

From: [Gray, Dawn \[BPU\]](#)
To: [Graham, Karriemah \[BPU\]](#)
Subject: FW: NJ American Water Rate Increase
Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 1:17:40 PM

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From: Philip Drangula <pdrangula@cinnaminsonfire.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 10:46 AM
To: Secretary, BPUBoard [BPU] <Board.Secretary@bpu.nj.gov>
Cc: Danny Norman <dnorman@cinnaminsonfire.org>; Kelsea Kravil <kkravil@cinnaminsonfire.org>; Jean Dietrick <jdietrick@cinnaminsonfire.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NJ American Water Rate Increase

To the Board of Public Utilities,

I am writing to stress the inconvenience that NJ American Water is causing on New Jersey Fire Districts with the continual rate increases.

NJ American Water has increased the Hydrant Rental in the past three years 9.5% and with the upcoming approval the increase will be 23.6%. We understand that there is a need for increases to provide a service along with constant upgrades to the system.

However, the most significant issue is the timing of the increases. As mentioned in the agenda the new proposed rate increase would take effect on September 15th of this year. This is the final quarter of fire districts budget cycles. Our fire district like others are required to submit our budget to the state for approval in December of the previous year. This increase will affect our budget as we do not have the extra money in the budget to pay for such a service and have no alternative option to purchase or price shop hydrant rental. Therefore, we will be forced to default on a payment.

Additionally, the rate increase for this service is within our 2% allowed budget cap increase. The proposed increase will significantly impact our budget process along with requiring us to spend more tax payer dollars on an election asking the public to exceed the 2% cap increase. If the budget vote is defeated by the public we will be forced to cut services (hydrant rental) or lessen fire protection due to the increase cost of service and the lack of funding.

Therefore, the Cinnaminson Board of Fire Commissioners are apposed to the proposed rate increase for Hydrant Rentals (Tariffs) by NJ American Water.

If you have any questions or would like to further discuss this issue feel free to contact me.

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