



# 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

Marc Becker  
Rick LaFond - Town Administrator  
Tom Cutler - Water and Sewer Superintendent, Secretary

### Webster Water Sewer Commission

#### **Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 5, 2022 2:30pm**

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

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

**Attendees:** Earl Gabor, Dan Duteau, Tom Andrade, Marc Becker, ~~Rick LaFond~~, and Tom Cutler

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from April 7th. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Andrade, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, and Becker-yea, Andrade-yea.
- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the April 21<sup>st</sup> public hearing. A motion was made by Commissioner Andrade, and seconded by Commissioner Duteau, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, and Becker-yea, Andrade-yea.
- **Water Department Updates**
  - **Monthly PFAS Testing Report**-The Superintendent stated the system remains in compliance at this time for QTR-1 with Bigelow offline. April sample results are not available at this time and most likely will not be ready for another 2 weeks. The May 19<sup>th</sup> samples will be collected at all 7 well sites to compare to this time last year.
  - **Additional Bigelow Road, Old CPW, and Mill Brook PFAS testing by MassDEP**-Per the Superintendent no updates from MassDEP. Chairman Gabor asked if DEP will collect any additional samples. Mr. Cutler stated he was not sure but would check with MassDEP.
  - **Tighe & Bond PFAS Project Update**-Superintendent Cutler stated the siting analysis along with the estimated costs for each alternative was much more than anticipated ranging from \$18M to \$36M. Mr. Cutler stated he spoke with Tighe & Bond just before today's meeting and the estimates are based on a 15% design with significant

contingencies. The estimates can be adjusted once one of the alternatives are selected and the contingency amount will be reduced. All Commissioners agreed Alternative C-Two Decentralized PFAS WTP's makes the most sense since it offers redundancy and is more cost effective than a centralized facility at Memorial Beach. Mr. Cutler suggested that all Commissioners send a list of questions or concerns thru email by this time next week. A single list will be compiled and sent to Tighe & Bond. Commissioner Becker asked about the PFAS lawsuit that most cities and towns have signed onto. Commissioner Duteau recalled it was a lawsuit against Dupont and 3M. Mr. Cutler stated Doug Willardson our former Town Administrator signed Webster up for the suit but could not recall any other details. Chairman Gabor suggested reaching out to Mr. Willardson by email for the information. Commissioner Becker stated that perhaps Leo's sand pit should be looked at, as there were many spills over the years at that site.

- **Lake Street Project Update**-The Superintendent stated we are waiting on a schedule and it appeared the project was not going to start until late summer which is a concern as it may impact other utility work and schedules. We hear rumors of a long lead time for ductile iron pipe. We hope to have more info in the next 1-2weeks.
- **Lincoln, Whitcomb and Nelson Street Update**-Per the Superintendent work on the sidewalks has started and the project is scheduled to be completed by mid-June including final paving.
- **Lead & Copper Rules Update**-Mr. Cutler stated a new lead and copper sample plan will be submitted in the next two weeks to MassDEP. We have added 13 new sites that have known lead material. Mr. Cutler also stated the new lead and copper rule states unknown material will also be considered lead and Webster has over 4,000 sites listed as unknown. This does not necessarily mean we have lead and copper issue but we must investigate and survey all properties in the near future to determine the material. Mr. Cutler also stated we are working with Tighe & Bond to develop our GIS system to allow customers to log in and upload information including photo's of the service line material inside the home. Lead and Copper will be discussed often as we work our way thru the new rule and the new requirement's which go into effect in 2024.
- **Mass DEP Water System Sanitary Survey**-The Department continues to work on the deficiencies outlined by MassDEP. At this point, we are waiting on parts to complete some of the action items and we owe DEP an update by the end of the QTR-2.
- **Mass DEP UAW & Registered Withdrawal Permit (Leak Detection Survey)**. Mr. Cutler stated the leak detection is complete and we are working on about ½ dozen service leaks and 12-13 hydrant repairs.
- **Station #1 & 2 Well Capacity (Water Use Restriction for the Summer)**. The Superintendent stated the well rehab project is out to bid with the bid closing on May19th.
- **Sewer Department Updates**
  - **Sewer System Rehabilitation Project Update**-Project has been awarded and construction will start any day per the Superintendent.

- **IMA Agreement with Dudley and True-up**-Per the Superintendent we have not had any updates. Chairman Gabor stated he planned to go the next Dudley Water Sewer Commission meeting since we have similar projects going on and would like to move the true up process forward. Commissioner Andrade asked to be included once the meeting date was determined. Mr. Gabor said that would be fine but only two members could attend.
  - **NPDES –Tighe & Bond Aeration Tank Upgrade**-No updates per Mr. Cutler but expects some progress over the next few weeks.
  - **Oxford IMA Update**-Per Mr. Cutler both Towns signed and the agreement is on file.
  - **Millbrook and Perryville Standby Generator Replacement Update**-No updates per Mr. Cutler.
- **Old Business**
    - **FY '23 Water and Sewer Budget**-Chairman Gabor stated this on the Spring Warrant and this item can be removed.
    - **Water Department Draft Policy Approval**-Mr. Cutler stated the draft rules and regs are all set and the sprinkler section has been added. Mr. Cutler suggested the draft could be signed and new rates for sprinklers could be billed the following year. This years bills will stay at the current rate and we will send a letter notifying all customers about the increase which will be effective the following year since we bill only once per year. All Commissioners agreed that this was a good approach and fair notification to local business.
- **New Business**
    - **The Cost of Clean Water**-Chairman Gabor suggested adding the document to the website for now and all members agreed and stated it was well written. The Superintendent recommended advertising this notice publicly before the fall meeting once we have detailed information and pricing from our engineer.
    - **Rate Setting Hearing Feedback**-Chairman Gabor stated the Town need to do a better job in general with advertising meetings/hearings and we need to make sure it is recorded or broadcasted on zoom for those who cannot make the meetings.
    - Chairman Gabor suggested a public hearing on our PFAS project for August 10<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Becker suggested holding the hearing at a Selectman’s meeting. The Superintendent suggested having Tighe & Bond perform a power point presentation. Mr. Gabor suggested contacting MassDEP and request they attend as well. Commissioner Becker stated that was a great idea especially since there is a significant difference in the limit comparing MassDEP to EPA. Mr. Cutler stated he would reach out to Tighe & Bond and MassDEP with the tentative date.

*Proposed PFAS Public Hearing 8/10/2022*

- **Adjournment**

- A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:48pm by roll-call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, and Becker-yea, Andrade-yea.

**Documents:**

*The Cost of Clean Water-Draft*

*Water Rules & Regulations-Draft*