

As of today, residents of Grand Rapids were never legally informed that they were selected for fluoridation experiment.

July 24, 1944

Comptroller be instructed to draw orders in favor of the several parties as recommended, and the Clerk and Comptroller be instructed to draw an order on the City depository for \$100,177.95 to be disbursed by Treasurer to the several parties named in Comptroller's report.

Carried.

Yeas - Coms. Borgman, Foley, Kozak, Vanden Berg, Wagemaker—5. Nays—0.

80988. The State Department of Health is planning a long range experiment and have selected Grand Rapids as the city to use for it.

In accordance with their request, I am asking you to meet with the Representatives from the University of Michigan, Federal Government and State Health Department, as well as a Representative from the Kent County Medical Society, the West Michigan Dental Society and Superintendent of Schools, on Monday, July 31, either at 10:30 A. M. or 1 P. M., preferably the morning hour. They are particularly anxious to have the entire Commission meet with them, or at least a Committee of the City Commission.

The program resulting from the survey will be of utmost importance to all people of the nation from a health standpoint.

It is absolutely necessary to set the time of meeting so that I can notify the State Health Department to be here.

WALTER H. SACK,
City Manager.

Com. Borgman moved the recommendation be concurred in and 1 o'clock be the time of the meeting.

Carried.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

80989. A hearing has been held with the interested property-owners for the improvement of Green St. S.E. from Division Ave to Sheldon Ave

As the majority of the property owners are in favor of this improvement, we recommend that this job be approved and with the understanding that the same will be paid for 90 days after the bill is rendered.

Edward Borgman, John L. Foley
Committee on Service.

Walter H. Sack, City Manager.
Adopted.

Yeas. Coms. Borgman, Foley, Kozak, Vanden Berg, Wagemaker—5. Nays—0.

80990. File 80979, William and Constance Jarema asking that the Tavern license issued to Constance Dedinas at 309 W. Leonard Street be transferred to them.

As this application has been investigated and approved by the various city officers, we recommend that the request for transfer of ownership be granted, and the City Clerk so notify the Liquor Control Commission.

John E. Vanden Berg, John L. Foley, Committee on Safety.

Walter H. Sack, City Manager.
Adopted.

Yeas: Coms. Borgman, Foley, Kozak, Vanden Berg, Wagemaker—5. Nays—0.

80991. Your Committee on Finance recommends that the city waive the 50 per cent penalty on taxes on Lot 125, Fairfax Add., in the amount of \$94.15, provided the balance of the unpaid taxes, including advertising fees and interest to date, in the amount of \$200.97 be paid.

J. A. Kozak, Edward Borgman,
Committee on Finance.

Walter H. Sack, City Manager.
Adopted.

Yeas: Coms. Borgman, Foley, Kozak, Vanden Berg, Wagemaker—5. Nays—0.

On motion of Com. Borgman,
Commission adjourned at 7:35 p. m.

Jacob Van Wingen,
City Clerk

THE NATIONAL CRIMINAL SCANDAL OF
USPHS SELECTING AND PAYING FOR A LONG-
RANGE EXPERIMENT (UNNAMED) OF PEOPLE AT
GRAND RAPIDS. FDA HAD JUST WON CRIMINAL JURY SUIT AGAINST FLUORINE IN
A BEVERAGE AT O.S.M.

July 31, 1944

and school districts paid little, if anything, on their debts, despite the fact that debt levies were being made and the revenues used for operating purposes."

This charge is made generally against all cities under the 15-mill limitation. The article, so far as this city is concerned, is entirely without justification.

(1) On the question of delinquent taxes. There is no reason in law or justice why delinquent taxes, when collected, should not be appropriated to the purposes for which raised. In this City this has been done. Any that was raised for sinking fund or debt purposes has been so credited, but the City has lost many hundreds of thousands of dollars through the operation of the scavenger tax law.

(2) That the municipalities are being forced to seek State aid because they have dissipated delinquent tax collections.

This charge is wholly without foundation. In fact, the principal reason the cities are short, is the burdens the state, by law, has imposed upon the cities to serve its properties that the State has made exempt, and the increased activities and increased compensation in matters the State claims are of public concern.

(3) The charge that the cities are levying taxes for debt service and diverting them to other purposes. This again, is contrary to the fact. No tax levied for debt service is used for operation, and collections of delinquent taxes originally levied for debt service are credited to such accounts.

(4) That the cities have paid but little on their debts. In 1934, when this City went under the 15-mill limitation, it had

General bonds outstanding:

1934	1944	Reduction
\$7,790,500	\$3,411,000	\$4,379,500

Special Assessment Bonds:

2,410,600	737,000	1,673,600
(which if not paid from collections, are general obligations)		

\$10,201,100	\$4,148,000	\$6,053,100
The special Assessment Bonds		

have thus far been paid from collections on special assessments but, by reason of the scavenger act, it is probable that ultimately some amount will have to be met by tax.

Another cause of the shortage of money in the cities is that while all country roads are both constructed and maintained from the gas and weight taxes, 50% and more of all roads inside the cities are constructed and maintained by the cities. The cities pay 85% of all gasoline and weight taxes but they are returned only approximately 10% and the balance must be met by general tax. The same consideration to city streets as is accorded rural roads, would aid materially in solving the municipal financial problems, and if the State would refund to the cities the costs imposed upon the cities for what are claimed to be matters of public interest, the cities problems could be solved in their entirety.

Articles of this character are misleading and detrimental to the public interest and particularly to that of the cities and the urban population which constitutes 72% of the total. We believe fairness and simple justice require a retraction, and hereby request it.

81010. Dr. Slemons, City Health Officer, was unable to attend the Conference this afternoon relative to the Health Survey proposed in the City of Grand Rapids because of being out of the city. I went into the matter at length with Dr. Slemons last Friday and he was familiar with the whole program and advised me that he was not only for the survey but pleased that Grand Rapids was chosen.

A letter is forthcoming from Dr. Brooks, County Health Officer, and from the Kent County Dental Association and the West Michigan Dental Association endorsing the program.

I recommend that the City of Grand Rapids participate in the program and that permit be granted.

80 WALTER H. SACK,
City Manager.

Com. Borgman moved the recommendation be concurred in.
Carried.