

APPROVED

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES Special Meeting Hooksett Public Library 1701 B Hooksett Road, Hooksett Tuesday, September 7, 2004

PRESENT: D. Belanger (excused), M. DiBitetto, P. Fitanides, Chairman Jolin, P. Loiselle, G. Longfellow, M. Ruel, P. Rueppel, D. St. Pierre, M. Sharma (Town Administrator)

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jolin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Water Fluoridation

Chairman Jolin opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm.

Lloyd Basinow, Citizens Against Fluoride, stated his organization has been against water fluoridation since it first came to Manchester at a referendum in 1999. At that time there was no sufficient information for the public to make an intelligent decision on the matter. It passed by a narrow margin. He added that the Director of Public Health endorsed the use of hydrofluoric acid. The Director of Manchester Water Works admitted that the chemical contains arsenic and lead and has never been tested. He read a series of questions directed to the Director of Public Health (not present):

1. Why have you failed as a Director of Public Health to protect the safety and well being of the community's public health and potentially placed it in jeopardy by not insisting on monitoring the use of hazardous chemical?
2. Is this not proof of your incompetence as a Director of Public Health?

He also stated that the United States is the only country that keeps persistently giving something to the public that has questionable health risks.

Dave Paris of Manchester Water Works and a Hooksett resident (14 South Bow Road) stated they were mandated to use fluoride after the referendum passed it. At that time, he was assigned to set up water fluoridation. The type they use is a high quality fluoride. He added that the concentration of fluoride in water is one part per million which is minimal and within the standards of the FDA.

David Heinlein, 38 Norton Ave., Manchester, stated he is opposed to water fluoridation. He added that he does not want to be forced to drink fluoridated water.

Sid Baines, 59 Farmer Road, Hooksett, stated his neither for nor against fluoride and he does not know enough about the matter to form an opinion but is concerned what would happen to Hooksett water being delivered from Manchester, which is already fluoridated, if fluoridation does not pass in Hooksett referendum.

Answer: Manchester Water Works cannot shut off fluoridated water to Hooksett. The fluoridation can only be implemented via aggregate votes in all communities.

Dick Marple, 11 Dartmouth Street, Hooksett, State Representative, stated that the consensus he got from his constituents is that the whole issue is more about personal freedom to be able to choose whether or not to use fluoride and being required to pay for someone else's choice. Because of this, he will vote for freedom.

Irene Coulon, 3 Gosselin Ave., Hooksett, speaking as a dental hygienist, she has seen a lot of tooth decay in children and senior citizens. She spoke about the benefits of using fluoride in water and stated she would vote for water fluoridation.

Gerhard Bedding, 8 Green Acres Road, Keene, stated he has a Master's Degree from University of Chicago and works as a full time science writer for science magazine. He added that health risks from fluoridation are well documented.

Stacy Plourde, 9 Cyr Drive, Hooksett, speaking as a dental hygienist for 15 years, stated the benefits of using fluoride. She added that the American Dental Association supports water fluoridation. She also stated that adding fluoride to water is no different than adding Vitamin D to milk. She urged everyone to vote whether they were voting for it or not.

Ed Groves, Hooksett, stated he is against water fluoridation and that fluoride should not be forced on people.

Rick DiPentima, Manchester Health Department, stated that 66% of American population is drinking fluoridated water. He also stated that the amount of fluoride used is so minimal that it does not present health risks. He explained that all water has some impurities and that it has to pass the National Sanitation Foundation of the American Water Works Association standards. He added that it would be a terrible step backwards for the health of children and even adults to take fluoride out of the water.

Jeff Gardner, Manchester, stated that he would listen to chemists, toxicologists and other professionals who studied the effects of fluoride for years and found health risks. He also stated that adding fluoride to water takes away the freedom of choice.

Jan Zivitski, 362 Sagamore Street, Manchester, stated that she knows a lot about fluoride because she studies it and uses it everyday. She explained the ways of using fluoride and the benefits from using it. She added that tooth decay is a big problem in New Hampshire.

Deb Piotrowski, 7 Cyr Drive, Hooksett, dental hygienists and a mother of two explained the benefits of fluoride.

Dr. Bill Hirzy, 506 E Street, NE, Washington, DC, stated that the benefits of using fluoride is very minimal that it is not worth it to take health risks.

Douglas Katz, 1310 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, dentist, explained the benefits of using fluoride. He added that he agrees it is not right to enforce anything upon people but if it benefits everyone, he would rather not see patients in his office.

D. St. Pierre: (Directed to J. Zivitski) We had a discussion on pharmaceutical grade fluoride and waste grade fluoride. What type do you use?

J. Zivitski: What I use is usually topical fluoride; it is a very high concentrated fluoride.

D. St. Pierre: Why aren't you using the lower level, which is being used in the water?

J. Zivitski: Because the age group I work with is between 6 months to 3 years old, it's easier to use on them and it adheres to their teeth better.

Question from the public: On the back of a toothpaste tube, why is there a warning to keep it away from children under 6 and if ingested, to call Poison Control?

J. Zivitski: We teach parents to use fluoridated toothpaste. The concentration is a thousand parts to a million, so, yes, it can cause fluorosis, that's why we educate them. The American Academy of Pediatric recommends unfluoridated toothpaste for children under two.

Question from the public: Are there any documented medical problems due to fluoride?

G. Bedding: Yes. It's not easy to find, you really have to look for it. People go to their doctors all the time with problems and they don't even think it could be caused by fluoride.

Question from the public: (Directed to Reps. Dick Marple and Ray Langer) I'd like to know how you voted on SB 449?

D. Marple: I voted for it.

R. Langer: I voted for it.

E. Groves: (Directed to R. DiPentima) I thought there is dental program in public schools for low-income families. Am I wrong on that?

R. DiPentima: We still have that but we don't have to do fluoride rinse anymore since water fluoridation and that's saving tax dollars. There has been significant improvement in children's dental health with water fluoridation.

Chairman Jolin closed the public hearing at 8:29 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn
Administrative Assistant

Michael J. DiBitetto
Town Council Secretary