

RESOLUTION 2026-022

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES TO RESUME FLUORIDATION OF THE VILLAGE'S PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the Village of DeForest water system was supplemented with fluoride additives for many years; and,

WHEREAS, on February 4, 2025, the Village Board adopted its Resolution 2025-001 to discontinue the addition of fluoride to the system; and,

WHEREAS, since the adoption of Resolution 2025-001, the Village has received significant public input requesting that the fluoridation of the Village's water system be reinstituted; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to §61.34 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Village Board is charged with the management and control of Village public services and it empowered to act to protect the public health, safety, welfare and convenience of the public; and

WHEREAS, although the issue of community water fluoridation has historically been controversial, it is a common practice in the United States, and is supported by public health organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Dental Association, the American Public Health Association and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board finds it to be in the public interest to resume the introduction of fluoride into the Village's public water system at the levels allowed by regulations promulgated by the US Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director of Public Services is authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary to reimplement the addition of fluoride to the Village's public water system to maintain concentrations of fluoride at the levels authorized by state and federal regulations.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Village Board this 17th day of March, 2026.

_____, Village President

Attest: _____
Callista Lundgren/Village Clerk

Vote: 3-3 Motion failed
Trustees Jan Steffenhagen-Bahr, TaySheedra Allen +
Jim Simpson voted no

Village Board Summary and Recommendation Sheet

Meeting Date: March 17, 2026

The Item: Resolution 2026-022: A Resolution Directing the Director of Public Services to Resume Fluoridation of the Village's Public Water System

Author: Bill Chang, Village Administrator

Judd Blau, Director of Public Services/ Deputy Village Administrator

Summary of Issue: In 2025 the Village of DeForest Water Utility discontinued the addition of Fluoride to the water in the DeForest Water Utility pursuant to Resolution 2025-001. The Village Board is now considering reintroducing the addition of fluoride into the water system.

Requested Village Board Focus: Possible Action

Recommendation (including rationale): Review and consider the resolution, the information regarding phasing, and the potential costs related to fluoride removal/alternate methods.

Analysis: The estimated cost for facilities improvements to add fluoride to the water system is between \$205,000 and \$245,000 (see January Staff Report). Additional information from WDNR confirms that the Village may opt to phase in the addition of fluoride by starting with wells which previously had fluoride added (Wells 2,3 & 4) while working through improvements and approvals as recommended/required for health and safety (Well 6).

However, this would bring the Village's fluoride concentration level below .06 milligrams per liter in a majority of the Village until the full system is up. This may also cause duplicative work for the Village in submitting two separate plans to the state versus one succinct action plan.

If a phased approach is preferred by the Village Board, staff recommend that addition of fluoride to Well 2 be postponed until the second phase in order to engineer, bid, and construct improvements at the same time. The fluoride installations at all four wells need to have plans and specs submitted, reviewed, and approved by the WDNR Drinking Water program Plan Review section, and they can be separate plan submittals for the two phases. WDNR reiterated that phasing is an option and not a requirement, which is subject to local decision making.

Additionally, the Village Board asked staff to research costs for alternate fluoride free or fluoride reduction.

1. Reverse osmosis home system:

- Approximate cost \$500-\$2,000 per unit, depending on size and loads.
- Pros:
 - Can remove up to about 95-99% of contaminants
 - May provide better water taste and odor

- Reduces scale and hardness
 - Reduces plastic bottle usage (as compared to the option below)
- Cons
 - Generally, it requires more water usage
 - Removes any beneficial minerals
 - May slow water production in home
 - Requires continued maintenance, change of filters
- 2. Bottled water
 - a. Cost is dependent on water usage
 - Pros:
 - Convenience and availability
 - Consistent taste
 - Options between differing levels of added ingredients
 - Controlled and sealed products
 - Long shelf life and emergency use
 - Cons:
 - Plastic usage has larger environmental impacts
 - Higher cost per gallon
 - Logistics for acquisition, storing, and handling

In addition to considering alternative options and costs, the Village Board should also consider the logistics of implementing such options.