

A special water work session of the Town of Avon was held on Thursday, November 17, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. at the Avon Opera Block/Town Hall, 23 Genesee Street, Avon, New York 14414, and via Join.Me phone number 1-646-307-1990 and conference call number 152-725-660# of the Avon Town Board. The following members participated:

PRESENT: Supervisor David LeFeber, Deputy Supervisor Thomas Mairs, Councilmen James Harrington, and Malachy Coyne (left at 2:03 P.M. and returned at 3:25 P.M.) Paul Drozdziel via Join.Me (left at 2:36 P.M.)

OTHERS: Supervisor Secretary Kim McDowell, MRB Group Engineers David Willard and Bill Davis, Attorney James Campbell via Join.Me (left at approximately 2:00P.M.), Highway/Water Superintendent Thomas Crye*, Water Equipment Operators Tom Cook* and Kelly Sloan* (*left at 2:00 P.M.) and Town Clerk Sharon M. Knight, MMC/RMC

VISITORS: None

Supervisor LeFeber called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. by reading the following legal notice.

TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE

RESOLVE that a special water work session has been scheduled for Tuesday November 17, 2020 at 1:00 P.M., at the Avon Opera Block/Town Hall Building, 23 Genesee Street Avon, New York 14414 for the purpose of water work session with MRB Group and any other business that might come before the Board. You may also listen to the meeting remotely by calling 1-646-307-1990. Once connected, enter 152-725-660#.

By order of the Town Board
Sharon M. Knight, MMC/RMC, Avon Town Clerk
Dated: November 5, 2020
Publish: November 12, 2020

DISCUSSION – WATER NEEDS

Supervisor LeFeber stated the main purpose of this meeting is to talk about water and our water system and a chance to talk about things we need to implement. A history of our water system was provided to some of those in attendance and he asked if anyone would like to add or discuss the history or current items.

He opened the discussion asking those in attendance what could the Board provide that would be helpful to the system.

Kelly spoke about the need to have a separate fund to purchase water meters as they are expensive, and they currently are only replacing those that break. The Water budget does not come from a tax levy and allows the Board to adjust when needed. The goal is to provide all Neptune radio reads.

There are 736 meters and half of them are manual/blue towers. The long-term goal is to replace approximately 400 over the next four years. The costs are approximately \$230.00 per meter. Engineer Davis suggested replacement should be every ten years. It was suggested that this should become a regular part of the budget.

This is a good time for replacements as a lot of people are home due to Covid.

Slippage has been reduced by one half since this time last year when it was at fifteen percent. We purchase approximately 90 million gallons from the Village and have seven-and one-half percent slippage. Sales are up this year as people are home and it was a hot summer.

The Board supported development of an area outside of the tower gate to sell water using credit cards. The cost of the credit card machine would be \$5,000.00. A total cost is expected at \$10,000.00 and water would be available for purchase year-round. This would be built this Spring. It was questioned what amount of property we own and the need to be sure the building would be on Town property. A proposal will be presented at a future Board meeting.

Town Clerk Knight stated she was getting a message that it is hard to hear. The Highway/Water Employees moved their table to allow for improved hearing to those on join.me.

Hydrants are looking good and we are flushing the system twice per year and some other areas quarterly.

The Town of Lima called to let us know they were having a leak with their water line. Kelly immediately checked electronically. We were losing one thousand gallons per minute for at least five minutes. Our connection was shut off. During the night they were feeding our tank. We have a meter on the water coming into our tank from Lima but not a meter of our water going to Lima. There was discussion on manually shutting and opening when needed. Flushing the shared line should be scheduled on a regular basis once the system is completed. It is nice to have a second source as we only had the line under Route #390.

It was requested to complete the GIS System that was started by MRB Group a few years ago. MRB Group will update their proposal to include the Highway/Water Department collecting the data and MRB Group would do the mapping. In 2015, the mapping was about \$17,000.00 and \$3,000.00 to get it to the cloud. Annual license is \$2,500.00 per year. The Village has added tree inventory and other uses on their GIS System. MRB Group will provide an updated proposal.

Meeting with the Department of Health has been positive.

The audit is good. Kelly, Kim, and David each sign off on the water billing.

Meeting with the Department of Health and sampling are good.

We replaced the altitude value at the tower a year ago and chlorinators are good.

Big things are the tower, tank, and the stretch of 1955 line heading north out of East Avon the water has been identified as needing upgrade. Grants need to be explored.

The tank was painted in 2007 and has been pressured washed and the bottom re-caulked the bottom and it is in good shape

The tower needs painting and the longer we wait the costs increase, if we are going to keep it, we need to consider painting. The tower has several uses including fire protection, storing water and pressurizing the system, and cell tower revenue to the water department of \$60,000.00 per year. The future of the structure needs to be determined.

The Village of Lima got a grant to upgrade their system.

