



Town Of Webster Massachusetts

Est. 1832

Webster Water Sewer Commission

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570
Earl Gabor - Chairman
Tom Andrade- Vice Chairman
Dan Duteau

Greg Balukonis - Interim Town Administrator
Tom Cutler - Water and Sewer Superintendent, Secretary

Webster Water Sewer Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021

2:30pm

Gladys E. Kelly Library, Local History Room
2 Lake Street, Webster, MA 01570

- Meeting Call to Order at 2:30 P.M.

Attendees: Earl Gabor (via phone), Dan Duteau, Tom Andrade, Greg Balukonis, and Tom Cutler

- The Commissionaires reviewed the draft meeting minutes from September 9th. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, and Andrade-yea.
- The Commissioners tabled the review of the draft Water Division Rules and Regulations, Sections 8-12 to the next scheduled meeting on 11/4/21.
- Water Department Updates
 - **PFAS Update**-Samples collected on 9/23 at Memorial Beach finished water and Bigelow Rd raw water were recollected on 9/29 due to a lab error. Next round of samples is tentatively schedule for 10/21 and it will included raw samples at all seven wells. This will allow a comparison to the April and May samples and is above and beyond what is required by MassDEP. Tighe & Bond is working on a proposal for potential PFAS treatment. It is expected to take several weeks for them to complete the proposal. If we pursue treatment the timeline would look like the following based on traditional SRF:
 1. Phase 1 Work – Fall 2021 to Summer 2022
 2. SRF PEF Application August 2022
 3. Draft SRF list of Funded Project in January 2023
 4. Phase 2 - Design and Permitting Fall 2022 to Fall 2023
 5. Bidding and Contract Award in Winter 2023/2024
 6. Construction – Spring 2024 to Fall 2025
 - **Station 1 Temporary Generator**-Sunbelt delivered the temporary 100kw generator on 10/1. The cost is \$3000.00/mth for a standby unit. LaFluer Electric is in the process of securing supplies to install a docking station. I have reached out to Bigelow Electric,

Milton/Cat, Paquette Electric, and LaFluer Electric for price estimates on a 125kw propane fired generator. The lead time ranges from 24-46 weeks. Tighe & Bond provided a proposal to review and finalize the specifications and handle the bidding process. The cost is \$18,000.00 for these services but we elected not to utilize Tighe & Bond for this service since most of the legwork was completed during the Memorial Beach WTP upgrade. Greg Balukonis, the interim Town Administrator recently attended a video conference on Emergency Procurements sponsored by the Inspector General on Tuesday 9/28/01. Greg stated given the seriousness issue Webster faces with PFAS we would be able to secure a new generator for Station 1 but it is not an easy process. The superintendent stated the Water Department has contacted four vendors for pricing and was wondering if this will meet the bidding process. The Town Administrator suggested following thru with the quotes as it would be a much easier process.

- ***Water Treatment Plant Capacity Update***-We scheduled a site visit Rick Boyum, Regional Manager for TonkaWater. Rick reviewed the iron and manganese removal and felt the Plant is operating, as it should at this time. We are in the process of cleaning the permanganate system with hopes of activating it in the next 1-2 weeks. This may enhance filter run times and help keep the media clean and regenerated.
- ***Whitcomb, Nelson and Lincoln Street Project Update***-A no cost change order to extend the contract deadline by one week from 10/17 to 10/24 was submitted and approved. The project is 85% complete at this time not including sidewalks or the final mill & overlay in the spring.
- ***Lake Street Project***-Design Schedule
 - 75% Design: November 2021
 - 100% Design: December 2021-January 2022
 - Bidding and Award: January-March 2022
 - Construction: April 2022
- ***Granite Street Project***-Rain has delayed the 9/29 start date to 10/4.
- ***Lead and Copper Sampling results***-Annual sampling round has been completed and the results have been submitted to MassDEP for approval without any non-compliance issues to report.
- ***Survey of Our 4,886 Water Services***-The Department received proposals from Wright Pierce and Tighe & Bond to complete this task. Tighe & Bond has been selected and they will begin completing the material survey worksheets and prepare us for the new lead and copper rule with digitized documents. MassDEP required us to complete this work by October 27th. We have submitted a request for an extension to January 31, 2022.
- ***Staffing***-We have a current article on the Town warrant for an additional staff member. The plan by the previous Town Administrator was to transfer money from retained earnings-free cash. Recent conversation with the Town Accountant indicated retained earnings will not be certified in time for the meeting and most likely will not be completed until January. Our Town Accountant recommended filling the position with money from our current operating budget which will then give us a better idea of what's needed for a transfer with the spring warrant.

- **Water Service Inter Department Fee For Installation of 1" Service**-Rough estimate of our internal expenses are \$2,373.60 and could be as high as \$2,972.09 with fringe benefits added to the labor portion and we are charging the customer \$1,500.00. The superintendent suggested removing the \$4000.00 connection fee and offer the \$2500.00 as the only option. This change will mirror the sewer lateral connection fee process and ease the burden of scheduling this work activity with two Departments. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve removing the \$4000.00 permit fee by roll-call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, and Andrade-yea. The superintendent suggested finishing the construction season and then remove the fee and service. The roll call vote was amended to end the service on the fiscal year ending June 30th with all in favor.
- Sewer Department Updates
 - **Sewer System Rehabilitation Update**-Design Schedule
 - 75% Design: November 2021
 - 100% Design: December 2021-January 2022
 - Bidding and Award: January-March 2022
 - Construction: April 2022
 - **NPDES Permit**-New permit goes into effect 12/1. We have 90 days to revise our local limits. Tighe & Bond will provide a proposal to review/modify local limits and our sewer ordinances.
 - **IMA Agreement and True Up**-Dudley has retained Paul Brinkman and Webster is utilizing Matt Abrahams. Both have been in touch with Town Accountant as recently as 9/20 and the true up is in progress.
 - **Perryville Station Pump**-The Flygt pump has been removed and delivered to Norwich, CT for a rebuild.
 - **Staffing**-The open mechanic position has been filled by a transfer from the Highway Dept. The employee started on 10/4.
 - **Fecal Coliform Sampling**-No issues to report and the plant is starting to return to normal flow and operation.
- New Business
 - Set Public Hearing on PFAS-Chairman Gabor suggested holding the hearing the last week of October the 26th thru the 29th. Chairman Gabor also requested the superintendent to reach out to MassDEP and Tighe & Bond to see if they would be willing to attend the hearing to answer questions.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:19pm. Next Meeting 11/4/2021