

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to object to the proposed water rate increase by Hampstead Area Water Company, DW 20-117.

The shift to a two tier rate for water usage is troublesome and arbitrary.

The cost of a Town or Condominium property for hydrant access is proposed to rise from \$200 per year to \$1,419 has no rational explanation. The hydrants are mostly inert and used selectively for fire suppression. It was always my belief that insurance companies preferred communities that had hydrants to more quickly prevent loss of life and property.

There is no evidence the fire hydrant number has increased to unfairly hold amounts of stale unused water; so why the dramatic cost increase?

Finally, we purchased a condominium in Atkinson and were of the belief that one with sprinklers provided added value and safety for us and neighbors. The water company now wishes a new charge of \$35.16 per year per home with sprinkler systems which contain stale water in the pipes. In both condominiums that we've lived in here in Atkinson there have been few sprinkler outbreaks; water is not being used regularly. If the rate is charged to the 1,084 Town condos as stated in the Hampstead letter, this is a grab of over \$38,000 to the water company per their spread sheet.

If the sprinklers and firehydrants were using processed water I think an argument could be made to charge for the water in static pipe lines. However, there is no data to suggest that is true.

Please oppose Hampstead's water rate increase until we, the customers, get a better value for what we are paying for.

Thank you,

Tom Kelley
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