

**Town of Franconia
Board of Selectmen's Regular Meeting
Monday, November 3rd, 2025
at 4PM at Town Hall**

Board Members Present: Jill Brewer, Eric Meth, Dan Walker

Others in Attendance: Libby Staples, Jenny Monahan, Sally Small, Dinny Richmond, Matt Koehler, Connor Jennings, Brad Olin, two other Eversource associates

The meeting was called to order at 4:00PM.

Appointments/Work Sessions

Melinda Richmond & Sally Small – Library Repairs Fundraising: Sally and Dinny updated the board that the library is in need of major repairs with a total cost estimation of \$350,000. The brunt of the cost is for masonry work, and the front steps need repair, windows need updating, basement needs work due to leaks and a door needs replacement. The NH Preservation Alliance will be coming to the library on Friday to discuss repairs and possible fundraising through their Seven to Save program.

There was also a discussion about \$27,000 from the anonymous donor for the project to remove the pole on the library lawn that abuts the Welcome Center parking lot. The project was never completed but a deposit was made to Consolidated Communications (now Fidium). Town Administrator Staples is facilitating a refund of those funds with Fidium. Once received, the funds can be redirected back to the donor to be repurposed towards another project, which in this case may be the library repairs.

Matt Koehler – Eversource Infrastructure Project – Helicopter Transport of Equipment: Matt explained that the X178 Transmission Line Rebuild Project replaces infrastructure from Campton to Whitefield serving approximately 30,000 people. Eversource will update wooden structures to steel, replace conductor and install optical ground wire. Due to the terrain involved, the equipment and crews will need to be airlifted via helicopter and Franconia is logistically the best staging location for this portion of the project. They will be staged on a private property near Easton with a flight path over unpopulated areas. The work will begin in January 2026. Eversource will be handling the stakeholder notification process.

Public Comment

None

To Sign/Approve

The minutes of October 20, 2025 were approved as amended. The minutes of October 27, 2025 were approved as written.

The board reviewed and approved the October 31st thru November 6th, 2025 Transaction List.

Vote to Expend from Highway Improvement ETF and Bridge Construction CRF: Chair Brewer made a motion to expend up to \$35,000 from the Highway Improvement Expendable Trust Fund for paving on Wells Road and up to \$29,000 from the Bridge Construction Capital Reserve Fund to cover the remainder of our match for the Wells Road culvert grant. Selectman Walker seconds, motion passes unanimously.

Septic Application – Hercheck – 283 Wells Road – Approved.

Clock Tower Painting Contract: Selectman Meth said the contractor from Moosehead Painting reached out for the second portion of their pre-season deposit. Town Administrator Staples looked into this today and said the contract states 10% deposit up front and the remainder due upon completion. Town Administrator Staples is waiting to hear back from Moosehead Painting.

Broadband for Transfer Station and Highway Garage: Selectman Meth said he reached out to our contact at Fidium about hooking up the transfer station and highway garage with broadband and eliminating Starlink, if Fidium is less expensive. Selectman Meth said it sounds like the cost would be higher than we are currently paying Starlink. He hopes to get more details this week and will update the board when he has information.

Correspondence

Town Administrator Staples read a letter from Eric Aldrich whose ancestor is buried at Willow Cemetery and is concerned about the existing storm damages and remaining trees on the perimeter of the cemetery that still pose a hazard to the cemetery. Town Administrator Staples said she responded to Mr. Aldrich updating him on the insurance and FEMA claims, work with the abutters to remove the trees and forwarded the email to the cemetery trustees.

Committee Reports

Chamber of Commerce: No update.

Conservation Commission: Did not meet in November, next meets in December.

Energy Commission: Met last month, next meets on the 18th at 4:30 at town hall.

Planning Board: No update, next meeting as regularly scheduled.

Chair Brewer mentioned how well the Halloween Cup went and thanked Katie Raymond and the Recreation Board for their work on that, and also thanked the Fire Department for overseeing the bonfire, which went very well. The board also commented how great a job was done on the clean up of both sites.

Town Administrator Staples said she met with the Overwatch Group, who she was directed to through Primex after contacting them about the cybersecurity breach and the town will be working with them to migrate the town website and all emails to a dot gov domain from the dot org domain. This is entirely grant funded.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:54PM.

Respectfully,
Jenny Monahan
Executive Assistant