

Town of Ashland

Public Hearing

January 22, 2025

Present: Chairman Tyler Michaud, Gayle Burby, Sherri Calhoun and Interim Manager Kevin Bushey

Absent: Gerald Raymond, Christopher Bessey

- I. **Call Meeting to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Michaud.
- II. **Public comments:** There were no Public Comments.
- III. **Consent items:** There were no Consent Items.
- IV. **New Business:** Chairman Michaud read the following: the purpose of this meeting is to allow the Public to comment on whether the town should approve or disapprove the continuance of fluoridation in the public water supply for the Town of Ashland. The Ashland Town Council and representatives from the Ashland Water District will be in attendance to answer questions regarding the referendum vote on March 17, 2025.

The statutory wording for the fluoridation referendum is:

“Shall fluoride be added to the public water supply for the intended purpose of reducing tooth decay?”

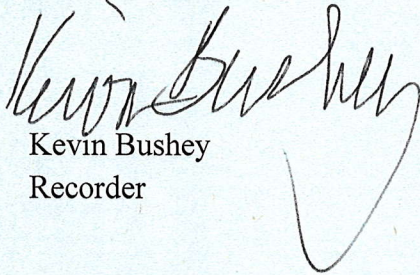
“Yes” means yes, **“No”** means no

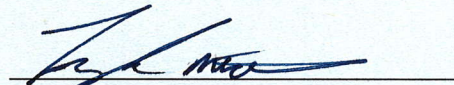
Chairman Michaud introduced Josh Fisher, representing the Ashland Water District. Mr. Fisher read a letter from the Ashland Water Trustees regarding their position on continuing the addition of fluoride to the town’s water system. (copy attached). An additional handout was made available to attendees (copy attached). Mr. Fisher also

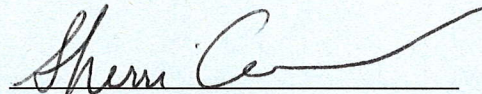
introduced Mr. Norman Labbe, in attendance via zoom, as a subject matter expert to answer questions on this topic. The floor was open to questions and answers. There being no specific questions from the audience, the chairman entertained a motion to adjourn.

- V. **Adjournment:** Sherri Calhoun motioned to adjourn the meeting, Gayle Burby seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

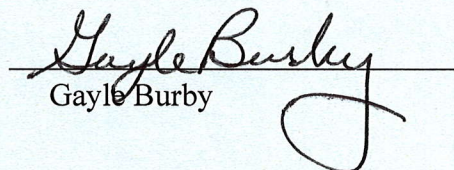

Kevin Bushey
Recorder


Tyler Michaud, Chairman


Sherri Calhoun

Christopher Bessey

Gerald Raymond


Gayle Burby

Josh,

This is the guide to my markings:

..... = Pause for a couple seconds

..... = Pause longer and make a point to look at the selectmen

Red font = Speak it a bit slower and with strength and conviction

Start:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important topic.

My name is Josh Fisher.

I am the Superintendent of the Ashland Water and Sewer District and am here to explain the District's position on the fluoridation of its public drinking water supply.

The Ashland Water & Sewer District Trustees' position on water fluoridation is that they are NOT a proponent of continuing to add fluoride to the town's public water supply and believe that there is ample evidence for the citizens of Ashland to reconsider.

Our goal now is to educate our local voting public about fluoride's relevance to dental health and about the concerns over drinking fluoridated water.

Adding fluoride to the public water supply does not help in any way to treat or make water potable. It was originally intended for dental health. Fluoride is most effective when topically applied to the tooth surface. Fluoride is being consumed at much higher levels than when fluoridation was originally proposed, and the consumption is considered problematic by many scientists and health professionals.

Ashland's raw water already contains a natural fluoride residual. Over a 15 month period the average residual was .17mg/l (0.17 milligram per liter). The state's target dose for fluoride is .7mg/l.

