



Town Of Webster Massachusetts

Est. 1832

Webster Water Sewer Commission

350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Tom Andrade - Chairman
Rick Neeser - Vice Chairman
Dan Duteau

Earl Gabor
Doug Willardson - Town Administrator
Gregory Woods - Water & Sewer Supt., Secretary

Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2021, 2:30 PM

via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's
emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the
Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20"

Attendees: Tom Andrade (via Zoom Meeting), Dan Duteau (via Zoom Meeting), Earl Gabor (via Zoom Meeting), Doug Willardson (via Zoom Meeting) and Greg Woods (via Zoom Meeting).

Absent: Rick Neeser

Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing. The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means.

Meeting Minutes

The Commissioners reviewed the draft minutes from the December 3rd meeting and voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended. Vote by roll call; Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea.

1 - Existing Business:

A – Water Sewer Commission Policies – The Board reviewed and discussed the revised water and sewer policies that Mr. Woods had modified since the last meeting. A number of edits were suggested and Mr. Woods said he would submit an updated draft of the document for the next meeting.

2 – Water Dept. Update: Mr. Woods stated that the design for the Lincoln Nelson & Whitcomb water main replacement project was close to being finished. He said that there is a potential issue of making modifications to the Lincoln Street connection at Ray Street due to the pipes being under private property. Mr. Willardson said that a temporary construction easement could be generated for this work, while a permanent easement would require a vote at Town Meeting. Commissioner



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Gabor raised the question of the Town contributing to the paving costs of the project. Mr. Willardson stated that paying for half of the proposed paving costs would be a large percentage of the Town's Chapter 90 funds and that he would look into other potential sources for contributing toward the project. The Commissioners also congratulated the Department for receiving a 2020 Public Water System Award for "outstanding performance and achievement in 2019".

3 – Sewer Dept. Update: Mr. Woods said that the Department had requested a six-week extension of the I&I report deadline due to the sewer main inspection contractor having to re-video portions of the French River interceptor. The revised deadline is February 12, 2021. Mr. Woods also said that he had started drafting the FY22 budgets for both departments and would have them ready for the next meeting.

4 – New Business:

A – Abatement Requests – Mr. Woods provided two abatement requests for consideration by the Board. An abatement request for 10 Cudworth Road was presented to the Board for review. Mr. Woods explained that the applicant was requesting an abatement for high water use associated with a valve within their commercial-grade food steamer that was stuck in the open position. Mr. Woods stated that the applicant attributed the leak to repeated occurrence of dirty water into the facility that impacted the functionality of the valve. The Commissioners discussed the request and while they sympathized with the high bill during the current economic restrictions, the cause of the high water consumption did not meet the abatement criteria. A motion was made and seconded, to deny the request. Vote by roll call; Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea. The Board recommended that the applicant consider the installation of a particulate filter to reduce the potential of this incident from occurring in the future.

The second request came from the owner of 105 Lake Street for a leaking pipe in the basement. Mr. Woods stated that the applicant had the leaking pipe repaired and had provided a receipt of the work. As the leaking water did not enter the sewer system, a motion was made and seconded, to approve the request and abate the sewer portion of the bill to the average of three normal quarters of usage. Vote by roll call; Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea.

B – Annual Reports – The Commissioners reviewed the Water Department and Sewer Department annual reports for inclusion in the Town's bound report. Several edits were suggested to the Water Department report, which Mr. Woods stated he would update prior to submission. A motion was made and seconded, to approve both reports as amended. Vote by roll call; Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea



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Adjournment

A motion was made, and seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM. Vote by roll call; Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea. The next meeting is scheduled for February 4th at 2:30 PM via Zoom meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Woods
Water & Sewer Superintendent

Documents:

- Draft minutes from 12/3/20
- Draft annual reports from Water & Sewer Departments
- Abatement requests: 10 Cudworth Road and 105 Lake Street
- Draft Commission policies