



**Norridgewock Sewer Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023
4:30 PM
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robbie Bickford, Chair
Kristina Gossman, Vice Chair
Ruth Keister

STAFF PRESENT

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager
Tim Lyman, Plant Operator

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Ames
Heinz M. Gossman

Also present for all or parts of the meeting was Wayne Libby.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bickford called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM.

2. Review/Approve Minutes of June 6, 2023

Ms. Gossman made a MOTION to approve the minutes of June 6, 2023. Seconded by Mr. Bickford.
MOTION PASSED.

3. Discussion/Action on Rate Payer Concern Regarding Outdoor Meter Reading

Mr. LaBelle provided a brief overview of the resident concern that was brought to him as a result of a vote of the Commission at the June 6 meeting: Commissioners voted to discontinue reading outdoor meters. Waterville Road resident and sewer ratepayer Wayne Libby expressed his concerns about the proposal and the implications for those who have paid and long-relied on outdoor meters. He also expressed concern for ratepayers, especially those on fixed incomes. Mr. Libby requested the Commissioners consider their previous decision, even if with provisions such as limiting outdoor meter reading to once per year.

Mr. Bickford stated that there was abuse by some outdoor meter customers; that was the root of the decision. There are additional concerns about the cost of meter readings, liability, etc. Mr. Bickford stated his support for the current position, which is not to read outdoor meters.

There was no action taken on this item at this time.

4. Review of Financials

Mr. LaBelle provided the Commission with current financial information compared to the same of the previous year.

5. Update on Wastewater System Mapping Project

Mr. Lyman stated that the project has moved very slowly, and only Welch, Pine, and Rebecca Streets have been completed. He stated that the contractor had an issue in the 10" line on Depot Street where the camera got stuck, and it was thought there were rocks in the line.

6. **Public Comment**

None.

7. **Other Business**

Ms. Keister expressed her opinion regarding the earlier discussion regarding outdoor meters. She stated her desire to modify the policy set at the June 6 meeting.

Ms. Keister made a MOTION to reverse the motion from June 6, 2023: *To discontinue the outdoor meter read program, effective January 1, 2024; to continue the offering of two pool meters to loan for up to two days at a time, for a deposit of \$50.00.* Seconded by Ms. Gossman. MOTION FAILED, 1-2 (Keister in favor; Bickford, Gossman opposed).

Ms. Gossman made a MOTION to uphold the June 6, 2023 decision but to modify the decision to grandfather in current ratepayers who have outdoor meters. The grandfather provision extends only to the current ratepayer(s) and shall terminate upon change of ratepayer. Further, the Sewer Administrator may disqualify a ratepayer from being grandfathered if it is determined that the meter is being used fraudulently. Seconded by Ms. Keister. MOTION PASSED, 2-1 (Gossman, Keister in favor; Bickford opposed).

8. **Adjournment**

Ms. Gossman made a MOTION to adjourn at 5:06 PM. Seconded by Ms. Keister. MOTION PASSED.