



# Town Of Webster

Est. 1832

## Massachusetts

### 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 20, 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~~

**Guests Include:** Mr. Thomas Ralph

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 06/01/23. 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.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Duteau to discuss the abatement request 1<sup>st</sup> so Mr. Ralph did not have to sit thru the entire meeting. All members in agreement to change the order of business.

#### **Water Department Updates**

- **Monthly PFAS Testing Report & other PFAS Related Updates**-Per the Superintendent the most recent monthly test results for Bigelow came back at 8.73ppt with the quarter 2 average at 12.84ppt. Mr. Cutler explained the numbers appear to trail downward when the well is out of service.
- **Lake Street Water Main Replacement**-Per the Superintendent the project remains behind schedule and most invoicing and change order paperwork has not been submitted to date. The paving schedule has also not been submitted and the hope was all paving would be done this summer before school starts. The Department will continue to pressure the Contractor GEG thru our engineering firm Tighe & Bond. Commissioner Gabor stated if the change orders do not follow the bid spec than they should not be processed. Superintendent Cutler agrees. The work that remains include 5 services, removal of old hydrants, sidewalks, paving and the disconnect at Main Street which will require another large overnight shut down including

public notification to our local business's downtown. We anticipate a majority of this work will be completed in the next 2-4 weeks.

- **Meter Replacement Project**-Per the Superintendent all of the meter vendors who presented have followed up at the office for feedback. We have not made any decisions. Commissioner Andrade asked what style meter was desired. Mr. Cutler replied we are definitely leaning toward ultrasonic technology to take advantage of the low flow accuracy as compared to a mechanical meter, which we now have. We like the leak detection offered by one of the vendors but are hesitant since the technology is not widely used in the North East. Commissioner Duteau stated he did some research online and agrees it is not widely used in this area and false positives could be a problem. Commissioner Gabor also stated this could be a problem.
- **Water Tower Property Line Update**-Per the Superintendent we continue to have trouble with the property owner on Eddy Street operating heavy equipment over the water main easement. Police responded again last week and were close to arresting the trespasser. Commissioner Gabor feels fencing is needed on two sides. Mr. Cutler stated he would look into fencing this fall. Police are monitoring the situation closely. Commissioner Becker was curious if any of the dead trees fell during the most recent rainstorms. Mr. Cutler replied not that he was aware of and stated we would look into removing the trees as well this fall.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report**-No other topics to report at this time.
- **Sewer Department Updates**
  - **Aeration Project Update**-Per the Superintendent the bid documents and plans will be ready next month. Commissioner Becker asked if we finalized the material that will be used and Mr. Cutler responded yes we determined the type of diffuser and there are only a few minor details remaining.
  - **IMA Discussion regarding Dudley Response 6/20/23**-Chairman Andrade will draft an email back to Dudley confirming item #1. Items 2-6 will require additional meetings with Dudley for clarification/discussion.
  - **WWTP Sludge Residual Issue**-Mr. Cutler gave a brief update. To date we have lost \$87K on septage receiving thru June 30<sup>th</sup> for FY23. We have also exceeded our aluminum limit since we are not able to waste enough sludge due to the holding tanks being full. We are hopeful the level will return to normal and we plan to collect additional samples before the end of the month. The results will then be averaged, and most likely keep us compliant with the NPDES permit. Synagro has been notified of aluminum exceedance and the possibility of having Town Counsel get involved in the contract and the loss of revenue on septage receiving. We did receive approx. 15 trucks this week which significantly helped. We requested 15 more for next week. Commissioner Gabor suggested to have the Town Administrator contact Counsel next week. Mr. Cutler stated he would send the info to Rick and copy Mr. Gabor on the correspondence.

- **Superintendent Other Topics Sewer Report**-No other topics to report at this time.
- **New Business**
  - **Outstanding Water /Sewer Bills**-Per the Superintendent letters went out and one owner contacted us to discuss the outstanding balance. Commissioner Gabor suggested a second letter go out since the program was effective last time.
  - **Policy Review/Revision**-Per Mr. Cutler stated lets hold off on discussing or approving the policy since the water/sewer abatement policy needs one more revision as discussed during today's abatement for Mr. Ralph. All Commissioners agreed.
  - **Low Income Utility Assistance**-Per the Superintendent only one account to date has been paid. Commissioner Gabor asked how many accounts are there to date that are eligible. Mr. Cutler stated about 300. We are not sure why the others have not been paid. The Tax Collector is working on it perhaps we will have a more detailed update at the meeting.
  - **Mass DOT Project (RT 16 -RT395 Interchange)**-Per the Superintendent we have received the design proposal from Tighe & Bond. It is \$80K and we are not budgeted for the work. Our FY24 Engineering account has \$40K. Options are to deficit spend the account and go to Town Meeting with an adjustment or amend the PFAS design appropriation since it has \$250K surplus. The water main on Rt16 has an impact on the Bigelow and Memorial Beach hydraulics since the pipe acts like a conduit to the Rawson Storage tank. This is reasonable justification for the amendment. The consensus is to amend the PFAS contract. Mr. Cutler stated he would work the Town Administrator and Town Finance Director to take care of this next week. MassDOT needs the design plan ASAP so there is a sense of urgency on this one.
  - **Reorganization of Water/ Sewer Commission**-After a brief discussion it was decided to leave the structure as is with Tom Andrade as the chair and Earl Gabor as vice chair. Michelle Roy will be added as the Administrative Assistant for recording meeting minutes. She will join the August meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker and seconded by Commissioner Duteau to leave all members in their current roles by roll call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, and Andrade-yea.
  - **Woods Grove Senior Rate Discount**-Per Mr. Cutler this can be removed from the agenda.
  - **Abatement request 11 Chestnut Hill Dr.**-Mr. Thomas Ralph provided a brief summary of the property history for 193-195 North Main Street. Mr. Ralph stated there have been several backups over the years and M&M construction recently installed the correct invert at the bottom of the manhole on his property, which is shared with the neighbor. This should fix the recurring back up issues. He stated his original request for abatement was for \$250.00. and he is now asking for \$39.00 which was the cost to remove 400 gallons of sewage that did not enter the municipal sewer system. All Commissioners were concerned this sets a precedent if allowed but agreed the policy does not cover backups on private structures. Mr. Cutler agreed and followed with it's just not something we do for issues on private structures. Mr. Cutler suggested we could approve the abatement and then correct the abatement policy to make sure something like this is not repeated. The Town should not be responsible for lack of

maintenance or improperly installed structures on private property. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker and seconded by Commissioner Duteau to approve a \$40.00 sewer abatement by roll call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Next Meeting August 23, 2023

➤ **Adjournment**

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:15pm by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, and Andrade-yea.

**Attachments:**

- 06/01/23-Draft Meeting Minutes
- 7/20/23-Agenda
- Water Rules and Regs
- Sewer Rules and Regs
- Dudley IMA Letter
- 193-195 Abatement Application