



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, Oct 6, 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 include: Mr. Berthiaume, 40 Lake Street.
 - The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 09/01/2022. A motion was made by Commissioner Becker, and seconded by Commissioner Andrade, to approve the meeting minutes by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, Andrade-yea, and Duteau-yea.
- **Water Department Updates**
 - Monthly PFAS Testing Report & other PFAS Related Updates-The Superintendent gave an update on our most recent PFAS results. We closed out QTR3 at MassDEP's direction with an average 28.2 parts per trillion. This did not include the September sample since Bigelow was offline on August 10th. A public notice of the violation was published in the Webster Times on Friday 9/30. The notice was also broadcasted on our website under the news flash section and messages went out social media and code red alerting our customers about the violation. Mr. Cutler stated that we have not received any phone calls to date from concerned customers. Commissioner Gabor followed up with social media activity on the topic has also been very quiet.
 - Water Line Project Updates-Per the Superintendent the project is moving along but has had many snags due the gas main install in the trench that was identified for the water main. The gas company did not install their main in the area of their approved plans and did not notify other utilities of the change. This has caused delays for GEG and additional work removing abandoned gas main to make room for the new 12 and 16" water main. GEG did inform us of a potential change order at our last construction meeting. Mr. Cutler informed GEG the gas main was removed without notifying the utility of a change order therefore the work was not pre authorized as a change order. All parties agreed to discuss further. Mr. Cutler stated we also had an incident the day after

Labor Day with a sewer break at 96 Lake Street. The primary sewer main backed up into 96 causing significant flooding and damage. The issue was discovered during a heavy rain event and GEG was not onsite. The week before the new 16" water main was placed on top of the 8" clay sewer main without following proper construction specifications outlined in construction documents. The install was also inspected by Tighe & Bond but was missed. GEG was not available. The Sewer Department contacted several local contractors for repairs while we coordinated managing a by-pass between manholes. Tighe & Bond and GEG have been notified of the deficiency and will be responsible for the costs. We are still working out the details. The construction sign was recently installed at the Thompson Rd pump station. The install looks terrible and is not in the location we discussed. GEG has been directed to move it.

- Lead & Copper Rules Update-No significant updates per the Superintendent. Annual Lead & Copper samples have been collected and certified to MassDEP with no issues.
 - Mass DEP UAW & Registered Withdrawal Permit (Leak Detection Survey)-No updates per the Superintendent. We can take this item off the list for the time being.
 - Station #1 & 2 Wells Update-4 of the six wells have been cleaned to date. The remaining two wells will be completed in the next two weeks. Well 5 had \$4,000 of mechanical repairs, well 2 had \$2,890, well 3 had \$735 and well 1 is expected to be around \$2500. These costs outlined are in addition to the well cleaning costs. These wells were overdue for cleaning and inspecting. Moving forward we will be budgeting in the capital plan two wells per year at \$20,000ea for cleaning and repairs.
 - Station #3 Well Update-No updates per the Superintendent. Chairman Andrade asked if we needed to reactivate Bigelow well what DEP require. Mr. Cutler stated we would need to provide an alternative source of water for customers as long as that site remains non-compliant while in operation. In our case, that would be bottled water. Commissioner Gabor asked if the bottled water station had arrived yet for Memorial Beach. Mr. Cutler stated it would be in any day now.
 - Superintendent Other Topics Water Report-No other updates at this time.
- **Sewer Department Updates**
 - Sewer System Rehabilitation Project Update-Project is wrapping up for the year. Per the Superintendent, we did receive an estimate for the Thompson Rd Pump Station wet-well repair. The price was \$75K and the contract with National Water Main does not have enough contingency money. The work has been added to the FY24 capital plan.
 - IMA Agreement with Dudley and True-up-Per the Superintendent we provided Dudley true up details thru FY22 and have not heard back yet. Commissioner Gabor suggested since it has been over 30 days and we have not heard anything it was time to consider exercising article 7, page 20 of the IMA which states "Amendments to Intermunicipal Agreement Town of Dudley and Webster Massachusetts", Article 7 (signed 4/2/07), We will request a joint meeting to discuss the matter and the request will come from the Water Sewer Chairman. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by

Commissioner Becker, to request a joint meeting with Dudley Water Sewer Commission by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, Andrade-yea, and Duteau-yea.

- Superintendent Other topics Sewer Report-Mr. Cutler stated we are working RHW on an emergency chemical feed line failure under ground between buildings. Due the nature of the location, it will be a difficult repair for the department and it is a key chemical for the plant process.
- We received the proposal from Tighe & Bond for the Sewer rate study. Due to the magnitude of work needed and the costs it will be easier to amend the aeration proposal to include this study since our annual operating budget will not support this at this time.

- **New Business**

- Review and vote to recommend approval of Articles 6 & 7 on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant on October 17th. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Duteau, to approve Article 6 by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, Andrade-yea, and Duteau-yea. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Becker, to approve Article 7 by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, Andrade-yea, and Duteau-yea.
- 40 Lake St abatement appeal-Mr. Berthiaume gave a statement on the sequence of events as outlined in his abatement application indicating he had a hot water tank failure and has since removed four water tanks combining all rental units on one new improved singular unit. He stated this tank failure was the cause of excessive water/sewer bill and he is requesting an abatement on the sewer portion only since the water that leaked out was pumped to a nearby storm drain and not the municipal sewer system. Superintendent Cutler responded the explanation was the exact one given but the original application was denied due to the lack of explanation on the plumbing invoice, which was certified by a license plumber. The Department also contacted the Plumbing Company and based on the owners response was not comfortable awarding the abatement at that time. Mr. Cutler informed the Commission if an abatement were approved based on the previous 4 quarter sewer average Mr. Berthiaume would receive a credit of \$2,375.34. Commission members thanked Mr. Berthiaume for coming in to explain his issue. A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor, and seconded by Commissioner Andrade, to approve the sewer abatement in the amount of \$2,375.34 by roll-call vote: Becker-yea, Gabor-yea, Andrade-yea, and Duteau-yea
- 10 Maynard St – pending abatement-Chairman Andrade suggested waiting until the owner of the property formally submits an abatement application. This could be discussed at the next board meeting if needed.

Proposed Next Meeting: Nov 3

- **Adjournment**

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:52pm by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Duteau-yea, Andrade-yea.

Attachments:

- 9/1 Draft Meeting Minutes
- Articles 6 & 7
- 40 Lake Street Abatement Application
- 10 Maynard Street Correspondences-Potential Abatement
- Tighe & Bond Sewer Rate Study Proposal
- QTR3-MassDEP PFAS MCL Violation