



Jason M. Lajoie
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Mark A. Cook
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

January 31, 2022

Justin C. Richardson, Esq.
NH Water Law
586 Woodbury Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Dear Attorney Richardson,

Please accept this letter as my comments or testimony on behalf of the North Hampton Fire Department regarding fire safety and emergency responses related to the expansion of Aquarion's water service franchise to include the Wiggin Way development in Stratham, New Hampshire, pending review and approval before the NH Public Utilities Commission in DW 21-093 (Aquarion Water Co.). For the reasons explained herein, Aquarion's existing fire hydrant on Winterberry Lane in North Hampton provides a critical public safety benefit and would be used either as the primary or secondary source of water supply in the event of a fire emergency in the Wiggin Way development.

The Town of North Hampton is a party to the Seacoast Chief Fire Officers Mutual Aid District ("SCFOMAD") Agreement by which North Hampton and other Towns provide emergency fire response in the Town of Stratham, NH, when called to do so under the provisions and protocols established by the SCFOMAD Agreement. As a party to the SCFOMAD Agreement, North Hampton is called to respond and provide assistance to the Town of Stratham for approximately 3 to 5 fire emergencies per year. I am therefore familiar with the firefighting procedures that would be deployed by the Town of Stratham, with assistance from the Town of North Hampton, in the event of a fire emergency in the Wiggin Way system.

In preparing these comments, I conducted a site assessment of Wiggin Way in Stratham with North Hampton Water Commissioner, Mr. Tim Harned on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, including the existing cistern and the proximity of Aquarion's fire hydrants located on Winterberry Lane in North Hampton. Aquarion's closest hydrant is located immediately adjacent to the town line and Wiggin Way. There are a total of sixteen (16) homes in Stratham located between the cistern and the North Hampton town line. The cistern holds 30,000 gallons.

It is important to note that during a firefighting operation, a pumper truck is capable of pumping as much as 1,500 gallons of water per minute to fight fires. This means that the 30,000 gallons in the cistern could be used in as little as 20 minutes. This is an important consideration in responding to a fire which may require firefighting and fire suppression over an extended period of time. North Hampton can deploy 1,000 feet of hose from the hydrant on Winterberry Lane to make water available where needed, or, to reduce the distance and time to get water to tanker trucks which would then deliver water, as needed, for the duration of the response. Aquarion's hydrant on

Winterberry Lane would be the preferred option whenever possible because of the higher pressures in the system compared to the cistern which would have to be pumped and has only a limited supply.

This does not mean that the cistern would never be used. It could be used as a secondary or backup water supply in the event additional water is needed, dependent upon the amount of fire involvement and how much water flow is required to extinguish the fire or other circumstances. Both resources could be used as either a primary or a secondary source of water supply. However, Aquarion's hydrant on Winterberry Lane would be used as a primary water supply, given the proximity of that hydrant to the homes and strategically, would benefit in the immediate protection of those properties. The hydrant would provide an immediate and continuous source of pressurized water whereas a cistern has a limited supply of water in which a pumper needs to draw from.

Conversely, in the event the cistern is utilized as the primary water source for any home in its proximity, the hydrant on Winterberry Lane would, in all likelihood, be secured as a secondary water supply to ensure immediate, continuous water to the fire. This is a critical step to guarantee water supply is not interrupted or lost during firefighting operations, specifically when a cistern holds a limited supply.

I hope this information is helpful. If I can answer any further questions, please contact me at your convenience by calling my office at (603) 964-5500.

Dutifully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason M. Lajoie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jason M. Lajoie
Fire Chief

