



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, Sept 1, 2022

2:30pm

Gladys E. Kelly Library, Local History Room
2 Lake Street, Webster, MA 01570

- Meeting Call to Order at 2:30 P.M.

Attendees: Earl Gabor, Dan Duteau, ~~Tom Andrade~~, Marc Becker, Rick LaFond, and Tom Cutler.

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 8/4/2022. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Gabor, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, and Duteau-yea.
 - The Commissioners reviewed the draft public hearing meeting minutes from 8/10/2022. Commissioner Duteau suggested we need to change the minutes to reflect the opening/closing of the meeting and the opening/closing of the hearing and add the question/answer session. Mr. Cutler stated he would make those changes. 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, and Duteau-yea.
- **Water Department Updates**
 - **Monthly PFAS Testing Report & other PFAS Related Updates-**Per the Superintendent results for August at Bigelow came in at 30.30ppt with a quarterly average of 28.20ppt for July and August. The well remains offline since 8/10. MassDEP will close out the 3rd quarter without a sample for September. This will result in a non-compliance “public notice” which we should receive any day now. Commissioner Becker asked if we knew how many communities are dealing with PFAS issues in Massachusetts. Mr. Cutler stated he thought it was over 150 communities. Mr. LaFond suggested reaching out to local associations for the number. Mr. Cutler stated that was an excellent idea and Mass Water Works Association would be a good resource for the info or MassDEP. Mr. LaFond gave a brief status update on the PFAS litigation case which will be filed by the end of October on our behalf. He noted this is not a class action suit and he will keep us posted on the progress.

- **Water Line Project Updates**-GEG has completed most of the 16” water main installation on Lake Street and a few sections of 12”. They have had trouble securing the remaining pipe for the project but it is still progressing.
- **Lead & Copper Rules Update**-Sample plan was approved by MassDEP and we have started the annual collection of 60 sample sites. No new updates on the 2024 EPA-L&C revision. The Superintendent also stated the Water Department is working closely with another day care with lead exceedances from samples collected by MassDEP/UMass sample program.
- **Mass DEP UAW & Registered Withdrawal Permit (Leak Detection Survey)**-No updates. This item can be removed from the next agenda.
- **Station #1 & 2 Wells Update**-Well #6 remains in service but we still experience total coliform issues on the raw water sample. MassDEP has been kept in the loop and there has been no impact of finished water delivered to customers.
- **Station #3 Well Update**-Remains offline in stand by mode.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report**
 - Recent hazardous testing at the old clear well at Station 1 were favorable with no asbestos or other hazards onsite. We are working with CME on demolishing the structure.
- **Sewer Department Updates**
 - **Sewer System Rehabilitation Project Update**-Per Superintendent Cutler National Water Main has done an excellent job to date with minimal issues. The project is 80% complete. Final completion will be done in the spring with paving to close the project out. We plan to meet with National Water Main, Tighe & Bond, and Highway to walk the job sites late September to identify punch list items. We are working on a change order to see if it will fit within the budget of this project for much needed repairs at the Thompson Rd pumping station wet well.
 - **IMA Agreement with Dudley and True-up**-The Superintendent and Town Accountant met with our consultant Matt Abrahams on 8/31/22. We were able to work thru the questions Dudley had on the true up process thru FY20. We will follow up again with Dudley in the next 1-2 weeks. We also will start the true up process for FY21 and 22 and keep all parties informed including the water sewer commission.
 - **NPDES –Tighe & Bond Aeration Tank Upgrade**-Per the Superintendent the project is progressing behind the scenes. We did not meet in August with our consultant due to vacation conflicts. No NPDES updates at this time. NPDES can be removed from the agenda for the time being.
 - **Superintendent other topics Sewer Report**-We are working thru the bidding process to purchase our new sewer collections camera system which is included as a capital item in FY23. The Superintendent also mentioned a recent complaint filed at the office in

regards to sewer only non-metered account as compared to a customer with water and sewer tracking very low usage at 800ft³/qtr. The difference is water/sewer at low use resulted in a bill of \$135.00 and the non-metered sewer only with the senior rate is \$156.24. All members agreed the low use account used as comparison is unusual and non-metered accounts pay a slightly higher rate since they are non-metered.

- **New Business**

- **Mandatory Drought Restrictions**-We remain at level-3 with no change from last month. Commissioner Becker asked if we could repost the drought restrictions news release as a reminder to customers since we are still experiencing a severe drought.

- **Water and Sewer for 1410 Thompson Rd (40-acre parcel in CT)**

Per the Superintendent the proposed “concept” project details are:

- 25-30 residential homes minimum to make project feasible due to infrastructure needed. (9,900 title 5 peak flow 3 bedrooms)
- 40-50 homes would be ideal per applicant. (16,500 title 5 peak flow 3 bedrooms)

Per the Superintendent, we are very close with our registered withdrawal leaving us not much room for an out of state project. Commissioner Becker stated there is also no way to lien properties out of state if they do not pay water/sewer bills leaving us no leverage as a utility. All agreed for those two reasons a project like this is not feasible at this time. Mr. Cutler stated he would follow up with the customer by phone.

- **Water Sewer Articles-October Warrant**-Per the Superintendent we have the draft article ready for PFAS and Water Meter design. The 2022 MassDEP Intended Use Plan has been amended to provide emergency financing for PFAS design with 0% interest. We are working with Tighe and Bond on the application. Commissioner Gabor suggested adding the article will be sponsored by the Board of Selectman and the Water Sewer Commission.

- **PFAS Treatment Plant(s)-Next Steps**-Per the Superintendent see the attached schedule for reference. Next step is the fall warrant for the design phase. Mr. Cutler asked if the commission wanted any other articles for (ex): Sewer rehab or water main replacement design since we are carrying a \$2M line item for FY24. All members agreed we would revisit these in the spring.

Proposed Next Meeting: October 6

- **Adjournment**

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

Attached Documents:

8/4/22 Draft Meeting Minutes
8/10/22 Draft Public Hearing Minutes
PFAS Results
1410 Thompson Rd Map
Draft Warrant Article-PFAS & Meters
PFAS Project Schedule