



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
Doran Crouse, Superintendent, Interim

Draft Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2021, 7:00 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), Earl Gabor (via Zoom Meeting), Dan Duteau (via Zoom Meeting), Doug Willardson (via Zoom Meeting) Doran Crouse (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 and approved the draft minutes from the April 1st meeting, with minor changes by roll call vote: Andrade – yea, Duteau – yea and Gabor – yea.

Public Hearing (Rate Setting):

Mr. Willardson presented a slide show on Water & Sewer Department costs, Capital Improvement projects and their impacts on rates. This is the same slide show previously presented by former Superintendent Greg Woods. Mr. Gabor motioned for a 3% increase for both Water and Sewer which was seconded. The rates for FY-2022 were approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Gabor – yea, Mr. Duteau – yea and Mr. Andrade – yea.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:09 PM.

PFAS Update – The results of the second round (Confirmatory Round) of PFAS sampling/testing was received on May 13th. The results were in the same range as the initial round of sampling.



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Mr. Duteau asked if the exposure from the environment of PFAS will reduce over time. Mr. Crouse explained that PFAS has been banned in the United States, however some products containing PFAS is still being received in the country from overseas producers so the reduction in PFAS levels could take some time to be realized.

Water Main Project - Mr. Crouse (Interim Water Superintendent) provided a status of the Lincoln St., Whitcomb St and Nelson St. water main project. The Water Department performed a test shut-down of water on the East Main St line to confirm flow stoppage when isolated. The Contractor will be digging test pits and the intersection of East Main St at Whitcomb and Lincoln on Monday (5/17) to confirm project field conditions. The work on East Main Street will be a priority to get off East Main Street as soon as possible so as to not interfere with the gas company project.

Water Abatement Request - 3 Negus St.

The Board reviewed the abatement request for 3 Negus Street and determined that it does not fall into the category justifying an abatement. After a motion to deny the request, the Board voted to deny by roll-call vote: Duteau – yea, Gabor – yea and Andrade – yea.

Other

- Mr. Duteau asked if the Town was going to notify delinquent bill paying customers. Mr. Willardson stated he would investigate it.
- Mr. Gabor asked if the Town had a requirement to conduct annual hydrant flushing. Mr. Crouse stated he wasn't aware of written requirements to do so, however the MA DEP wants it to be done annually. Mr. Willardson stated he would reach out to former Superintendent Greg Woods for the extent of the last flushing program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM by roll-call vote: Duteau – yea, Gabor – yea and Andrade – yea.

Next Meeting- June 3, 2021 to be held at the Police Station in the Community Room.