It is a known fact that fluoride is considered a toxin. For example, on a tube of toothpaste containing fluoride, it clearly states that if more is swallowed than what is intended for use, you are required to call poison control. This is because of the fluoride. A pea sized amount (as recommended) of this toothpaste contains about .25 to .3 mgs of fluoride, but drinking two 8 ounce glasses of fluoridated water at the

ASHLAND WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

P.O. Box 340
ASHLAND, ME 04732
TEL: 435-2223

ASHLAND WATER & SEWER DISTRICT POSITION ON FLUORIDATION OF ITS PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

The Ashland Water & Sewer District Trustees' position on water fluoridation is that they are NOT a proponent of continuing to add fluoride to the town's public water supply and believe that there is ample evidence for the citizens of Ashland to reconsider.

Our goal now is to educate our local voting public about fluoride's relevance to dental health and about the concerns over drinking fluoridated water.

Adding fluoride to the public water supply does not help in any way to treat or make water potable. It was originally intended for dental health. Fluoride is most effective when topically applied to the tooth surface. Fluoride is being consumed at much higher levels than when fluoridation was originally proposed, and the consumption is considered problematic by many scientists and health professionals.

Ashland's raw water already contains a natural fluoride residual. Over a 15 month period the average residual was .17mg/l (0.17 milligram per liter). The state's target dose for fluoride is .7mg/l.

It is a known fact that fluoride is considered a toxin. For example, on a tube of toothpaste containing fluoride, it clearly states that if more is swallowed than what is intended for use, you are required to call poison control. This is because of the fluoride. A pea sized amount (as recommended) of this toothpaste contains about .25 to .3 mgs of fluoride, but drinking two 8 ounce glasses of fluoridated water at the target dose of .7mg/l contains more fluoride than the recommended amount of toothpaste on a toothbrush. So if you drink 6 to 8 glasses of water a day, are you supposed to call poison control multiple times every day? Considering these facts and the risks associated with swallowing fluoride and getting it into our bloodstream, it simply makes no sense to continue adding fluoride to public water supply.

This is a matter of ethics and mass medication. We, the operators of the Ashland Water & Sewer District are not doctors or dentists, so why must we acting as such? We are adding 50 lbs of fluoride every 3 months to the saturator (the chemical feeder). There are serious hazards with handling this toxic chemical, requiring us to wear several pieces of personal protective equipment every time we handle it.

In summary, the District believes that with enough education and research by the citizens of Ashland, they will do the right thing and vote NO on fluoridation in March. Let's discontinue the use of fluoride in our drinking water supply and protect the overall health of our citizens.

Sincerely,

Ashland Water & Sewer District

Resource Sheet
Town of Ashland & Ashland Water District
Public Meeting : January 22, 2025 | 6:30 PM | Rec Center

Fluoride in Municipal Water Systems

This resource sheet is provided for the Town of Ashland inhabitants and commercial businesses who are customers of Ashland's Municipal Water District services. The Ashland Water District Board of Trustees provided to the Ashland Town Council at its October 8, 2024 Town Council Meeting a "Position on Fluoridation of its Water Supply" letter, dated, September 17, 2024. The signed letter stated **the Trustee's position that they are not a proponent of continuing to add fluoride to the town's public water supply**. Support documentation provided by the trustees outlined the requirement to allow the citizens to vote as required by Maine Law, MSRA Title 22 § 2651 on this issue at a general election governed by Title 22 § 2654. The matter was included in the November 12, 2024 town meeting and a vote in the affirmative to proceed to include the referendum question was completed. The referendum question will be voted on at the March 17, 2025 general election.

The statutory wording for the fluoridation referendum is:

"Shall fluoride be added to the public water supply for the intended purpose of reducing tooth decay?"

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Resources

The following research information is provided as a tool to aid Ashland Water District customers and voters in seeking data of the pros and cons of discontinuing Ashland public water fluoridation.

Why The Government Puts Fluoride In Our Water (youtube.com)

<https://youtu.be/XuMxAB9q92E?si=zcpNhlQJXFrrjjR>

Maine Oral Health Program: Water Fluoridation

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/odh/water-fluoridation.shtml>

Division of Environmental and Community Health: Fluoride and Fluoridation

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/fluoride.shtml>

What Your Dentist WON'T TELL YOU about FLUORIDE in YOUR Water (youtube.com)

https://youtu.be/72eyfZeKTTQ?si=OIaTk_dXY9S-93dK

Water Fluoridation for the Prevention of Dental Caries (October 4, 2024)

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010856.pub3/full>