



Town Of Webster Massachusetts

Est. 1832

Webster Water Sewer Commission

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Tom Andrade - Chairman
Rick Neeser - Vice Chairman
Dan Duteau

Earl Gabor
Doug Willardson - Town Administrator
Doran Crouse, Superintendent, Interim

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2021, 2:30 PM

via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20"

Attendees: Tom Andrade (via Zoom Meeting), Earl Gabor (via Zoom Meeting), Dan Duteau (via Zoom Meeting), Doug Willardson (via Zoom Meeting) Doran Crouse (via Zoom Meeting).

Absent: Rick Neeser

Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing. The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means.

Meeting Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the draft minutes from the April 1st meeting, with minor changes by roll call vote: Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea.

Water Department Update:

Water Main Project - Mr. Crouse (Interim Water Superintendent) provided a status of the Lincoln St., Whitcomb St and Nelson St. water main project. Construction signage has been placed and equipment mobilization is expected to start the week of May 3rd. (Nothing on site as of May 6th.) More detailed information is contained in the Project Update Meeting Minutes, provided to the Board.

Consumer Confidence Report – The Consumer Confidence Report is complete and the link to the report is posted on the Town's website. Local and state public health agencies have been sent a copy of the report (per MA DEP regulations). Final CCR compliance certification will be sent to the



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MA DEP on May 10th, after the water bills are received. Bill contain the web link direct to the Report.

Water Taps – The Water Department is performing new water taps, or replacement taps, at a frequency of one or two per week and are prioritized based on need or date of request received.

Station #3 Conversion to Potassium Hydroxide – A conversion request of the pH adjustment chemical of sodium hydroxide to potassium hydroxide has been sent to the MA DEP. This request is to unify the treatment chemicals at the water filtration plant and Bigelow Road Station #3. The Water Department has received a letter of approval from the MA DEP to conduct this chemical changeover. The changeover will take place after receipt and installation of a replacement bulk storage tank that had developed a crack after the initial request had been submitted to the DEP.

Hydrant Flushing – The Water Department typically conducts system-wide hydrant flushing in the spring and fall of each year. Due to a staffing shortage, the spring program was not done. It is recommended that the next round of flushing be done in the fall since seasonal water demands are increasing.

New Business

PFAS testing and discussion - Initial round of PFAS sampling has been done and results received. Detection was realized at every sample location, however none were above the Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 PPT (parts per trillion). With the detections, the department had to perform “Confirmatory” sampling. These samples were taken May 3rd and received by the laboratory on May 4th. Should the confirmatory sampling come back in the same result range, routine sampling will most likely be required with the potential of a testing frequency waiver being granted if results are consistently under the 20 ppt value.

Water/Sewer Commission Staffing – The Water/Sewer Superintendent posting closed on May 2nd. Several resumes were received and will be evaluated.

Appointments for Vice Chairman and Secretary – Mr. Duteau was nominated and approved for the position of Vice Chairman by a roll call vote – Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor - yea. Doug Willardson agreed to act as Secretary until the new Water/Sewer superintendent is hired or until the 5th member of the Board is appointed.



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A brief discussion took place about the removal of Mr. Neeser from the Board due to inactivity.

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 2:34 PM. Vote by roll call; Andrade – yea, Duteau - yea and Gabor – yea. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3rd at 2:30 PM at the Police Station Committee Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Doran Crouse
Water Superintendent (Interim)