

**AVON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

**April 11, 2013**

**The Avon Room, 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: Michael Farrell  
Eric Johansen  
Tom Armstrong  
Jim Miller  
Lawrence Baril, Town Engineer  
Tim Foster, Superintendent of Sanitary Sewer Collection, Town of Avon

Absent: Terry Ryan

**II. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING – March 14, 2013**

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell made a motion for approval of the March 14, 2013 minutes.

Mr. Armstrong requested clarification of the length of pipe mentioned in the middle of page 3 of the March 14, 2013 minutes. Mr. Baril confirmed the length of pipe is 30 foot. Mr. Armstrong suggested the first sentence in the last paragraph on page 4 could be clarified. Mr. Baril suggested the sentence should be reworded as ‘...the analysis considered the entire shed...’ The clerk noted the change and will update the March meeting minutes accordingly.

**MOTION** Mr. Farrell made a motion to rewrite the bottom of page 4 to indicate the ‘analysis considered the entire shed.’ The motion, seconded by Mr. Johansen, received unanimous approval.

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 14, 2013 meeting. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

**III. COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE - None**

**IV NEW BUSINESS – None**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2013 – 1 Annual Discussion of Sewer Rate**

Mr. Baril handed a sewer analysis to members and discussed the historical and current figures for connection charges and sewer use rate information for the neighboring towns: Canton, Simsbury and Farmington. The prior years’ adopted budgets for the Town of Avon were also discussed. Mr. Baril noted that although the Town of Avon does not have a treatment plant in town, costs are incurred to pay neighboring towns. Mr. Armstrong provided data regarding the Consumer Price Index. Mr. Farrell suggesting waiting another year to impose an increase given the economy but would see the need in the future. Mr. Baril noted projects that need to be done such as an I&I study and the need to conduct a routine flushing program. Mr. Johansen noted a concern with how the process works because even

though there is data to justify an increase, the public may say no when the projects are ready for implementation. Mr. Armstrong noted a concern if the Commission waits a year for an increase. He mentioned it would be ideal if someone could provide data on the piping such as age and the replacement value of the piping. Mr. Johansen noted that if there's an increase, he feels it needs to be tied something.

Mr. Armstrong presented an idea of increasing the rate by \$25 to be imposed the following year. Mr. Farrell noted that plan would be more defensible because you are aligning it with the growth of the Town. Mr. Baril noted that if an increase were to occur at 2.5%, the increase in revenue generated would be about \$37,000. Mr. Armstrong noted he would like to see the Commission united on the vote, would like to see some increase this year but would not want to see a 2 to 2 vote, which does not show a good sign. Mr. Farrell noted he knew that Mr. Ryan supported a rate increase and given that, Mr. Farrell would be amendable to a modest increase, such as 2%. This rate satisfies the spirit of the Authority, collectively, the concerns with bigger issues coming up such as I&I study and pump station issues. Mr. Armstrong noted a statement should include that the Commission shall review the sewer use rate on an annual basis. Mr. Farrell noted Mr. Ryan's prior comments that this is a business. Gas, electricity, treatment costs aren't going down. Mr. Armstrong noted he personally would like a higher amount but given what the Town is willing to look at, which is 2.5%, we came in at 2% which equals \$6 per EDU.

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell made a motion to raise the EDU for the 2013/2014 FY by 2%. The motion did not pass and opened for discussion.

Mr. Johansen commented that the Commission should come up with a rate that makes sense instead of making an increase every year. He noted that members should agree this increase happens on an annual basis and should be included in the motion. Mr. Armstrong asked Mr. Johansen how he would phrase the motion given his suggestion of including the increase on an annual basis. Mr. Farrell commented that the Commission should address the original motion of raising the rate by 2%. Mr. Baril noted that whenever a rate increase occurs, there needs to be a public hearing. Discussion continued around the data presented and whether the AWPCA should propose an increase in the sewer rate or maintain the given rate of \$300 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU).

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell made a motion to raise the EDU for the 2013/2014 by 2%. Mr. Farrell responded to Mr. Armstrong's question that he won't add anything additional to the given motion. Mr. Armstrong mentioned he supports the motion with the understanding the Commission has not had an increase in quite some time, and will encounter additional expenditures in the coming year. Mr. Farrell noted Mr. Armstrong's comment that one of the driving forces of the impetus behind the increase is to recognize that operating expenses have increased and Mr. Miller noted they will continue to rise. The motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, received unanimous approval.

**2012 – 2 Meadowbrook Pump Station Generator** – Mr. Baril noted the Town has entered into a contract with Tower Generator.

**2012 – 14 I & I Study, Riverdale Farms.**

Mr. Baril noted the Town is scheduled to meet with Mr. Brighenti the following week. This agenda item will reappear on the following month for further discussion.

**VI PLANNING & ZONING MATTERS** – Mr. Baril noted there is a healthcare facility that is under consideration to go in on Simsbury Road. A similar healthcare facility planned to go into the same location in 2008 but pulled their application.

**VII COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF** – Mr. Baril noted that Avon Place is still interested to connect to the Town's sewer, however, due to an easement situation with CREC, Avon Place will need

to enter into two separate sewer permit agreements. A memo regarding the proposed subdivision, Jefferson Crossing, was sent to the Inland Wetlands Commission.

VIII COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBERS – Mr. Farrell mentioned to keep the Easement Access Report from Mr. Ryan on the agenda for the following month

IX OTHER BUSINESS – None

X ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION:** Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, received unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,  
Suzanne Essex, Clerk