Gmail **Kate Dumas <kateddumas@gmail.com>**

JBVD -- hydrants

6 messages

Dominique Winebaum <domiwine@comcast.net> Thu, May 21, 2026 at 9:22 AM
To: Carl McMorran <CMcMorran@aquarionwater.com>, christine Domingos <CDomingos@aquarionwater.com>
Cc: matt Scruton <Mscruton@town.rye.nh.us>, Kate Dumas <kateddumas@gmail.com>, elsie DiBella <elsied5@msn.com>, sam Winebaum <samwine@comcast.net>

Good morning Carl,

I hope this message finds you well.

I have copied our Town Administrator, Matt Scruton, and both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, Elsie DiBella and Kate Dumas, respectively. Kate Dumas is also a resident of the JBVD.

The Rye Budget Committee will be holding a public hearing on June 4th to review and approve the JBVD budget. As you are aware, as residents we have been concerned by the lack of high flushing of our hydrants in both the JBVD and RBVD. In an email dated April 7th, 2025, you provided the following answer to me:

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As I have taken a close look at the JBVD budget, I broke down the cost of renting fire hydrants to $3,000 per year for last year's budget. They are 34 hydrants.

Also, I understand you must fulfill the requirements as stated in the E-17, Annual Report of Hydrant Inspection, and this by only performing low flushing.

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Thank you,
Regards,
Dominique Winebaum

Dominique Winebaum <domiwine@comcast.net> Tue, May 26, 2026 at 8:09 AM
To: Carl McMorran <CMcMorran@aquarionwater.com>, christine Domingos <CDomingos@aquarionwater.com>
Cc: matt Scruton <Mscruton@town.rye.nh.us>, Kate Dumas <kateddumas@gmail.com>, elsie DiBella <elsied5@msn.com>, sam Winebaum <samwine@comcast.net>

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I should have known better as I cited during the presentation that the total number of hydrants for both the JBVD and RBVD was 66, however, the Chair dismissed my information and catalogued it as wrong.

Over the weekend, after landing on a 2006 Seacoast Online article “Towns hosed on hydrants” I realized that the number of hydrants for the JBVD was higher than 34, as per article. I shared the article with a JBVD resident who ended up researching the total amount of hydrants for both the JBVD and RBVD, which is 42 hydrants and 23 hydrants respectively.

In short, this is to provide a revised number for the cost per hydrant, namely approx. **$2,400** versus $3,000 as cited previously. Likewise, the number of hydrants for the JBVD is **42** and not 34.

I hope to hear from you soon regarding my requests emailed to you below on May 21st.

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Cc: sam Winebaum <samwine@comcast.net>

Good morning,

Apologies for another request to forward this correspondence/ email to both the BOS and the BC members along with Fire Chief Eric Lambert. This is a corrective to my email addressed to Carl McMorran on May 21st, after I realized that the number of hydrants (34) had been erroneously presented at a BC Public hearing for the Village Districts in 02/31/2022. If you watch the recording, you will understand the reason for the confusion. BTW, I strongly believe that I was muted (both video and audio) and after I had logged out and logged in again, I was able to present my points, which really did not matter to the Chair.

Here is the link to the article:

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Towns hosed on hydrants?.pdf
55K

