



TOWN OF AVON

60 West Main St. Avon, CT 06001-3743
www.town.avon.ct.us

**POLICE, FIRE & MEDICAL
EMERGENCY - 911**

TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE
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Fax (860) 409-4368

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER
Tel. (860) 409-4377
Fax (860) 409-4368

ACCOUNTING
Tel. (860) 409-4339
Fax (860) 677-2847

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE
Tel. (860) 409-4335
Fax (860) 409-4366

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4316
Fax (860) 409-4321

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE
Tel. (860) 409-4306
Fax (860) 677-8428

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4322
Fax (860) 409-4364

FINANCE DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4346
Fax (860) 409-4366

FIRE MARSHAL
Tel. (860) 409-4319
Fax (860) 409-4321

HUMAN RESOURCES
Tel. (860) 409-4303
Fax (860) 409-4366

LANDFILL
281 Huckleberry Hill Rd.
Tel. (860) 673-3677

PLANNING & ZONING
Tel. (860) 409-4328
Fax (860) 409-4375

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Tel. (860) 409-4200
Fax (860) 409-4206

PROBATE
Tel. (860) 658-3277
Fax (860) 658-3204

PUBLIC LIBRARY
281 Country Club Road
Tel. (860) 673-9712
Fax (860) 675-6364

PUBLIC WORKS
11 Arch Road
Tel. (860) 673-6151
Fax (860) 673-0338

RECREATION AND PARKS
Tel. (860) 409-4332
Fax (860) 409-4334
Cancellation (860) 409-4365

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
Tel. (860) 409-4350
Fax (860) 409-4368

SOCIAL SERVICES
Tel. (860) 409-4346
Fax (860) 409-4366

TOWN CLERK
Tel. (860) 409-4310
Fax (860) 677-8428

TDD-HEARING IMPAIRED
Tel. (860) 409-4361

December 17, 2014

Dear Resident,

The Town of Avon Engineering Department has received a petition from numerous residents of the Paperchase Trail – Hurdle Fence neighborhood requesting that we explore the feasibility and relevant costs to construct public sanitary sewers, water supply, and natural gas utilities to the neighborhood. Accordingly, the Avon Water Pollution Control Authority (AWPCA) has directed us to proceed with preliminary engineering to design the sanitary sewers there. We are also to reach out to the Avon Water Company and Connecticut Natural Gas Company to determine their interest regarding the potential project.

In order for us to prepare preliminary design for the sewers, (and for the other utilities to consider their requirements), the Town will embark on field efforts to capture requisite information by having borings performed to determine the existence of ledge and ground water, and field topographic survey to determine ground elevations, locations of physical features, and elevations of each residence to be served. You can expect to see hired contractors and Town staff in your neighborhood within the next month to begin to collect the information.

Once field work is completed, the next step involves development of preliminary design for the sewer. For this step, we will collect whatever information exists at the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) for all existing septic systems.

Upon completion of preliminary engineering, we will be able to determine anticipated costs for the mainline sewer. At this point we will conduct a public information session during which we will display the preliminary design, discuss costs, and will hopefully have information to share regarding extension of water and natural gas utilities. At the meeting, you will also have the chance to air your concerns regarding the proposed project(s). Details for the meeting will be sent to each resident and posted on the Town's web site. At this point we are hoping to conduct the meeting as part of the AWPCA's February or March 2015 meeting.

If the project is approved by the AWPCA, we will proceed to final design, preparation of final specifications, and development of the bid package. In addition to finalizing the mainline layout, we will also need to meet with each resident to verify FVHD information, and to get your feedback regarding potential sanitary lateral routes or impediments. This will be further discussed at the informational meeting.

(Over)

We have already heard that some of you may be misinformed about the process and want to make sure that you fully understand what to expect. We have included a fact sheet with this letter that we hope will resolve some of these questions for you. You can also feel free to contact the Engineering Department if you have questions that you want answered right away. I would like to ask you to minimize your questions to the field staff as they are not necessarily fully aware of the process and nuances of such a project which could lead to misinformation and confusion.

Our contact phone number is 860.409.4322, or you can email us at:

Town Engineer Lawrence Baril – lbaril@avonct.gov
Assistant Town Engineer Matt Brown – mbrown@avonct.gov
Superintendent of Sewers Tim Foster – tfoster@avonct.gov

We would like to encourage you to email us with questions or information concerning your septic system location. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,



Lawrence E. Baril, P.E., GISP
Town Engineer

Copy: B. Robertson, Town Manager

Attachment: Fact Sheet

FACT SHEET

1. Are homeowners required to connect if the Town constructs sewers in the street? Homeowners are not required to connect to the public sewer.
2. Is there going to be any kind of inspection of existing septic systems to determine if they are functioning properly as part of the project? No
3. What will the sewer cost each property owner? Construction of the sewer is paid for by benefitting property owners. This means that each property owner is assessed a share in the cost of the project. The assessment will be determined once construction is completed and all final costs are determined. State law mandates a public hearing process for such assessments which includes an appeal period. The Town has historically allowed property owners to pay down the assessment amount with modest interest over an extended period – typically 10 years. We can not prepare a preliminary estimate until the preliminary design is completed.
4. Are there any other administrative costs associated with connecting to the sewer? There are 2 other costs associated with connecting to the sewer: a Connection Charge, and a Sewer Permit fee. The current Connection charge amount is \$2500 for a residence and the current sewer permit fee is \$50. It is important to note that these costs are not required to be paid until you are interested in connecting to the sewer.
5. Once a property is connected, are there any other costs? Yes, there is an annual sewer use fee – currently set at \$325 per dwelling unit per year.
6. What will it cost to connect each house to the sewer? Each house is unique when you consider the route of the sewer lateral: the location of the sewer pipe exiting the building, the amount and types of landscaping disturbed, the length of the lateral (distance from the street), the types and amount of restoration to name a few. Property owners that wish to connect to the sewer will contract directly with a licensed sewer contractor and negotiate their own deal. Costs are impacted by distance from the street, impediments to the installation such as ledge, trees, and landscaping, and the restoration required.
7. How do you justify the expense of sewers? Installation of sewers is not cheap. However, when one compares the cost of sewer construction to septic system repair/replacement, the costs are typically quite favorable. In addition, the argument can be made that public sewers are much more environmentally friendly than individual septic systems. Public sewers also limit the use of a much smaller footprint for connected properties than septic systems.