

Edgartown Board of Health  
Minutes of November 7, 2017

Harold T. Zadeh, Chair.

Kathie N. Case

E. Garrett Orazem, DMD

The meeting was called to order at 6:05PM. Permits were signed. The Minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 were approved as written. Also present were members of the public; Water Department Scott Ellis, Jim Kelleher, David Burke commissioners and superintendent William Chapman. Others included Art Smadbeck; BOS chairman, Meg Burke, MJ Look, Sara Brown, Deborah Gaines, Ellen Blodgett, Rebecca Brown, Heidi Boyd, Jonah Tucker and Paulo deloliveira. .

**Agent Poole** briefly provided the group with the status of the order made by the BOH on 10/20/2017 to make an upward adjustment to the towns drinking water supply to the optimal level for sound dental health by increasing the content of fluoride. Mention was made to the process the Board utilized in Mass General Laws, Chapter 111, 8C which provided the manner in which the order was issued. The discussion continued which would enlist the community in conversation regarding fluoridation and dental health benefits to the users. A time line was provided relating to the order which will take effect after 90 days as provided in the law. **Art Smadbeck** spoke of the process which would rescind the order and allow the voters of the town to petition the community and place the request to fluoridate town water on the April town meeting ballot. As of today's meeting the 90 day notice is reduced by 75 days for the order to take effect. **Chair. Zadeh** added the process would include educating the public on the benefits of fluoride and long term dental health especially in young children which is supported by Com. of Mass/DPH office of Oral Health commission, the CDC which names community water fluoridation as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Board felt it was in the best interest of the town and its inhabitants to issue the order. **Commissioner Burke** stated a petition is the only way the community can have a say in the order and there was no discussion prior to notify the voters before the order was posted once in the legal notices. **Dr. Orazem** added 25% of children with fluoridated water have fewer cavities than those without. He made it clear this decision by the Board was not made lightly and the process is not flawed. Mr. Burke stated it was the commissions' opinion that the law/process was not followed as town water users will not have a choice never mind the expense associated with the order. Supt. Chapman inquired if the Board was notified by the Mass. DPH that an adjustment was needed and if they initiated the order. Chairman Zadeh indicated the Board would not campaign against the petition, not rescind the order but follow process until completion of the 90 days. **Paulo DeOliveira** spoke in reference to a letter he received from M. Dolan, PHD of Belchertown, MA regarding fluoridation as not in the best interest of the Town. Mr. DeOliveira also would like the Board to consider rescinding the order as they may not have enough time to complete the petition in order to have the question placed on the annual town ballot as non-binding. Commissioner Kelleher indicated his concerns for the cost to the water department and tax payers in "adjusting" the fluoride content and the BOH's lack of communication with the water dept. At this time Mr. Smadbeck made a request for the Board to consider rescinding the order if 7 days prior to the expiration date of the 90 days the group has not acquired the correct number of signatures for town meeting ballot. At this time a motion was made by **Chairman Zadeh** to rescind the order 7 days PRIOR to the 90 day expiration of the order to fluoridate. This motion was NOT seconded, the discussion continued. Chairman Zadeh indicated with the seven day plan there would be no incentive to complete the petition drive. Mr. Smadbeck interrupted and again asked for the order to be rescinded today. At this time a motion was made and duly seconded to continue the discussion of fluoridation in the public water supply until Tuesday, November 21, 2017. The group left the meeting at 7:19PM.

The Board reviewed the final bills for FY2017 nursing service for May and June which was held until further documentation to the hours billed for case management. Both bills were approved after a reduction in the amount was submitted.

The Board discussed a schedule received from the BOS office concerning the FY19 budgets, annual town meeting and town reports for 2017.

Information was provided by Vineyard Conservation Society regarding a request to fund a program called "Take Back the Tap" which would provide an alternative to bottle water by installing bottle refill stations in public areas of town. The request to place the proposal on each Island town's 2018 spring warrant for purchasing and installing one unit each. The average cost per unit is between \$ 1,400.00 up to \$1,803.00. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

**There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Anthony-Hathaway, Assistant

Approved on: 2/13/2018

**Harold T. Zadeh Chair.**

**Kathie N. Case**

**E. Garrett Orazem, DMD**