



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, Nov 3, 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: Matt Abrahams, Better Gov.- IMA Consultant

- The Commissioners reviewed the draft meeting minutes from 10/06/2022. Commissioner Becker had one correction under the Lake Street Water Main Project. The word sign was meant to be sign. Mr. Cutler stated he would correct the issue. A motion was made by Commissioner Duteau, and seconded by Commissioner Gabor, to approve the meeting minutes with the correction as noted 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 the most recent round for Bigelow shows the level above the MassDEP MCL at 23.0 parts per trillion. This result is a verbal from the lab with official results in the next week or so. We are maintaining compliance since the well is offline in backup mode and the sample collected was raw sample not finished water-entering distribution. We are however down from the previous month, which was 31.0 for September. We have also received the draft design scope from Tighe & Bond. If the Board is all set with the scope, Rick will need to sign the final version with a notice to proceed on the 14th. Mr. LaFond suggested contract language be added to the scope for board approval for the next scheduled meeting. Once the scope is finalized and the language is added the board can the vote on the agreement followed by the Town Administrator's signature. Mr. LaFond stated he would reach out to the Town's Attorney for standard contract language and full review due to the magnitude of the project. Commissioner Gabor had a few questions about the meter scope and the timeline. Mr. Cutler stated the meter timeline was following the same path as the PFAS design since they are on the same SRF application but the program would ultimately be

completed before PFAS treatment. Mr. Cutler said he would follow up with Tighe & Bond on the timeline and report back. Commissioner Gabor and Commissioner Duteau asked about the benefits of the satellite well systems. Mr. Cutler stated the benefit is redundancy at the Towns two largest well sites is the driver and it offers a means to be proactive with well maintenance and cleaning. Currently we operate in a reactive mode and only address wells after they have failed due to iron and manganese clogging or mechanical failures. Commissioner Becker asked about the \$40K budgeted for well cleaning for Capital in FY24. He was comparing the most recent repairs at Memorial Beach, which were mechanical at about \$10K. Mr. Cutler stated the well rehab project was approx. \$17K per well for cleaning only and we recently spent approx. \$120K cleaning and repairing all six wells at station 1 and 2. Commissioner Gabor asked about PFAS entering the sewer system from treatment at our water plants after the removal system are operational. Mr. Cutler stated GAC completely ties up PFAS to the media until it is exhausted and then replaced or regenerated off-site. Tighe & Bond has stated it will not be an issue but we will add this to the list of questions for Tighe & Bond. Commissioner Becker asked about the O&M costs for greensand vs. biological iron and manganese treatment for Bigelow. Mr. Cutler responded biological systems produces less waste, less chemicals used and do not require media replacement every 10 years like the greensand pressure vessels. Staff are comfortable with greensand plus but do not want to rule anything out at this point. Mr. Cutler stated the department plans to visit Putnam's biological plant before the end of the year.

- **Water Line Project Updates**-Per the Superintendent most of the main trunk line has been installed on Lake Street. GEG is focusing on hydrants and cleaning up for the winter shutdown. Services will be completed in the spring along with the major tie in on East Main. The water line trenches are in poor condition and we have received a few complaints over the past 2 weeks including vehicle damage which could be from the water main install or the gas main install. All members of the Commission agreed the gas main trench is in better condition. Mr. Cutler stated he would follow up with Tighe & Bond about the trench paving.
- **Lead & Copper Rules Update**-Per the Superintendent the clean water funding certification along with the fall meeting approval has been completed and sent into to MassDEP.
- **Station #1 & 2 Wells Update**-Well rehabilitation has been completed and all wells are operating at this time.
- **Station #3 Well Update**-Per Mr. Cutler the well remains offline in standby mode.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Water Report**-No other updates at this time.
- **Sewer Department Updates**
 - **Sewer System Rehabilitation Project Update**-Per the Superintendent National Water Main recently returned to finish manhole work. We also received the change order estimate for manhole repairs at Thompson #1 Pumping Station. The estimate is \$75,000 and does not fit into the budget at this time. The Department will plan to add it to the FY24 capital budget. Commissioner Becker asked about the repair timeline and if it would hold up. Mr. Cutler responded it should last another 1-2 years but needs to be addressed before failure and since this is a major pump station for the Town it should be done next summer.

