



**Norridgewock Sewer Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2022
4:30 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

APPROVED
04/25/2023

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristina Gossman, Chair
Robbie Bickford, Vice Chair
John Ames
Ruth Keister

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Tim Lyman, Facility Operator

No other members of the public were present for the meeting.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 PM by Ms. Gossman.

2. Discussion/Action on September 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bickford made a MOTION to approve the minutes of September 26, 2022, as written. Seconded by Ms. Keister. MOTION PASSED.

3. Discussion/Action on Rate Adjustment

Mr. LaBelle provided an overview of the current rate scenario and the forecasted operating deficit. There were several scenarios presented that provided the commission with an opportunity to consider rate structuring and closing the operating gap.

Mr. Ames stated that he believes that people are experiencing tough times and that he is opposed to increasing rates. He questions whether there are other ways to generate revenue for the Department without having to increase rates.

Ms. Keister stated that she appreciated the proposal of assigning fixed costs to the stub fee and variable costs to the consumption charge; however, there is a major shift in cost burden.

Mr. Bickford stated that a shift to assigning fixed and variable costs as previously discussed is unreasonable, but it is beneficial to have the information for perspective. He asked the commissioners to consider adjusting the consumption rate and leaving the stub fee close to its current rate.

Ms. Gossman indicated her preliminary support for a partial adjustment to the rate structure or keeping it as it is an implementing an across-the-board increase, as has been customary.

Mr. Bickford made a MOTION to set sewer use rates at \$55.00 for the stub fee, \$0.09 per cubic foot consumption charge, and \$150.00 for the flat fee (accounts without public water), to take effect February 1, 2023. Seconded by Ms. Keister. MOTION PASSED, 3-1 (Gossman, Bickford, Keister in favor; Ames opposed).

4. Other Business

None.

5. Set Next Meeting Date

The next quarterly meeting date is tentatively set for January 23, 2023 at 4:30 PM.

6. Adjournment

Ms. Gossman declared the meeting ADJOURNED at 5:06 PM.