



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, June 2, 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. Guests in attendance: Jeff Faulkner and Danielle Teixeira from Tigh & Bond.

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from May 5th. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Andrade, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.

- **Water Department Updates**

- **Monthly PFAS Testing Report & other PFAS Related Updates-** Samples results for 5/16 were rushed at MassDEP's request due to the activation of Bigelow. The cost for this service was an additional 25%. All results remain below the MCL. See attached graph. MassDEP requests we collect Bigelow again before the well is removed from service, which we hope to do by Friday June 10th.
- **Tighe & Bond PFAS Project Update & Rate Study-**
 - **PFAS Project Update-** Mr. Faulkner and Ms. Teixeira provided a high level update on the PFAS siting analysis. Commissioner Andrade questioned whether the SRF low interest or zero interest loans would be available 2, 3, or 5 years from now. Mr. Faulkner stated we are in year 2 of 5 with that program and as time goes on the money will dissipate. He also stated there is up to 28% loan forgiveness and possibly 35-40% grant money on the line. Commissioner Becker asked how many systems are dealing with PFAS MCL violations. Mr. Faulkner stated he was not sure but their firm is working on at least five. Chairman Gabor stated we will know what the school vote will be by the end of June and we can decide at the July meeting whether we move forward with one PFAS treatment facility or two. If we select one, it will be at Bigelow. The second facility will be

at Memorial Beach. The Superintendent asked Tighe & Bond if we do not treat at Memorial Beach will MassDEP accept blending wells as a permanent solution. Per Mr. Cutler it is not mandated at this time and that site is currently compliant but DEP has stated blending is temporary and we have two wells at Memorial that are slightly high but under the limit. Mr. Faulkner stated he was not sure how MassDEP would handle this but we risk not taking advantage of the SRF funding which includes zero/low interest loans, up to 28% loan forgiveness, and possibly up to 35-40% in grants. Commissioner Becker stated the borrowing would need 2/3rds Town vote. Chairman Gabor asked if anyone else had comments on the siting analysis. Superintendent Cutler asked if anyone had any thoughts on the second submersible pump at Bigelow for \$300-500K. If one site Bigelow is selected in July it might make good sense to add some redundancy at Bigelow. Commissioner Andrade agreed. Mr. Faulkner clarified that it will only add redundancy and not increase capacity.

- **Rate Study Update**-Per the Superintendent please see the attached “draft” rate study. We may want to consider a separate meeting in June to discuss the study findings. This study did not include Sewer. Tighe and Bond is working on a proposal to add Sewer. Mr. Faulkner from Tighe & Bond stated the draft rate survey was a preliminary data evaluation and Tighe & Bond will have the final survey ready for our July meeting.
- **Water Line Project Updates**-GEG Construction plans to start in September on Lake Street. We have had some trouble with insurance coverage and confirming material is available. Nelson, Whitcomb and Lincoln is in the final paving phase. Commissioner Gabor asked for details on the next lowest bid for Lake Street. Superintendent Cutler stated he would forward the bid the results in the next day or so.
- **Lead & Copper Rules Update**- The Superintendent stated we are waiting on MassDEP to approve our revised sample plan, which includes 13 new lead sites.
- **Mass DEP Water System Sanitary Survey**-No Updates. The Superintendent stated a QTR-2 update will be sent to MassDEP at the end of June. We have four action items one of which is waiting on materials but otherwise all items are completed.
- **Mass DEP UAW & Registered Withdrawal Permit (Leak Detection Survey)**-The Superintendent stated staff continue to work on the leak list generated by the leak detection audit. Repairs are slow since we are coordinating with Highway for the use of a machine and operator and they have their own work to keep up with. We are considering renting a machine to catch up on the workload or hiring a local contractor. Delaying this work has a negative impact on our UAW and is lost revenue for the Town.
- **Station #1 & 2 Wells Update**- The Superintendent stated well #6 pump was cleaned and inspected. Bearings and the stuffing box were replaced. We are waiting on the motor inspection. The well itself was rehabilitated and cleaned but still not producing what it did years ago but we are waiting on the final report for confirmation on well output.

