



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Inspector General

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INSPECTOR GENERAL

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November 9, 2006

Dana Keenan
Town Administrator
Town of Webster
350 Main Street
Webster, Massachusetts 01570

Dear Mr. Keenan:

This office sent a letter to you in June 2006 regarding an open-ended contract with Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. that has been in place since 1994. This office has since received a complaint about the Town of Webster's contracting practices with another engineering firm, CME Associates, Inc. This office has been informed that the Town of Webster employs CME Associates to perform a variety of tasks and in doing so may be routinely violating several procurement laws including M.G.L. c.30B, M.G.L. c.149, and M.G.L. c.30, §39M.

Additionally, this office learned that the town's boards and commissions select contractors to perform services without any form of competition and require that private individuals and citizens use said contractor. Even though the individuals or businesses appearing before the town pay for these services, this type of arrangement is problematic and can lead to fraud, abuse, and a number of ethical issues.

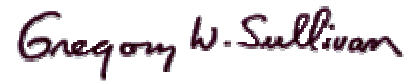
As stated in our June 2006 letter, the Town of Webster's bylaws speak to the use of sound business practices. Contracting practices which routinely disregard the law must be rectified.

This office understands that there will be a new Town Administrator starting at the end of the month. We request that the new administrator investigate the matter highlighted in our June 2006 letter, as well as, the allegations raised here with CME Associates including but not limited to a no-bid roofing project for town hall. I am requesting that the Town of Webster report back to me no later than January 15, 2007 with any necessary corrective action that is required.

Mr. Keenan
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Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'G' and 'S'.

Gregory W. Sullivan
Inspector General