

Community Action Meeting

Convention Center Meeting Room – Wednesday Sept 5th 7:30 PM

PROGRAM: Legal Defense Team • UN 21 (ICLEI) presentation by Clyde Cleveland
RF alternatives • RF water meters opt-out fee • Alliant RF meters future plans

Citizens for Safe Meters Reply to Ed Malloy's Letter in August Iowa Source

Citizens for Safe Meters in Fairfield greatly appreciate the Honorable Mayor's sharing of his perspectives, on this topic of great import for all residents of Fairfield. The following observations, and factual clarifications, are derived from testimony of many individuals who have participated in this ongoing interaction with the mayor and city council. This response is submitted for the benefit of those who may have been unable to participate first hand, but have an interest in gaining deeper understanding.

The Mayor:

"Your letters emails, and appearances have been received with great seriousness. And our response to your concerns has been swift."

As perceived by citizens who have been actively involved, their "appearances" and "concerns" at the city council meetings have not been addressed in good faith. At the council meetings any ability to speak was very strictly managed and controlled by limitations of "acceptable topic". In several instances, citizens attempting to address their concerns with health impact from the meters were abruptly instructed to sit down, as their position was considered "outside the topic".

After the first meetings relating to the opt-out ordinance, the standard practice of recording the proceedings for public viewing was not operational. Also, the microphone at the podium was not functional for these meetings. This strange lapse of public access was not rectified until the week after all the meetings for this topic were concluded.

The citizens do not feel their concerns have met with an appropriate response to a clear mandate from citizens.

As of this writing, subsequent to the petition objective signed by 14% of the adult population of Fairfield, to remove the wireless meters without punitive fees, Neptune RF meters are still being installed in town, (verified by a member of the council) — in spite of assurances from the council, that installation would cease. **1051 citizens signed what should be considered a clear mandate for their city council members, to serve the interests of those they are sworn to serve.**

At the 2011 city election the mayor received exactly 489 votes. The vote totals for the other council seats were: Silvers, 439, Rassmussen, 111, Hamilton, 87. In 2009, John Revolinski received 83 votes, Michael Halley 161 votes. Yet they are dictating the fate and compromising the safety of the 1051 citizens signing for safe meters, and all Fairfield citizens.

The opt-out fee is not accepted by the citizens, because it is perceived as blatantly unjust to charge the fee to people who were simply among the unfortunate ones to have the RF meters installed without their knowledge or consent.

Currently some 1300 Fairfield citizens are using the same touch pad meters as would be used after the opt out, yet only the opt out people would be forced to pay more for the same meter and service. **No reasonable argument exists for this discriminatory policy. It is seen as a prejudicial, punitive fee assessment, simply copied from other cities in which the utility companies found that such a fee was an effective disincentive.**

And the unlucky citizens must now pay this extortion, to avoid the harm of RF radiation, officially declared as a class 2 carcinogen by the World Health Organization, on May 31, 2011, and seen as a genuine health hazard by numerous prestigious groups of scientists and physicians and regulatory agencies around the world.

The city water monopoly has legal obligations to ensure citizen safety, and respond to the documented consensus of science showing danger from constant daily exposure to this acknowledged health risk. The citizens expect that the public safety for all citizens should be top priority, not some insignificant nuisance to be discouraged by fees.

The Mayor:

"We have also begun the process of evaluating an alternative technology that accomplishes the same safety and efficiency with less concern about RF emissions."

This begs the question "same as what?" The "same" safety is not acceptable. The citizens have spoken clearly, with 1051 adult citizens in Fairfield, signing a petition demanding removal of all RF wireless meters, without any opt out fee or the punitive disincentive charges currently imposed by the council. The citizens do not want "less concern" with some other wireless meter. The citizens want zero concern. **No wireless RF meter is acceptable.**

Citizens have reported strong negative effects from exposure to the RF meters. Citizens feel this should not be ignored or downplayed, as "just a few sensitive people". As printed on the front page of the Fairfield Ledger, May 30, the city council is on record, with Michael Halley stating that even if one person got sick from the meters, all the meters would be pulled the next day. At the council meetings, citizens reported clear health damaging effects from the meters, and Neptunes are still being installed. And opt out fees are still charged.

The citizens have proposed two alternatives: the fiber optic alternative or the touch pad wired meter alternative, which are both safe. The touch pad solution meters are quite efficient and cost about \$100 per meter, compared to \$255 on existing Neptune wireless meters.

The council would have been committing \$1,050,000 or more to the Neptunes, versus around \$400,000 for the safer wired touch pad meters. (continued on reverse)

The mayor:

"There was misinformation swirling about that led to a perception that the city was defending meters..."

