



**Norridgewock Sewer Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2022  
4:30 PM  
Conference Room, Norridgewock Town Office**

APPROVED  
10/17/2022

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robbie Bickford  
John Ames  
Ruth Keister

**STAFF PRESENT**

Richard LaBelle, Town Manager  
Tim Lyman, Facility Operator

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kristina Gossman

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

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:42 PM by Mr. Bickford.

**2. Discussion/Action on June 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Keister made a MOTION to approve the minutes of June 27, 2022, as written.  
Seconded by Mr. Ames. MOTION PASSED.

**3. Discussion/Action on Financial Review, Rate Adjustment**

Mr. LaBelle provided a brief overview of the department's revenues and expenses through the first eight months of 2022. There is a forecasted deficit for this year; it is estimated that there will be a \$12,000 deficit. Mr. Bickford inquired as to whether or not there was a forecasted increase in general maintenance costs, as the new facility begins to age. Mr. Lyman responded that there aren't any planned increases, but that anything is likely.

Mr. Bickford noted that he completed an abbreviated survey of area sewer departments and found that, overall, Norridgewock's rates are high. He also discusses that the department absorbs the costs of servicing the sewer bond, while the bond principal is paid for across the entire tax base; this is not an unusual scenario.

Mr. Bickford requests that staff develop several scenarios for rate adjustments to be reviewed at the next meeting. The review should include independent adjustments to the stub/base rate and usage. It is requested that a review of fixed and variable expenses be conducted, as the goal should be to assign fixed expenses to the stub fee and variable expenses to usage.

A meeting is set for October 17 at 4:30 PM, for the sole purpose of reviewing rate suggestions and setting new rates.

**4. Other Business**

Mr. Ames discussed his concern with the high cost of electricity at the treatment facility. He inquires as to whether or not solar would be a reasonable solution to help offset expenses. Mr. Bickford stated that he believes that there can be internal adjustments, such as four-hour overnight shutdowns, that can help reduce expenses; the decision should be left to staff. Mr. LaBelle states that the consideration of solar development would be more appropriate once the voters have had a chance to consider the current regulations being developed by the Planning Board. No action is taken.

**5. Adjournment**

Mr. Bickford made a MOTION to adjourn at 5:17 PM. Seconded by Ms. Keister.  
MOTION PASSED.