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## McKownville To Vote On Firehouse Project

Residents of the McKownville Fire District in Guelderland will vote June 15 on a \$175,000 bond issue for purchase of land and construction of a new firehouse.

The Fire department also is asking voter authorization to begin condemnation proceedings against Potter Club Alumni association to acquire the land at 1248-1250 Western Ave. as the firehouse site.

Vying with the fire department for purchase of the land is R. H. Bowman Associates of Syracuse, who seek to erect an office building to be leased, the firm says, to a "very large national corporation."

Supporters of the firehouse proposal say the Western Ave. site offers easy access to the area by fire equipment, and contend that it would be virtually impossible to acquire another suitable site in the area. Proponents of the office building project say Western Ave. is a prime commercial area, and advocate locating the fire department on a nearby site, perhaps on a side street.

Fire department officials say the \$175,000 bond issue figure represents maximum cost estimates; is \$65,000 for the land and \$110,000 for the building.

Voting on the proposals will be from 7 to 10 p. m. June 15 in the McKownville firehouse.

April 1, 1966, page 4

## McKownville Court Ruling Is Awaited

A new fire station and new apartments in McKownville are both waiting on a Supreme Court decision in a land condemnation case.

The secretary to the McKownville Fire District's Board of Commissioners, Fred Abele, said a ruling may be forthcoming during April. It has been held up while a transcript of testimony heard by court-appointed appraisers was prepared for judicial review.

The fire district has asked the court to set a fair price for property on Western Ave. for use for a new fire station. The district has been trying for several years to obtain suitable land since the present station is not adequate to house the extra apparatus needed for protection of the area.

Condemnation proceedings were finally deemed necessary, Mr. Abele said, since the district found itself unable to negotiate a reasonable price.

Of course, Mr. Abele said, the court decision may not mean an end to the district's problems since there is always the possibility of an appeal if either side is unsatisfied with the ruling.

Also awaiting the court's ruling is Western Avenue Associates of Albany, a development firm seeking to construct a garden apartment complex at 48 Fuller Rd. in McKownville.

At a recent public hearing before the Town Zoning Board of Appeals, Lewis Swyer, president of the firm, agreed to defer his request until the court's decision was made.

The fire district suggested the delay since it feels it will have to expand before being able to extend adequate fire protection to the development and the rest of the hamlet.

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031267/1965-06-11/ed-1/seq-1/>

October 29, 1965, page 4

## Appraisal Awaited On Site For McKownville Firehouse

If the price is right, the McKownville Fire department will begin construction on a new firehall.

Supreme Court Justice Laurence H. Cooke is expected to appoint a three-member commission of appraisal, to set a price on the prospective site at Brookwood and Western Aves. All parties involved have agreed to condemnation by the fire district.

If the price is \$65,000 or less—the amount authorized for land acquisition by fire district voters at a bond issue this summer—the department will be ready to build.

The fire department's officials investigated 16 sites in the area before deciding on the lot as the only acceptable site available. Property on side streets is viewed as unacceptable, because of hazards presented by children and parked cars. The present firehouse has about a foot of spare space between the two trucks, and lacks storage facilities.

Opponents say that the new firehouse is surely needed — but not in a prime commercial location in town. Original owners of the property, the Potter Club Alumni association — graduates of a State University in Albany fraternity — planned to sell to Bowman Associates of Syracuse, who in turn hoped to lease a building on the site to IBM.

The property is now held by 1250 Western Corp. Should the court appraisers set the price at \$65,000 or less — as desired by the fire district — the corporation is likely to appeal, contending that its value to a private buyer plus legal and other fees have boosted the parcel's value.

Besides then appealing a higher appraisal, the fire district would have another alternative: Another bond referendum, asking district voters to authorize an amount higher than the \$65,000 figure.

The original bond issue provided for a total of \$175,000, including \$65,000 earmarked for land acquisition.

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031267/1965-10-29/ed-1/seq-4/>

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