



Town Of Webster

Massachusetts

Est. 1832

Webster Water Sewer Commission

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Tom Andrade - Chairman
Earl Gabor - Vice Chairman
Dan Duteau

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

Webster Water Sewer Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 1, 2023

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: Tom Cutler, Tom Andrade, Dan Duteau, Earl Gabor, Marc Becker, & ~~Rick LaFond~~

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft public meeting minutes from 04/13/23. A motion was made by Commissioner Duteau, and seconded by Commissioner Gabor to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea and Andrade-yea.
- The Commissioners reviewed the draft public meeting minutes from 05/11/23. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Gabor to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea and Andrade-yea.

Water Department Updates

- **Monthly PFAS Testing Report & other PFAS Related Updates**-Per Mr. Cutler no updates since the May 18th samples have not come back from the Lab yet.
- **Lake Street Water Main Replacement**-Per the Superintendent work is ongoing. The last section of main was pressure tested and awaiting chlorination followed by bacteria samples. Most of the side streets have been connected and work continues connecting service laterals. Commissioner Gabor mentioned 3-4 areas on Lake Street have significant potholes or trench settling that needs addressing. Mr. Cutler agreed it has been problematic throughout the project. Mr. Cutler stated he would follow up with the site inspector at Tighe & Bond.
- **Meter Replacement Project**-Per Mr. Cutler Tighe & Bond is requesting (2) dates in the month of June to conduct vendor presentations. After a brief discussion the Commission agreed to 6/21 and 6/22 as tentative dates for presentations.

- **Water Tower Property Line Update**-Per the Superintendent, we had another issue with 23 Eddy Street digging on the property with an excavator to enlarge a vegetable garden. The work was in close proximity to the 10" water main that fills and draws on the storage tank. Webster PD is involved and the tenant at 23 Eddy will be summons to court.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report**-Per Mr. Cutler we will issue drought restrictions in the next week or so. Memorial Beach has been having some trouble keeping up with system demand while Bigelow remains out of service. All members are in agreement getting ahead of this before the summer demand is in our best interest.

Sewer Department Updates

- **Aeration Project Update**-Per the Superintendent the design is close to 90% and we anticipate bidding early July. Mr. Cutler mentioned the membrane diffusers will be a good fit for us for the next phase of the aeration tank work and the technology has been around 20+ years. Upper Blackstone has been using this style for a long time according to our Chief Wastewater Operator.
- **IMA Discussion regarding Dudley Proposal/ Webster Response**-Per Chairman Andrade Dudley has the IMA true up on their agenda for 6/6/23. Commissioner Gabor suggested waiting a couple of days after the meeting and then follow up on the status.
- **WWTP Sludge Residual Issue**-Per the Superintendent the Woonsocket Incinerator is up and running. There is still a backlog on the removal and our tanks remain close to full to date. We did free up some sludge space with digester tank 2 by changing damaged valves and pumping out long standing ground water from the tank, which has not been utilized in 2 decades. The tank also does not have the proper rim seal that could lead to neighborhood odor complaints but it could be a good emergency backup. Hartford MDC got back to us on our emergency disposal application, which was denied. We are waiting on the Upper Blackstone application. It has been denied in the past but we are hopeful it will be approved. If denied we have no backup solutions when Woonsocket is out of service which seems to be frequent the past 12-18 months.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Sewer Report**-Per Mr. Cutler no other topics to report at this time.

New Business

- **Outstanding Water /Sewer Bills**-Commissioner Gabor asked if all members are in agreement with the top 10 and a moving forward with the shut off policy since it was effective a few years back. Superintendent Cutler asked if the Water Dept. issued the letters last time or the Tax Collector. Commissioner Gabor stated he is confident the Water Dept. handled it. Superintendent Cutler stated no problem we must have the letters on file and a simple mail merge will be easy. We will review the policy, which identifies accounts over 120 days only.
- **Policy Review/Revision**-Commissioner Gabor suggested adding the senior rate form to the water regulations and move the signature page to the end of the document for review and approval at July's monthly meeting. Section 13 meters will also need to be changed once we select our new meters. Commissioner Gabor suggested reviewing the Sewer policies at the next meeting since we are running out of time.

- **Low Income Utility Assistance**-Per Mr. Cutler no updates at this time. The Tax Collectors office is handling the program.
- **Mass DOT Project (Rt.16-Rt. 395 Interchange)**-Per Commissioner Gabor he reached out to Representative McKenna to discuss the project and he fully supports replacing the water main as part of the project. Mr. McKenna has been invited to the June Selectman's meeting on the 12th to discuss this matter further.
- **Reappointment of Water Sewer Commission Board Members**-Commissioner Gabor stated he reviewed the water sewer websites and Commissioner Duteaus's term is set to expire this year. Commissioner Duteau stated he would like to be renewed for another term. Commissioner Gabor suggested adding the reorg to the next meeting agenda.
- **Woods Grove Senior Rate Discount**-Per the Superintendent 2 Irene Ave came in to request the senior rate discount. The property is on leased land and our policy has been you need to be the owner on record with Worcester County deeds. The customer provided a copy of the neighbor's bill for 15 Richards Ave. This property has been receiving the discount we believe in error since the owner is Woods Grove. We believe there are a couple of other ones very similar and are recommending we correct them and make a slight change to our rate discount form. The form is attached to the agenda and the suggested changes are highlighted in yellow. Commissioner Gabor proposed changing the age requirement to 65 from 60 and adding the rate applies to the first 1,500 cu. ft. per quarter. In addition, the first bullet item could be worded slightly different by referencing owner on deed not name on deed. All Commissioner are in agreement the owner must reside at the property and the property must be single family to get the discount. Chairman Andrade suggested the program should be income based much like the fuel assistance program. Commissioner Gabor suggested that would require Town Counsel review. Commissioner Becker agreed it could complicate the process. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor and seconded by Chairman Andrade to make the changes mentioned above to the senior discount rate form effective July 1st by roll call vote: Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea and Andrade-yea.

Next Meeting July 20, 2023

➤ **Adjournment**

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:28pm by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Attachments:

- 6/1 Agenda
- 4/13 and 5/11 draft meeting minutes
- Outstanding water/sewer bills aging report
- Water Sewer policies
- Rt.16 Email Correspondence
- Senior rate form-Woods Grove