



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, July 7, 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: Tim Bell, Town of Webster, Danielle Teixeira and Mike Schrader from Tighe & Bond.

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from June 2nd. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Duteau, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, Duteau-yea, and Andrade-yea.

- **Water Department Updates**

- **Monthly PFAS Testing Report & other PFAS Related Updates**-Most recent sample results from 6/16 at Bigelow came back at the MCL of 20ppt. The system remains in compliance ending QTR2 at around 15ppt at Bigelow. The Superintendent notified MassDEP and has not had a response to date. We are scheduled to collect again on 7/21 and will continue to operate Bigelow while we perform much-needed well system rehab and cleaning at Station 1.

Per the Superintendent the Town Administrator has been working on a draft retainer agreement for PFAS litigation with KP Law and Napoli Shkolnik pllc. They have been in touch and have also provided a list of municipalities they are currently working with. See attached agreement for reference. There were rumors that if we signed an agreement we could not leverage MassDEP SRF funding. Mr. Cutler stated he spoke with Paula Caron at DEP and she was not sure that was accurate. Jennifer Pederson at Mass Water Works offered the following information that helps clear this up:

Jen's email statement: I did get some clarification from DEP over the language that appeared in the SRF IUP. Here is the state's response.

The language on page 9 of the 2022 DWSRF IUP (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/2022-final-drinking-water-intended-use-plan/download>) means that the state is reserving its rights to pursue claims against PFAS manufacturers for costs incurred by the state. This language is not intended to limit the ability of municipalities to pursue claims against PFAS manufacturers for costs they have incurred, such as SRF loan repayment. The state will pursue cost recovery for principal forgiveness directly from the PFAS manufacturers and other related potentially liable parties, not from municipalities.

- Danielle Teixeira from Tighe & Bond asked if the board was going to vote on a treatment option listed in the siting analysis to move forward with the SRF application for August. Commissioner Gabor stated that was the intent and mentioned the writing is on the wall with the new health advisories that have been recently circulated by EPA with much lower thresholds. The Superintendent stated that there will be a MassDEP webinar update on the new health advisory the week of the 11th. All members agree Alternative-C, construction of a PFAS WTP at Bigelow Road and Memorial Beach (Decentralized) (2-WTPs) makes the most sense based on current conditions. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Becker, to select Alternative C: Andrade-yea, Gabor-yea, Duteau-yea, and Becker-yea.
- **Tighe & Bond PFAS Rate Study**-Mike Schrader from Tighe & Bond conducted a water rate presentation for the Commissioners. Mr. Schrader stated they would start the process for Sewer and return at a later meeting with a combined rate study. Chairman Andrade asked if the rate study would be a part of the PFAS Public Hearing scheduled for August 10th. After much discussion by all members, it was decided to hold off for more accurate PFAS treatment costs. Superintendent Cutler agreed there is a 40% contingency built into to the current estimate. Now that the Commission has selected which treatment alternative on the siting analysis Tighe & Bond will be able to accurately estimate the costs which will take several more months to evaluate.
- **Water Line Project Updates**-Nelson, Whitcomb and Lincoln final paving has been completed. A \$27K change order to meet paving scope changes made by the Highway Division the day before final paving was approved but not planned for or budgeted. A discussion took place between Water & Highway about building into the plans and specs paving requirements on future work to avoid last minute changes. The Highway division agreed this was overlooked.

Contracts for the Lake Street water main replacement project have been signed and the material showed up early. We anticipate a construction kick off meeting in the next week or so.
- **Lead & Copper Rules Update**-The revised L&C sample plan was submitted to DEP and we are awaiting approval. Commissioner Gabor asked if part time help had been considered to help investigate water service material. Superintendent Cutler stated it was not budgeted for in FY23 but could be considered in future budgets.
- **Mass DEP Water System Sanitary Survey**-Per the Superintendent QTR2 update has been sent to MassDEP. Three of the four deficiencies have been completed. The remainder is awaiting parts and we hope to complete it by the MassDEP deadline of November 1st.