- **Station #3 Well Update**-The Superintendent met with MassDEP for a surprise inspection on Tuesday the 24th. No issues to report to date. The well continues to operate and meets PFAS limits. The Superintendent stated the well can come off line but would need to go back into service in about a month to perform well rehab at Station 1&2. The bids will be awarded for that project in about 2 weeks. The Superintendent and the Commission discussed leaving the well in service while we get the bid contracts signed and run the well until all wells at Station 1 & 2 have been fully rehabilitated. Superintendent Cutler stated the risk will be if the well PFAS levels increase and we shut it down with a quarterly average above the MCL we run the risk of non-compliance with MassDEP. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Andrade, to operate Bigelow until all wells are rehabilitated at Station 1&2 by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.
- **August 10th PFAS Public Hearing**-The Superintendent reached out to MassDEP to see if they could attend the meeting but have not heard back to date. We also invited Tighe & Bond to perform a presentation. Chairman Gabor asked the Superintendent if he would take care of the posting in the Webster Times.
- **Water Fee Schedule Revision**-The Superintendent stated that we removed the turn off/on fee after hrs since it is already included in our afterhours charge. We added a \$100 permit fee for service repair and a \$250 permit fee for a water service relay, which is full replacement. There has been confusion for many years on both of these and we are cleaning up the permit paperwork. See attached revised fee schedule for approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Andrade, and seconded by Commissioner Becker, to approve the revised fee schedule by role call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea. Chairman Gabor suggested we run an ad in the Webster Times with the cost of water article we have posted on our website.
- **31 Emerald Ave-Customer complaint about after hour's fee**-The Superintendent stated we were called out afterhours to shut off for a plumbing leak inside the property. Our Foreman responded to the call and informed the customer of our afterhour's fees before proceeding. The service was complete and billed accordingly. Per Superintendent Cutler the owner did not, show up to today's meeting to dispute the charge.
- **Citizen painting request for (14) fire hydrants on Main Street**-A request came in to paint all 14 fire hydrants on Main Street as minions. The Superintendent and Town Administrator met to discuss and decided to allow one hydrant to be completed so we could inspect the work before proceeding. The project has the support of Board of Selectman Chair. How does the Water Sewer Commission want to proceed? All Commission members support the project pending review of one hydrant selected by the Superintendent. Per Superintendent Cutler we just need to make sure this does not send a message to all residents permission to paint the remaining 700+ hydrants. We will monitor this closely.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report-**

- **Sewer Department Updates**

- **Sewer System Rehabilitation Project Update**-Project started about a week ago and is currently in the investigative stage with CCTV inspections.
- **IMA Agreement with Dudley and True-up**-No updates from Superintendent Cutler. Chairman Gabor and Commissioner Andrade attended the Dudley Water Sewer Commission meeting on 6/1. Chairman Gabor stated Dudley is in no rush to work on the true up process at this time since they are dealing with many other projects per Dudley's Chairman. Chairman Gabor stated he would set up a time and date to meet with our Town Administrator to discuss next steps.
- **NPDES –Tighe & Bond Aeration Tank Upgrade**- Kick off will be end of June early July timeframe.
- **Sanitary Sewer Overflow Plan**-Per the Superintendent Tata and Howard is working on the plan. It is due early July.
- **Collections Operation & Maintenance Plan**-Per the Superintendent the "Draft" plan has been submitted to EPA and MassDEP. This is just the initial phase and requirement. Tighe and Bond will provide a full plan proposal, which must be fully implemented by end of the year 2024. Areas of concern are the lack of standby power generation at the Memorial Beach and Eastern Ave Pumping Stations. There are also no high level alarm systems or remote supervisory control and data acquisition "SCADA" access, monitoring or alarming.
- **Chief Maintenance Operator position update**-Per Superintendent Cutler Steve Wilber an internal candidate has been selected to replace our retiring Chief after 32 years of service. Steve brings 15 years of experience, is a certified wastewater operator along with superior customer service skills. He is excited for the new role and we wish him luck.
- **Superintendent Other topics Sewer Report**
 - Sutton Rd Generator issues due to a motor vehicle accident on 5/28 at 0400. The standby generator started but failed to transfer power resulting in high level station alarms. A standby tow behind generator was borrowed from Dudley but turned out to be too small. A rental unit was brought in from Sun Belt. We are working with Kraft on repairs but the unit is outdated 1970's vintage with no parts available.
 - Per the Superintendent the attached message was delivered by email to the Sewer Department on 5/25: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) needs your assistance completing the Congress mandated 2022 *Clean Watersheds Needs Survey* (CWNS or 'survey') to identify and document the expected costs of the Commonwealth's capital investments needed to meet the water quality and water-quality-related public health goals of the Clean Water Act. This information is being accepted electronically **no later than October 30, 2022**, through MassDEP's eSRF portal: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms> Per Mr. Cutler Tata and Howard is pre-qualified by MassDEP to work on our Clean Water Needs Survey "CLWS" which is due October of this year. We have informed

MassDEP of our request to work with them on this project, which is funded by MassDEP.

- **New Business**

Reorganization of Commission Officers

- A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Chairman Gabor, to nominate Commissioner Andrade as the Chair and Commissioner Gabor as the Vice Chair by role call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.
- A motion was made by Chairman Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Becker, to nominate Superintendent Cutler as the Secretary by role call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Chairman Gabor suggested July 7th for the next schedule meeting.

- **Adjournment**

- A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:14pm by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Documents:

*Tighe & Bond Water Rate Study-Draft
PFAS Siting Analysis-Draft
Revised FEE Schedule-Draft
Monthly PFAS Sample Results
NPDES- Draft Collections O&M Plan
MassDEP Clean Water Needs Survey Letter
5/5/22 Draft Meeting Minutes*