

## **Selectmen to intervene in Aquarion rate increase case**

By Carol Britton Meyer

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HINGHAM - The Hingham selectmen intend to intervene in Aquarion Water Company's rate increase case.

Aquarion recently filed an application with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities requesting an approximate \$3.1 million, or an overall 24.8 percent, increase in water service revenues.

This would amount to an increase from \$1.67 to \$2.03 per day, or about \$10.80 a month, for customers using an average of 175 gallons daily.

A public hearing on the rate increase is scheduled for Wed., July 16, at 7 p.m. at Hull High School, 180 Main St. This will provide Hingham, Hull, North Cohasset, and Norwell customers and town officials to make comments or ask questions.

"We take our role as intervenors seriously and have had some preliminary discussions with the neighboring towns of Hull and Cohasset to determine what specific aspects of the request we find troublesome," said Hingham Selectman Bruce Rabuffo. "We think the rate increase request is higher than what we would consider reasonable and we are investigating the potential use of a professional intervenor – an individual with expertise on the matter before us."

The rate increase would help pay for more than \$21 million-worth of improvements Aquarion has already made for the most part related to water utility infrastructure, efforts to increase the water supply, replacement of aging and undersized pipes, and other needed water system advancements, Aquarion Sr. Vice President of Operations Larry Bingaman stated in a letter sent to water company customers in all four towns.

More information will appear in the July 10 Hingham Journal.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/hingham/news/x1743985194/Selectmen-to-intervene-in-Aquarion-rate-increase-case>