It was recommended the Board decide if they are going to accommodate the South East corner of the Town and if so, there is a need to build the tower to a higher elevation. The cost of the tower is approximately three million and an additional 3.5 million to add the increased elevation. If you place a tank at a South East area and do not provide water to the people in that area that is a concern. Available grants or finance would help with the decisions. The discussion continued ways to update the water system and if increased areas should be provided with water. User cost would be determined to help with the decision making. Getting applications ready to apply for funding is suggested. There is no hurry for a decision.

We have four more years of \$90,000.00 payments, annual principal payments on current loans are built into our budget.

If a new tower is going to be built the placement could be at Bronson Hill and Dutch Hollow Road but would not improve the areas to service water.

Does the Town have responsibility to provide fire protection? In South Avon water is being provided on a two-inch line that does not provide fire protection. Rebuilding Bronson Hill Road will be completed next year, and it was questioned if this is the time to put in water lines and provide fire protection.

In 2007, Larsen provided a map, plan and report and a survey was completed. More people did not want the water and worked hard to complete a petition that was presented to the Board.

The Board needs to determine their objection. It was questioned if there is an overall plan of the County. Is there an overall plan for future water supply to Livingston County then how does the Town of Avon fit into that plan?

The draft study was released by the County that shows many options throughout the County but where they are planning improvements has not been determined.

There is difficulty hearing through join.me.

The number one need is something needs to be done with the tower. It would cost the same price to upgrade our current tower or build a new tower.

It was questioned if MRB Group has provided an overall opinion of the state of our water distribution system? It should include the following:

Where we are now.

Future identified investments.

The age of things and their life expectancy.

The answer was no. That would require a list of all the assets that has not been shared. They provided a look at key components with the Village and Towns water storage tanks, pump stations and key areas that need improvement such as route #15.

Inventory of the distribution system would allow the development of an assessment management plan. The start is to get the GIS System because we are working off of maps.

Again, the priority of the meeting is to discuss the tower and its need for upgrades or to build a new tower and the cost is the same. If a new tower is to be built where is the best place to build and would we be servicing additional customers. If an extension of a line is needed by property owners, then that financial burden should be on those property owners. Another consideration is do we still want to stay in the water business.

A vote of the Consolidate Water District would be requested prior to turning over the district to someone other than the Town of Avon. The last project we had a vote after putting together a map, plan, and report.

A planned approach would be to put together a map, plan and report and have another vote. Our current plan payment will be completed in four years. While looking for grant money and considering water rates of other municipalities while considering debt service tax. Separately we have a debt service charge on the Route #39 water project.

Respect the efforts and the pride of our Highway/Water crew and does support retaining the water service. Let us get a plan out to the public and have a vote.

It was suggested the Board consider holding a public information meeting to target the South East portion of Town to see if there is an interest prior to spending dollars on preparing a map, plan, and report that considers extensions to that area.

The Board appeared to support the plan to purchase the meters and looking at raising the rate.

Replacing the water line on Route #15 heading North to the dead end would cost approximately \$340,000 and an additional \$120,000 to extend to Barber Road. It may be a contribution by the customer or something different. The potential customer needs to make a specific request to understand what his objective is for the future.

Another possible addition of water uses are Royal Springs Developer Peter Kolokouris as he may be expanding but that is not expected sooner than one and one-half years. The Zoning would need to be changed unless the homes would be three acres.

The James Steele Commerce Park has been completed without a big water user, the North East Side the land is protected by development rights, the South West side land is in the Conservancy and PDD at Route #390 at Exit 9 near pump station, Royal Springs and agricultural. The Town is limited for expansion.

The discussion on replacing the line on Route #15 North of Route #5/20 continued with consideration of the number of times flushing occurs, and the low pressure. The line has been dead ended for more than fifty years.

The 1955 line on 5/20 is in great working condition.

It is expected the homeowners on Dutch Hollow Road are not interested in water.

MRB Group will be looking at water rates of other municipalities, run numbers considering all capital debt service, breakdown of costs for a paint job on the water tower per user, resubmit a GIS proposal, water station plan and purchase of water meters.

If we were starting from scratch the system would be very different. Decisions are made with the information you have at the time.

At the County there are a lot of ideas and Towns are looking out for their own needs. The bright side is that we have multiple sources of water. Most municipal systems do not use pumps for their water systems.

Supervisor LeFeber will be contacting NY Class for discussions on investing funds and lending capabilities. Interest rates are very low and it is a good time to borrow money.

Supervisor LeFeber also reported of notification that the State of New York is putting in sidewalks off Route #390 and the Town of Avon will be responsible for their care. They will be reducing a lane to make it accessible which is five feet in width. A follow up to the notification will be made.

There was continued discussions of the informal request from Jeff Mulligan for a water supply. There was not a benefit identified for the Consolidated Water District. Benefits have been provided when extending in other areas. Henty Road water lines provided a loop. A new line on Route #15 would require district extension and Health Department approval. Getting water from Barber Road maybe a better solution. What is the benefit for the Town of Avon? Install the line according to our Design Criteria with approval from the Health Department and then the Town would take dedication. There will not be a discounted rate as no other customer receives any discounts

There were several individual discussions taking place.

On motion of Councilman Coyne, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Mairs the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sharon M. Knight, MMC/RMC Town Clerk