getting hit with the same thing? Mr. Farrell agreed and that we are talking about the exception and not the rule. Ms. Stahl continued to say that the Board creates a policy that piggy backs onto the need criteria already in place by the Town, and if you let the staff in the Assessor's Office know that and they say that, people will at least have the option. Mr. Farrell mentioned he will meet with Harry, the Town Assessor. Mr. Farrell summarized Mr. Armstrong's comment that there could be a resident who meets the age criteria yet rents his home to eight other people and is living in another state. Mr. Farrell believes this could be the exception. Mr. Farrell thanked Ms. Stahl for coming in.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk