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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Forum Announced to Dissect Hingham Selectmen's Flawed Takeover  
Financial Analysis**

HINGHAM, MA. – To ensure residents have the facts necessary to make an informed decision when Hingham officials ask them to vote whether to acquire Aquarion's award-winning water system serving Hingham, Hull, and north Cohasset, Aquarion will be holding its third in a series of forums on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the South Shore Country Club.

Aquarion's assessment finds critical errors in the Hingham Selectmen's financial analysis. In fact, the assessment shows customers would pay up to \$40 million more in their water bills under Hingham Town ownership than under continued Aquarion ownership.

At the last forum hosted by Aquarion on August 13, the company was asked in front of a standing room only crowd of more than 100 residents if it would agree to a side by side analysis of its financial analysis as compared to the Town's financial analysis. Aquarion immediately agreed and has asked the Selectmen if they would also agree to this third-party review.

“We’ve offered to split the cost with the Town to have an independent financial audit firm evaluate the accuracy of both Aquarion’s and the Town’s financial analyses,” said John Walsh, vice president of operations at Aquarion Water Company. “We look forward to a quick and positive response from the Town.”

When Hingham officials initiated a takeover study in 2012, Town Meeting tasked them with completing a comprehensive review of financials, governance, and engineering. Now, more than six years later, the study is incomplete. Moreover, Court rulings have resulted in a price in excess of the \$75 million ceiling previously set by town officials.

The cost to purchase the water system would be approximately \$180 million including principle and interest payments to bond investors.

The upcoming Aquarion forum is open to the community and will provide residents from all three towns the opportunity to ask questions about the impact that a takeover of the water system by Hingham would have on the residents and businesses in Hingham, Hull and Cohasset. If you are interested in attending the forum, please RSVP to Ronit Goldstein at [rgoldstein@aquarionwater.com](mailto:rgoldstein@aquarionwater.com)

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