

**PROPOSED SEWER USE CHARGE ORDINANCE  
TOWN OF NORRIDGEWOCK**

- Section 1. The source of the revenues for retiring debt costs, capital expenditures, and operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection, transport, and treatment facilities shall be:
- \*Up to \$120,000.00 per year of the debt service of wastewater facilities shall be recovered by applying this debt to the general tax base;
- \*Capital expenditures and the operations and maintenance cost will be recovered from sewer use charges assigned to the residences and places of business connected to the public sewer system.
- Section 2. Sewer use charge rates shall be established by the Board of Commissioners on a yearly basis. In general, charges will be based on water usage. The usage shall be identified by the Norridgewock Water Department. The Sewer Use Charge will be computed and billed at regular intervals throughout each calendar year, as established by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners shall establish a flat rate use charge to be applied on a yearly basis to those users not serviced by a water meter. This flat rate charge shall be approximately equivalent to the average residential user charge in the Town of Norridgewock. A minimum charge shall also be billed to owners that are provided a service as outlined in Article III, Section 4 of the Sewer Use Ordinance for the Town of Norridgewock, but do not connect to the sewer system due to a finding of economic hardship, unless abated by the Board of Commissioners.
- Section 3. The Sewer Use Charge assigned to any property owner who contributes a significant quantity of commercial or industrial wastes to the public sewers, or who contributes a combination of sewage and industrial wastes to the public sewers, shall be determined on a special rate structure based on water consumption where possible or as set by the Board of Commissioners.
- The property owners to be charged in this manner will be determined by the Board of Commissioners on a year to year basis.
- Section 4. A special sewer use charge shall be assigned to any commercial establishment, industrial firm, or organization who, by virtue of the volume, strength, or unusual characteristic of their waste alone, would overload or upset the capacity or efficiency of the wastewater treatment facilities or any part thereof if such waste enters the public sewer, or whose waste disposal situation is such that it would be in the public interest to waive the requirements of the Sewer Use Ordinance. The Board of Commissioners, after appropriate study and advice from the Town's Consulting Engineer, shall assign a Special Sewer Use Charge to the commercial establishment, industrial firm, or organization by separate agreement with the user. The applicable portion of the preceding section, as well as the equitable rights of the public shall be the basis of such an arrangement.

Section 5. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right, from time to time, to change Sewer Use Charges originally or previously assigned to any property owner.

Section 6. Abatement of sewer use charges may be considered by the Board of Commissioners. The volume of flow to be used in computing sewer use charges shall be based upon, whenever possible, metered water consumption as shown in the records of meter readings maintained by the Norridgewock Water Department. In the event that a property owner discharging wastes into the Treatment Plant produces evidence to the Superintendent, demonstrating that a substantial portion of the total amount of metered water does not reach the Treatment Plant, the Board of Commissioners shall:

a) Establish a percentage of the total metered water to be used as a basis for computations of any credit to be allowed,

b) Determine a specific quantity to be used as a basis for computing a credit for a single non-recurring use, or

c) Direct the installation of appropriate flow measuring (and totaling) devices to measure and record the actual amount of flow into the Treatment Plant in order to adjust the sewer use charge.

Section 7. There shall be a lien to secure the payment of sewer charges legally assessed on real estate within the Town, which shall take precedence of all the claims on such real estate, excepting only claims for taxes.

The Treasurer of the Town shall have the authority and power to sue for and collect the sewer charges in accordance with MRSA Title 38, Chapter 11, Section 1208.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage at Town Meeting. This Ordinance may be amended in accordance with the general provisions of the Town governing all ordinances. Passage of this Ordinance shall supersede previous versions of the Town of Norridgewock Sewer Use Charge Ordinance, as adopted February 12, 1992 and amended on May 12, 1993 and amended on March 4, 1996. The invalidity of any portion of this Ordinance shall not invalidate any other part.