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1. PUC Form E-17 for 2025 is attached. It doesn't summarize hydrant numbers by town and only itemizes individual hydrant repairs. There was only one repair in 2025 on a hydrant in Hampton.
2. One hydrant was flushed in October 2025 after water main and valve work. Otherwise, no other circumstances occurred that warranted water main flushing.
3. General water main flushing was conducted in North Hampton in 2024 and Hampton in 2023
4. To clarify this question, the towns and precincts do not "rent" the hydrants. Each municipality is charged Public Fire Protection charges as required by the PUC ordered rate tariff (page 4 attached). The current rate is $2,181.02 per hydrant; billed semi-annually.
    a. The reason for this is that the water system has larger tanks, pipes and other infrastructure than needed to meet just residential and business needs. Fire protection needs require hundreds of thousands of gallons of storage, and, pumps and pipes that can deliver thousands of gallons per minutes. These figures are orders of magnitude larger than what is needed to meet just residential and business demands. A portion of the additional cost of this larger capacity infrastructure is allocated to the municipalities since it benefits the general public, not just individual customers. While it may seem that the cost per hydrant is high, it actually covers all the infrastructure connected to each hydrant so it can deliver thousands of gallons of water to fight fires. I point out that while the expense of Public Fire Protection is a large line item on municipal budgets, it is offset by the benefits of lower insurance rates, reduction in property losses to fires and saving lives.
    b. Public Fire Protection charges are allocated based on the number of hydrants to each Town or Precinct. This policy is also defined by the rate tariff and was developed because the hydrants are the Points of Service for Public Fire Protection.
5. As I have explained before, the company manages flushing frequency and intensity on a schedule that meets reliability and water quality targets while optimizing the volume of water used and staff resources. Water main flushing too frequently can waste water and staff time for no benefit, add costs to our operations and unnecessarily contribute to higher water rates. Also, the frequency of flushing is not relevant to the water system's capability to deliver normal fire flow rates or volumes because the small amount of discoloration does not impair flow rates.

Regarding your subsequent email, you are correct that there are 42 public hydrants in the Jenness Beach Precinct and 24 in the Rye Beach Precinct. I will also say that Public Fire Protection charges have been a subject of confusion for years. They have been developed over multiple PUC rate cases spanning decades yet are all in the public record should anyone wish to examine the details.

I will be happy to answer any follow up questions from you or the Budget Committee.

Thanks

Carl McMorran, M.En.

Operations Manager

(603) 926-3319 ext. 116

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Subject: JBVD -- hydrants

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2 attachments

Public Fire Protection Rate.pdf
26K

AWCNH E-17 Report 2025.pdf
147K

Dominique Winebaum <domiwine@comcast.net> Tue, May 26, 2026 at 10:05 AM
To: Carl McMorran <CMcMorran@aquarionwater.com>
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Kate Dumas <kateddumas@gmail.com> Tue, May 26, 2026 at 5:48 PM
To: Dominique Winebaum <domiwine@comcast.net>
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Thanks Carl and Dominique. We'll share this information ahead of the June 4th meeting.

Best regards,
Kate

Kate Dumas
(603) 498-4462

Sent from my iPad

On May 26, 2026, at 10:06 AM, Dominique Winebaum <domiwine@comcast.net> wrote:

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Regards,
Dominique Winebaum

NOTICE: This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and proprietary information of Aquarion Water Company, which information is intended only for the use of the recipient(s) to whom this email is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately, and permanently delete the original message and any attachments. <Public Fire Protection Rate.pdf><AWCNH E-17 Report 2025.pdf>

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
ANNUAL REPORT OF HYDRANT INSPECTION
FORM E-17

COMPANY NAME: Aquarion Water Company of NH YEAR ENDING: 2025

Number of Hydrants Maintained by Utility: Public: 494 Private: none
Number of Hydrants Inspected and Flushed: 1,340
Number of Hydrants Found Defective: 1 (as reported below)

DATE	LOCATION	DATE OF LAST INSPECTION	NATURE OF DEFECT	CAUSE OF DEFECT	CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN
7/17/2025	H140	6/4/2025	Broken stem	Age	Repaired

Supervisor's Name / Title: Carl McMorran / Operations Manager
(please print)

Supervisor's Signature: Carl McMorran **Date Submitted:** 1/16/2025

SCHEDULE OF WATER RATES FOR PUBLIC FIRE SERVICE

Available:

To all customers using the Company's facilities for Public Fire Service.

Rates:

The hydrant charge for each municipal hydrant shall be $2,181.02 per annum.

Terms of Payment:

Bills for Public Fire Service will be rendered six (6) months in advance of January 1st and July 1st of each year. Bills are due and payable at the office of the Company on the above dates. The hydrant charge for each municipal hydrant shall be $2,181.02 per annum.

Issued: March 27, 2023 Issued by: Donald J. Morrissey

Effective: March 1, 2023 Title: President

Authorized by NHPUC Order No. 26,761 in Docket No. DW 20-184, dated January 19, 2023