

Franconia Water Department Rate Increase Meeting
Thursday September 11th, 2025
Town Hall 6pm

In Attendance: Water Commissioners Richard Andross, Thomas Allen and Christopher Harris. Rachel Pluchino, FWD Administrator.

Motion made by Thomas to begin meeting at 6:00pm, seconded by Richard and approved unanimously.

Rate Increase 2026 – Public Hearing was held tonight immediately following the regular monthly meeting. The increase is 10% for Access Fees and Water Usage Rate, Endpoint Fees will be increased by \$0.01 to match increase made by Beacon Badger. Advertisement has been in Caledonian and Littleton Record for past 4 weeks.

New Rate sheets and an explanation of these changes was given to the public in attendance at the hearing.

Laura Gawel requested a breakdown of how this would impact her next bill. Rachel explained the breakdown of increases and how they would apply each trimester.

The average increase per Trimester for Franconia Water Department customers will be around \$15.00. This includes the Access and Endpoint Fee increase as well as rate for usage.

Bruce Hadlock discussed the usage of fire hydrants and their impact on homeowners' insurance. Unfortunately, the waterline does not extend to that area on Church Street.

Motion made by Richard to **Approve** the increase to the **Access Fee of 10%, Endpoint Fee \$0.01 per month** and **Water Usage Rate of 10% to \$1.65 per 100 gallons**. The increase will be in effect for Trimester 2026W01 to be billed in January of 2026. Motion seconded by Christopher and **Approved** unanimously.

Motion to adjourn made by Richard at 6:27pm, seconded by Christopher and approved unanimously.

September 11,2025

Dear Franconia/Mittersill Water Customers,

The Water Commissioners for the Town of Franconia have been tasked with the need to establish new Rates and Fees for 2026.

Access Fees will be raised by 10% for all size meters both residential and commercial. The last increase was in 2018 when the meter classification was reestablished. These increases varied between 30% for a 5/8" meter to 166% for a 3" meter. The increase for 2026 will be 10% for all sizes, \$8 increase per trimester for 5/8" (currently \$80 per trimester, will be \$88) the highest increase is \$110 per trimester for 3" (currently \$1100 per trimester, will be \$1210).

The meter company (Badger Meter Inc.), is assessing a monthly meter end point fee (per meter) of ninety-one cents (\$0.91); that translates to \$3.64/per trimester, per customer.

The water rates will be increased by 10% from \$1.50 per 100 gals to \$1.65 per 100 gals. Between 2018 and 2023 the water rates were raised a total of \$0.30 per 100 gals, this equals around \$0.05 per year.

Standard shut off and turn on fees will remain at \$125. Non-Standard shut off and turn on fees will be charged hourly rate per contractor used.

Final Reading/Final Bill Generation will increase from \$50 (established in 2020) to \$75 and Transfer of Service/Application Fee will increase from \$100 (established in 2020) to \$125.

New Water Service/Connection Fee will remain at \$1500.00 Property owner is responsible for all parts and materials needed to complete new service line.

The above-referenced fees will begin with the first trimester of 2026 which will be issued in January. The Water Department does not derive any tax payer monies; thus, running entirely on income from the current 323 water customer base (consisting of both Franconia and Mittersill).

With the rising costs of labor, parts and materials as well as postage, supplies, contractor increases and utilities, we strive to remain one of the lowest rates in NH while providing clean, potable water to all our customers throughout Franconia and Mittersill.

We are sensitive to these increased rates and fees to all our customers, and at the same time must be realistic to the balance of income and expenses.

Please feel free to contact the Water Department via phone at 823-7752 X102 or via email (waterdept@franconianh.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Richard Andross, Commissioner

Thomas Allen, Commissioner

Christopher Harris, Commissioner

*Signed Copy on file at Franconia Water Department

RP 09/11/2025

At a Public Hearing held September 11th, 2025, the Endpoint rate was increased by \$0.01 per month, Access Fees were increased by 10% per Trimester and Water Usage Rate was increased by 10% to \$1.65 per 100 gals. under RSA 38:27 The governing body, or board of water commissioners if any, may assess upon the persons who are served by the water system, or whose lands receive special benefit from the water system, their just share of the expense of constructing, acquiring, and operating the system or paying any capital debt or interest incurred for the system.

2026 Rates and Fees

Access Fee Rates - 10% Increase

<u>SIZE METER</u>	<u>PER TRIMESTER BILLING</u>	<u>ANNUAL</u>
5/8" Residential*	\$88.00	\$264.00
5/8" Non-Residential/Multi-Family	\$132.00	\$396.00
3/4" Non-Residential/Multi-Family	\$154.00	\$462.00
1" Non-Residential/Multi-Family	\$165.00	\$495.00
1.5" Non-Residential/Multi-Family	\$550.00	\$1,650.00
2" Non-Residential/Multi-Family	\$880.00	\$2,640.00
3" Non-Residential/Multi-Family	\$1,210.00	\$3,630.00

*Residential includes single family homes, duplexes and home occupations.

Endpoint Fee: \$0.91/month, per customer equaling \$3.64 per trimester billing (\$10.92/annually per customer) *Badger Increased Cost Per Endpoint*

Water Usage Rate	\$1.65 per 100 gallons *10% Increase
Standard shut off and turn on charges	\$125.00 - Contractor Increase
Non-standard turn off/on charges	Hourly Rate per Contractor Used
Final Read/final bill generation:	\$75.00 - Standard Increase
Transfer of Service Application Fee:	\$125.00 - Standard Increase
New Water Service Fee:	\$1500.00 flat fee plus parts and materials

**Delinquent accounts with any amount more than 60 days past due shall receive a disconnect notice via certified mail and shall be billed shut off and turn on fees per the above rate schedule. Before any service which has been disconnected is restored the customer shall make satisfactory arrangements for the payment of amounts owed together with the applicable disconnect/reconnect charge shown above.