

AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
April 19, 2012
Selectmen's Chambers 5:30 pm (PUBLIC HEARING)
Town of Avon

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Avon Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order at 5:33 pm by Mr. Farrell.

Present: Thomas Armstrong
Michael Farrell
Eric Johansen
Terry Ryan
James Miller
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer

II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – February 9, 2012

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion for approval of the February 9, 2012 minutes.
The motion, seconded by Mr. Johansen, received unanimous approval.

III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE –

Florence Stahl, 2 Sunset Trail, Avon, Connecticut

Ms. Stahl addressed the AWPCA as a follow-up regarding the prior recommendation that the sewer use fee should be based on actual usage rather than charging a flat fee. She acknowledged it was a matter that has been researched. Her questions include: 1) What can be done? 2) Can it be done? 3) When can it be done? Mr. Farrell acknowledged her concerns and noted that she is looking for relief and equity. Ms. Stahl replied she is looking for relief and equity for herself but also people of the greater community with limited usage. Mr. Farrell mentioned the topic has been investigated extensively approximately three years ago and the research process took approximately one year. The goal was to look into a method of using the water in/water out. Mr. Farrell noted one of the challenges is obtaining accurate water use from the private water companies or those parcels serviced by wells. A three tier-system was an option along with installing meters for non-water company users. A comparison of user fees to other towns noted that the current rate for the Town of Avon is not a bad deal. Mr. Farrell noted there's room for consideration to revisit the issue. Ms. Stahl inquired if there was a cost figure available for affected homes to have meters installed. Mr. Baril noted his conversation with Avon Water Company and Connecticut Water and explained the various challenges the water companies would face if meters were installed. Although Mr. Baril did not have the actual figure, he recalls an approximate amount of \$1,200. He mentioned a fair amount of time was spent investigating a variety of options. One problem in determining water usage is that homes may use a lot of water but they are using the water to irrigate lawns and gardens. The timing of the meter readings is an obstacle as the meters are read at different times throughout the year. Additional man time to prepare bills would be an additional cost. Parcels which have a well are not serviced by the water companies is an additional challenge as well as accounting for baseflow for infiltration and inflow that enters the sewer system. The amount of time needed to bill would be an additional month compared to the current computing time of three or four days. The latest Tighe and Bond Survey indicated that only one other community in Connecticut uses the water in/water out method to factor sewer use fee but this town is completely on a municipal water system. He does not recall anyone using a tier system. Mr. Farrell concluded that after studying the issue it was logistically impossible to change the system. However, there may be a mechanism for someone to appeal on the inequities of the system. Put the onus on the person that is being billed to approach the Town with data representing their situation. Ms. Stahl mentioned there's a mechanism for residents for discounts on property taxes. Mr. Baril noted that if a homeowner is going to be assessed, they have the opportunity to defer the assessment if they meet the low fixed-income requirements, which is the same criteria for tax deferments. Mr. Farrell did not believe there is a mechanism for individual appeal for user fee. Perhaps there could be a means

whereby residents can take that approach but also make sure there is consistency and fairness with each case. Ms. Stahl inquired whether the authority to create such alleviation of the sewer use fee rests with the AWPCA. Mr. Farrell mentioned that issues such as sewer use fee will be clarified after the in-service training seminar, which will be held after the AWPCA meeting. Ms. Stahl mentioned she will follow-up in writing in order to have a paper trail. Mr. Farrell will follow up with Ms. Stahl's request and mentioned that something should be done. Ms. Stahl thanked the Commission for their time. Mr. Armstrong mentioned that if Ms. Stahl has any suggestions or ideas to rectify the situation that she should include this in the letter.

Mr. Farrell welcomed an additional audience member, Brandon Robertson, Town Manager, to the meeting.

IV NEW BUSINESS –

2012 – 3 Accept the sewer extension for Peachtree Village – Mr. Baril noted the sewer extension is complete and the AWPCA needs to formalize the paperwork to accept the sewer extension for Peachtree Village.

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion to formally accept the sewer extension for Peachtree Village. The motion, seconded by Mr. Ryan, received unanimous approval.

2012 – 4 Weatherstone Phase III Sewer Permit Agreement – Mr. Baril explained that the remainder of Phase II has been sold to Toll Brothers. Phase III was purchased by Toll Brothers. There are 28 lots and Toll Brothers has requested to the Planning and Zoning Commission that Phase III be split into three sub phases. In anticipation of this request, Toll Brothers has requested that the sanitary sewers construction occur in two separate phases. They would like to submit three separate sewer permit applications to the Commission. Therefore, Mr. Baril mentioned the Commission would need to authorize Brandon Robertson to enter into a sewer permit agreement for Phase IIIA. Mr. Baril provided a map to review the location for the proposed sub phases for Phase III. Mr. Baril mentioned there are numerous requirements Toll Brothers will have to meet before it is accepted for flow, such as air testing, video and vacuum testing.

MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a sewer permit with the developers of Weatherstone Phase III, section A, alpha, only. The motion, was seconded by Mr. Armstrong, with the request to discuss. Mr. Farrell noted Mr. Armstrong's request and opened the matter for discussion.

Mr. Armstrong inquired about the upside and downside if Phases B and C are not built out. Mr. Baril responded that there is not a downside for the sewer commission. The developers will have to return for additional sewer permit agreements for Phase B and C. The primary reason to split into three different phases is to lower the bond amounts. The designs have been completed and filed. Mr. Armstrong inquired whether it would be acceptable to modify the motion slightly to make it clear that the motion is only for Phase IIIA only and not Phase III B and Phase III C.

MODIFIED MOTION: Mr. Farrell made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to enter into a sewer permit agreement for Weatherstone Phase IIIA, Alpha, only and specifically excluding Sections B, Bravo, and C, Charlie, at this time. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

2012 – 5 Sewer permit agreement for Frank Sidoti (43 Vermillion & 52 Pheasant Run) – The applicant, Mr. Sidoti, is not ready to submit the sewer permit agreement. The agenda will be tabled for the next AWPCA meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

2011 – 11 - Canton WPCA request for revised sewer shed and inter-municipal agreement modifications

Mr. Baril noted he has not heard from the Town of Canton and Mr. Farrell suggested to table the agenda item.

VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS – None

VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF – Mr. Baril provided an update on Mr. Foster.

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Farrell inquired about what provisions can be made when staff members are out for an extended period of time. Mr. Farrell discussed the issue with other members and planned to discuss the matter during the in-service training seminar.

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Essex, Clerk