



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
Michelle Roy-Administrative Assistant

Webster Water Sewer Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

2:30pm

Irene Martel Room, Webster Town Hall
350 Main St, 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~~, & Michelle Roy

Guests Include: Mr. Gary Luksha, Tri-Luk LLC

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 07/20/23. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker and seconded by Commissioner Duteau to approve the meeting minutes with one correction suggested by Commissioner Gabor to change Pre to Per in Meter Replacement Project Update. Roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Duteau to discuss the abatement request for 40 Negus St so Mr. Luksha 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 PFAS sample results from August are pending and Bigelow remains in stand-by mode. The PFAS treatment design for both sites is progressing and we are anticipating 90% design by October 2nd. One snag at the Bigelow site is ownership of the force main and pumping station on Riverside Drive, which is owned by New England commons. We may need to run a force main from the site to North Main Street.
- **Lake Street Water Main Replacement**-Per Mr. Cutler the water main installation is complete and all homes have been connected to the new system. Remaining work needed for completion is the sidewalks and milling/paving. Tighe & Bond and the Town have kept the

pressure on for GEG to finish up before School starts and that will most likely not happen. GEG has been slow to respond to our requests for schedule updates and remaining work. In addition, the project has taken longer than expected and Tighe & Bond is over budget on the field inspector. We have a meeting scheduled for later this week to discuss a possible change order to cover the costs, which will be around \$33K.

- **Meter Replacement Project**-Per the Superintendent the final design is near completion and Tighe & Bond will provide an estimate on the project for Fall Town Meeting.
- **Water Tower Property Line Update**-Per the Superintendent the department removed approx. eight dead trees and we are now working on price quotes to install fencing. There have been no recent issues with abutters. Commissioner Gabor recommended researching the possibility of selling partial pieces of land to cover cost.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report**-Exterior pressure washing to remove mold and mildew has been completed on the Park Rd storage tank. This was a sanitary survey action item from DEP approx. 5 years ago, that is now complete.
- **Sewer Department Updates**
 - **Aeration Project Update**-Per the Superintendent the final documents are complete and the project will go out to bid soon.
 - **WWTP Sludge Residual Issue**-The Town's Attorney drafted a letter back to Synagro in response to the force majeure letter Synagro sent to all customers earlier this year. Counsel cautioned us since Synagro is the only option for most Communities to dispose sludge residuals. Mr. Cutler will follow up with Town Administrator.
 - **Superintendent Other Topics Sewer Report**-No other topics to report at this time per the Superintendent.
- **Old Business**
 - **Outstanding Water /Sewer Bills**-Per the Superintendent 3 customers have made payments in response to our 2nd mailing, which we sent certified. Michelle has reached out to Athena the top account and we are hopeful for a resolution since the last payment made was 4/2021. Please see the attached list for reference. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Becker to proceed and follow the next step according to the towns shut off policy based on the accounts with outstanding balances \$2000.00 and up. Roll call vote: Duteau yea, Becker yea and Gabor yea.
 - **Policy Review/Revision**-Per Mr. Cutler the water rules and regs have been updated based on feedback from our last meeting. The draft is attached for review/discussion and approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Duteau to approve the new improved rules & regs attached. Roll call vote: Gabor yea, Duteau yea and Becker yea.
 - **Low Income Utility Assistance**-Per the Superintendent the Treasurer/Collector has been working with Worcester Community Action Council, Inc. (WCAC) and we have received our 2nd payment of approx. 300 accounts. No other updates at this time. Commissioner Gabor

recommended to place a reminder in January/February for residents to apply for the program for the upcoming year.

- **Mass DOT Project (RT 16 -RT395 Interchange)** Per Mr. Cutler Tighe & Bond is working on the design. Surveying the area is underway and we have been working with Engineers from MassDOT to incorporate the water main replacement within the limits of the MassDOT work. MassDOT will leave the design out of the bidding documents until the Fall Town Meeting. If approved at Fall Meeting the design will then be added to the documents and will be included within the MassDOT project and permits.

- **New Business**

- **40 Negus Street-Water/Sewer Abatement Application**-Per the Superintendent please see the attached abatement application. The abatement has not been approved or denied but presented here today due to the magnitude of the leak/bill. The department is recommending to abate the sewer portion since the leak was verified by the Superintendent and Distribution Foreman who confirmed no water entered the municipal sewer system. We have notes and pictures to support the claim. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Gabor to approve and grant the \$8,911.96 sewer abatement based on the Abatement Policy. Roll call vote: Gabor yea, Duteau yea and Becker yea.

- **Seasonal account minimum quarterly charges**-Per the Superintendent we discussed this in the past and were planning to address this with rate study but we believe this may have slipped thru the cracks. We currently do not charge the seasonal accounts the minimum quarterly charge which is not consistent with our rules and regulations or fair to the rest of the customer base. The current min water charge is \$41.44/qtr and the sewer is \$53.71 for 0-500ft. It was requested that further information be provided for an upcoming meeting and it will be discussed again.

- **Upcoming IMA Meeting with Dudley Water Sewer Board-**

Next Meeting - September 14, 2023
Monthly Water Sewer Commission - 6:00PM
IMA meeting - 6:30PM

Adjournment

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:45pm by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Duteau-yea and Gabor-yea.

Attachments:

- 07/20/23-Draft Meeting Minutes
- 08/23/23-Agenda
- Water Rules and Regs
- Sewer Rules and Regs
- 40 Negus Street-Abatement Application