



# Town Of Webster

## Massachusetts

Est. 1832

### Webster Water Sewer Commission

350 Main Street  
Webster, MA 01570  
Earl Gabor - Chairman  
Tom Andrade - Vice Chairman  
Dan Duteau

Marc Becker  
Rick LaFond - Town Administrator  
Tom Cutler - Water and Sewer Superintendent, Secretary

#### Webster Water Sewer Commission

### **Public Hearing Minutes**

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

**6:30pm**

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570

**Attendees:** Earl Gabor, Dan Duteau, Tom Andrade, Marc Becker, Rick LaFond, and Tom Cutler.  
Guests include Mike Schrader, Tighe & Bond, Jeff Faulkner, Tighe & Bond, & Danielle Teixeira, Tighe & Bond

- **Meeting Called to order at 6:30 P.M by Chairman Andrade.**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **PFAS Mitigation presentation by Tighe and Bond-**Chairman Andrade announced the meeting would start with the PFAS mitigation plan presentation by Danielle Teixeira, Tighe & Bond. Danielle provided a comprehensive PFAS presentation. The slide show can be viewed on the Water Department website: [www.webster-ma.gov/242/Water-Department](http://www.webster-ma.gov/242/Water-Department) After the presentation was completed Chairman Andrade mentioned it is key the Town approves this mitigation plan at the Town meeting to secure the zero interest loan and 19.8% principal forgiveness which could be upwards of \$8 million dollars in savings for the Town.
- **Open Public Hearing for FY24 Webster Water and Sewer Rate Setting-**A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor and seconded by Chairman Andrade to open the public hearing.
- **Rate Study Presentation by Tighe and Bond-**Mike Schrader, Tighe & Bond provided a comprehensive water/sewer rate presentation. The presentation can be viewed on the on the Water Department website: [www.webster-ma.gov/242/Water-Department](http://www.webster-ma.gov/242/Water-Department) Commissioner Gabor stated the new rates support the ongoing capital work and they will go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup> which will be reflected in the October billing cycle.
- **FY24 Water and Sewer Rate Discussion-** Town Administrator Rick LaFond was curious about the industry shortage with building construction and the nationwide need for PFAS treatment in a hurry and how will this be accomplished. Jeff Faulkner from Tighe and Bond spoke about the supply chain issues and rising costs and the new infrastructure law past about a year ago and how that it will affect PFAS treatment. Jeff stated Webster is in better shape than most communities

are since we are in the design phase and there is likely more communities that will be non-compliant with PFAS this time next year with the new EPA regulations we will be facing.

- **Close Public Hearing-** A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor and seconded by Chairman Andrade to close the public hearing.
- **Discussion and Vote to Establish the FY24 Water and Sewer Rates-**Commissioner Gabor made a motion to set the FY24 water rate increase at 15% and the sewer rate increase at 10% as recommended by the Tighe & Bond rate study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Duteau to approve the increase by roll call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.
- **Approve minutes from 3/9 and 3/15 meetings**

A motion was made by Commissioner Becker and seconded by Commissioner Duteau to approve the 3/9/23 meeting minutes as presented.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor and seconded by Commissioner Duteau to approve the 3/15/23 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Becker stated he did not attend the meeting.

- **Adjournment-**A motion was made by Commissioner Gabor and seconded by Commissioner Duteau to close the public hearing at 7:30pm by roll call vote: Duteau-yea, Gabor-yea, Becker-yea, and Andrade-yea.

Next Meeting April 13, 2023

**Attachments:**

- 3/9/2023 Draft Meeting Minutes
- 3/15/2023 Draft Meeting Minutes
- Tighe & Bond PFAS Mitigation Presentation
- Tighe & Bond Rate Study Presentation