

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF THE BOROUGH OF MANSFIELD

May 13, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Mansfield was held on Monday, May 13, 2024 in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, Mansfield, Pennsylvania with the following people present:

Vaughn Hoyt, Chairman
Chad Rugar, Vice Chairman
Barbara Carleton, Treasurer
Kevin Green, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Gerald Farrer, Secretary

Casandra Cowles, Administrative Assistant/Secretary-Treasurer
Christopher McGann, Borough Manager
Terra Koernig, Solicitor

Visitors: Kathryn Koury, Kathy Barrett, Susan Koury, Joanne Butters, Gary Butters, Jim Welch, Sheila Kasperek, Karri Verno, Adrienne McEvoy, Roger Stager, Richard Correll, Ashley Empet, Rose Mase, Steven Sargent
Helen Hawkey, PA Coalition for Oral Health
Sarah Welch, PA DOH
Cheryl Clarke, Wellsboro Gazette
Jimmie Joe Carl, Authority Engineer

Hoyt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Visitor Comments:

Rose Mase voiced her support for the removal of fluoride due to health concerns and asked about the timing of the decision. Rugar stated that the final decision would occur at the regular Authority meeting on Wednesday, May 15th.

Helen Hawkey, on behalf of the PA Coalition of Oral Health, clarified several fluoride misconceptions: it naturally occurs in water, serves as a nutrient, and is added to water to help those who lack access to adequate fluoride. She also highlighted the dental hygienist shortage, which hinders dental care access, and suggested that water fluoridation could alleviate this problem. The coalition may be able to provide funds to assist the Authority in upgrading the system, and she commended the operators for their work. Jerry Farrer discussed the CDC's and the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendation of fluoride. He noted that the school had discontinued fluoride tablets six years prior.

Dr. Roger Stager refuted the alleged health risks associated with fluoride, citing its benefits from his experience in dentistry and mentioning only six cases of fluorosis throughout his career.

Dr. Kathryn Koury relayed that Dr. Barry Clark and Kate Abadi, PA-C, supported ongoing fluoridation. Adrienne McEvoy inquired about the rationale behind fluoride removal and expressed gratitude for the consideration of citizen feedback.

Joanne Butters questioned if equipment failure prompted the fluoride removal proposal, highlighting issues with the survey's execution and the legibility of notes on bills.

Karri Verno inquired about the consequences of fluoride removal from water, and the dentists responded that cavity incidence would increase.

Ashley Empet noted that fluoride intake could be increased by consuming certain foods and using fluoride toothpaste. She discussed the side effects of excessive fluoridation and questioned the assurance against excessive fluoride levels in water. She mentioned that, unlike mandatory fluoridated water, fluoride tablets are optional. She also addressed the risks to operators and consumers and raised concerns about cybersecurity.

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Jimmie Joe Carl expressed concerns about the ventilation in the current fluoride room, emphasizing the need for external access only, and noted the system's age.

Kathryn Barrett shared her positive experience with fluoridation, having had only one cavity by age 30.

Solicitor Koernig explained that the proposal to remove fluoride from the water is primarily due to operational impacts, which are the Authority's main concern, and that maintenance and repair costs are significant factors in the decision. An analyzer can be purchased to alert for excessive fluoridation.

Sarah Welch of the PA Department of Health advocated for the continuation of water fluoridation, citing its benefits for everyone.

Hoyt called the board into executive session at 5:56 pm to discuss legal issues. Regular session of the Authority reconvened at 6:30 pm.

Farrer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gerald Farrer

Secretary