- **Chemical Feed Line Failure**-Per Mr. Cutler RHW is onsite and will be finished up this week replacing the underground chemical conduit lines between buildings. Vacuum excavation was utilized due to the location of many utilities in same trench. This made the repair very expensive. We have added additional backup lines to prevent this from happening again and have also installed the conduit in a manner that makes it easy to pull new lines in the future. Commissioner Gabor suggested reviewing the operating finances around January/February period to see where we are. Commissioner Becker stated our Accountant sends out monthly statements so we will have no problem with this. Commissioner Gabor stated the free cash is certified and we have \$1.9 million for sewer and \$1.5 million for water. Mr. LaFond stated those were healthy amounts. Mr. Cutler agreed and followed with we have many capitol projects in the works and this will help.
- **IMA Agreement with Dudley and True-up**-Matt Abrahams, Better Gov. Consultant called in by phone and zoom. Matt gave the board a brief summary of the true up status and was pleased to report we are close on agreeing with Dudley's Consultant. The Board agreed to have Matt follow up with a response to Dudley to allow Dudley time to review before the joint meeting on 11/10.
- **Superintendent Other Topics Sewer Report**-No other updates at this time.
- **New Business**
 - **Dudley Joint IMA Meeting 11/10/22**-Commissioner Gabor asked if our Town Accountant will be attending. Mr. Cutler stated he confirmed Tim will be in attendance.
 - **10 Maynard St – Pending Abatement**-Per the Superintendent there is no action on this since the owner has not filed an appeal to date or any supporting documentation that meets our abatement policy. Mr. Cutler also stated the meter was sent to a third party company for testing and it meets AWWA national standards. The results are as follows:
 - **Low Flow 1/4gpm=96.8%**
 - **Med Flow 2.0gpm=100.8%**
 - **High Flow 15gpm=99.9%**
 - **Range=96.8% to 100.8%**
 - **Avg=99.16%**
 - **AWWA National Standrads 98.5% to 101.50%**

Commissioner Dutuea asked if we have been in contact with the owner. Mr. Cutler stated yes, the meter test results were shared along with our findings. The first floor tenant has made statements about a leaky toilet for 4 months that the property owner was aware of along with additional occupants on the upper floors. It was also stated it sounds like laundry is running all the time. Mr. Cutler stated the new meter was re-read several times over the past few weeks and the usage remains high but accurate. There are no issues with the old meter or the new meter, the water is being used/consumed, and we are confident in our findings.

- **90 Bates Point Rd Abatement**-Mr. Cutler gave a brief overview of this application due to the magnitude of the loss and the dollar amount involved due to broken water pipes that severely damaged the property. The application has not been approved nor denied and there is no vote needed at this time. Based on the insurance documents, video footage and the fact that the water did not enter the municipal sewer system the department is recommending a

sewer only abatement in the amount of \$ 4,160.21. Commissioner Gabor recused himself to the discussion and other board members supported the department's recommendation based on supporting documentation.

Proposed Next Meeting: 11/10/22 joint meeting with Dudley and 12/01/22 for our next regular scheduled monthly meeting.

➤ **Adjournment**

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 4:03pm by roll-call vote: Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Duteau-yea.

Attachments:

- 11/3 Meeting Agenda
- 10/6 Draft Meeting Minutes
- PFAS/Meter Design Draft Scope-Tighe & Bond
- Dudley IMA Update Email & Attachment
- 10 Maynard Rd Email Correspondence
- 90 Bates Point Rd Abatement Application
- Thompson Rd Wet Well Epoxy Quote-Sewer Rehab Project CO