That "perception" of the city's defense of the meters, among those who attended the council meetings, resulted from hearing that "defense" first hand stated clearly and emphatically. The following council response was **factually** recorded in the Environmental & Franchise Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes, 5/14/12: "Michael Halley explained ... with no evidence that the Neptune radio-read meters are in any way harmful to peoples' health, the waterworks department considers them to be standard equipment due to their cost savings and safety benefits."

(Note: the council ignored citizen requests to provide cost analysis substantiating any cost benefits. Citizen independent expert cost analysis indicated that, in fact, the Neptunes fail to produce any cost savings justifying the 250% greater purchase costs compared to the touch pad meters. The council claim of cost savings from the employment of one meter reader going to homes, over the lifespan of the costly meters, was not found to be accurate accounting. And the council failed to demonstrate the validity of that claim. As far as "safety benefits", it would be remarkable and decidedly unscientific, if they could somehow claim that meters transmitting RF wireless radiation are safer than wired meters.)

It is a matter of public record that the city has vigorously defended the meters. This strong defense of the meters was repeated numerous times during the meetings, and dozens more times, outside of meetings, countering citizen presentation of abundant scientific evidence of health risks from RF wireless radiation, and widespread recognition of that risk, from regulatory agencies and science and medical research organizations around the world.

The only "misinformation" swirling around came from the council and mayor's claims of "misinforming", attributed to citizens who were citing all the evidence of thousands of research studies from top level authorities in the field. The council's policy of total commitment to claiming safety for the RF meters is again seen as public record, as quoted in the Fairfield Ledger, front page, May 15, Halley stated again that he "considers the meters safe....we haven't found any evidence this is harmful". The citizens have found plenty of evidence, and do not feel it is fair to be forced to pay to avoid that harm, or even the potential risk of health damaging effects, short term or long term.

The Mayor:

"The position the city has taken is a blend of both the precautionary principle of do no harm and simple customer satisfaction."

The citizens are voicing their demand for **true precaution**, safety first. They do not see the rationale for any "blending". You either prioritize precaution or you are diminishing assurance of safety. Safety is either first or it is not first. To extort fees for citizen safety, for a lower cost, safe meter, is not acceptable.

Equally as puzzling is the reference to customer satisfaction. The city has, for years, imposed the RF radiation from the meters on the city without the permission or even the knowledge of the people. In this unilateral action by the city, where is the dialog that could form the

basis for assessing, and hence claiming, customer satisfaction? Obviously the actions of the citizens, and the strength in their numbers signing their petition, directly communicated to the city council and mayor, are striking evidence of dissatisfaction.

The citizens do not want any RF meter. They want a proven, safe wired meter, either fiber optic based metering, or the most cost effective and reliable touch pad meters. No RF meter is acceptable.

When the city proposed the Sensus meter, as a new RF wireless alternative, *described as "only once per month"*, **citizens asked the council if they would guarantee in writing that the meters would never pulse more than once per month, the city declared unequivocally there would never be such a guarantee.**

Review of the technical specifications of the Sensus meter revealed that it is a programmable customizable design, **which can be programmed to be read at any desired interval, and that it is designed to be integrated into a community network, broadcasting its strong signals to local towers, radiating constant signal which can be read at the waterworks.** From the Sensus 510 Meter spec sheet:

"The FlexNet SmartPoint M2 receives input from the meter register and remotely sends data to a walk-by/drive-by or fixed base collection device. The SmartPoint M2 easily migrates from walk-by/drive-by to fixed base by simply installing a Tower Gateway Basestation (TGB). It's powerful, industry leading two watt transmitter broadcasts over large distances and minimizes collection infrastructure. And once the SmartPoint M2 is installed, its migratable, two-way system platform can be updated without requiring personnel to visit each meter and/or inconveniencing customers."

The citizens certainly do not want this meter, **20 times as powerful as the Neptune. Nor do they want any other wireless meter.** Nor do they want powerful towers radiating into their homes 24 hours per day. The citizens do not want to live in a "sea of radiation", as part of a "smart grid" a few years from now, with indications that soon Alliant will attempt to follow suit and triple the magnitude of the problem.

The citizens strongly reject any such notion of being part of this "blender". They want true precautionary emphasis, "safety first" all the way, either fiber optic based metering, or the most cost effective and reliable touch pad meters. No RF meter is acceptable. The citizens want the proper foundation for safety to be established now, to protect our future. The citizens call upon the city council and mayor to "revisit" and rescind the opt out fees, and commit to the city wide installation of proven safe technology, using wired meters.

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