- **Mass DEP UAW & Registered Withdrawal Permit (Leak Detection Survey)**-Per Mr. Cutler 90% of the leaks have been repaired. The remainder of the work is pending and will be scheduled with Highway for a machine and an Operator as time permits.
 - **Station #1 & 2 Wells Update**-We are coordinating with Tighe & Bond and Maher Services to start the rehab/cleaning process any day.
 - **Station #3 Well Update**-Per the Superintendent the well remains online 3-4hrs per day while we coordinate rehab and cleaning at Station 1 & 2.
 - **August 10th PFAS Public Hearing**-Per Mr. Cutler we have confirmed MassDEP and Tighe & Bond will be at the hearing and will present. Mr. Cutler will post the ad in the local Webster Times 2 weeks before the meeting and on social media.
 - **Water Fee Schedule Revision**-The new schedule has been posted online. No other updates. Chairman Andrade stated this item will be removed on the next agenda.
 - **2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey**-Per Mr. Cutler Tata and Howard has been selected and MassDEP has been informed of our selection. No other updates to date.
 - **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report-**
- **Sewer Department Updates**
 - **Sewer System Rehabilitation Project Update**-Superintendent Cutler stated the work has been ongoing with the no major issues to date.
 - **IMA Agreement with Dudley and True-up**-Town Finance Director Tim Bell gave an overview of the recent history including a list of correspondences to date with Dudley. Commissioner Gabor stated he attended Dudley's Water Sewer Commission meeting last week and that all correspondences going forward needs to be done by each Towns Water Sewer Commission. Mr. Gabor also said there are a few questions in regards to capital expenditure that needs to be cleared up.
 - **NPDES –Tighe & Bond Aeration Tank Upgrade**-A kick off meeting was held on 6/22 for the Aeration project. The project is expected to ramp up during the month of July. An amendment for assistance from Tighe & Bond for Ambient Nutrients, Water Quality, & Aquatic Vegetation Monitoring for Quality Assurance Project Plan (“QAPP”) has been signed by the TA and sampling will be conducted 3rd week of July as required in our NPDES permit. Chairman Andrade asked if there is was any wiggle room with EPA/DEP on the new requirements. Superintendent Cutler stated there is not.
 - **Sanitary Sewer Overflow Plan**-The plan was due to MassDEP on 7/6 and we submitted on 6/30 per the Superintendent. Mr. Cutler also stated the SSO overview and information was posted to the Towns Sewer website as a tool for customers as required by MassDEP.
 - **Collection Operation & Maintenance Plan**-No updates

➤ **Chief Maintenance Operator Position Update**-Jamie Duval's last day will be Friday July 8th. There will be cake and ice cream for him at the WWTP at 12:15pm on the 8th. Steve Wilber will take over on the 8th and has been shadowing Mr. Duval for the past 1.5 months.

➤ **Superintendent Other topics Sewer Report-**

- **New Business**

- EPA Health Advisory for PFAS-Per the Superintendent there are concerns we do not meet these new advisory limits at any of our wells. Per the most recent webinar, it appears EPA will lock these numbers or something similar to these numbers in over the next year making it impossible for any water system in the US to meet. If this is the case, we will be required to have PFAS treatment at all wellsite's forcing us to the more expensive options outlined by Tighe & Bond's attached siting analysis.
- IMA True Up Letter-Per Commissioner Gabor and Town Administrator LaFond we are working on the letter and a list of correspondences to date but have not sent anything yet.

Recommendation for appointment of Ken Pizzetti to Water/Sewer Commission. All members stated they appreciate Mr. Pizzetti's interest in joining the Water Sewer Commission and agree he would be a valuable asset to the Commission. All members also agreed since he currently serves as the Highway Superintendent, which shares resources with the Water & Sewer Departments the appointment will not fit the model of the organization. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor and seconded by Chairman Andrade not to recommend Mr. Pizzetti to the Selectman by roll-call vote: Duteau-yea, Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Proposed Next Meeting: Aug 4

- **Adjournment**

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:25pm by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Attached Documents:

Tighe & Bond Water Rate Study-Final
PFAS Siting Analysis-Final
Monthly PFAS Sample Results
6/2/22 Draft Meeting Minutes
KP Law and Napoli Shkolnik-Draft Litigation Agreement