

### Guiderland Move Planned By IBM Service Bureau

A spokesman for the Service Bureau Corp., of Albany, a subsidiary of International Business Machines, said Tuesday that the firm will move its entire business to the Town of Guiderland by Oct. 1.

Stephen S. Bohac, manager of operations, said the corporation has "outgrown" its present office at 37 Central Avenue. The firm, a data processing organization, will move into a new office building of the L. A. Swyer Co., Inc. at Stuyvesant Plaza's Executive Park.

The firm will occupy part of the first floor of the building, which has not yet been completed, and will employ 60 to 80 women. The office will be rented.

Originally, the service bureau had negotiated with a Syracuse firm about renting space at 1248 and 1250 Brookwood Ave., McKownville (Town of Guiderland) if a new building were to be constructed there.

But, according to Mr. Bohac, the corporation "dropped" the possibility of the McKownville site when it learned the McKownville Fire District was interested in the land for a new firehouse.

Bohac said the data processing firm was never interested in purchasing the McKownville site, but only in renting space from a builder. As it turned out, the fire district took the McKownville site through condemnation proceedings and will open bids, Aug. 2, for a firehouse.

### Fire Officials 'Shocked' At Firehouse Land Cost

Fire Commissioner Frank Casatelli of the McKownville Fire District said Sunday he and other fire officials are "shocked" by a tribunal's recent estimate of \$102,000 as the cost of land the district acquired in October, 1965.

The land, approximately 120 by 200 feet, is located at the corner of Brookwood and Western Aves., McKownville, and was taken through condemnation proceedings as a site for a new firehouse.

Casatelli said the district's only hope now "lies in Supreme Court Justice Lawrence Cook's review of the case."

The McKownville board had previously had the land appraised at \$50,000, following the recommendation that the district replace its present edifice, built in 1935 of wood, with a new building.

If the land were to cost the district \$102,000, such a price would be prohibitive, according to the commissioner, since the district is authorized to spend only \$175,000 for both the land and a new building. In a referendum a year ago, a bond issue was approved by the district's voters for that amount, with \$65,000 earmarked for the land and \$110,000 for the building.

As it stands now, the fire district owns the land, but doesn't know how much it will have to pay for it, said Mr. Casatelli. Judge Cook may "accept or deny the tribunal's cost estimate or lower it."

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031267/1966-07-22/ed-1/seq-5/>

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### Fire District Disturbed At Land Judgment

The McKownville Fire district is in a bind because the land on which it wants to build a new firehouse has jumped in value from \$42,000 to \$102,000 in five years.

Reason: its proximity to the State University campus. At least this was the opinion last February of a Supreme Court-appointed condemnation commission which set the figure.

The \$102,000 value was upheld by the Supreme Court recently. The fire district had appealed the condemnation commission's figure. It will continue to appeal to the Appellate Division, a fire district spokesman said.

The land is at 1248-1250 Western Ave., right around the corner from the district's small, outmoded present firehouse.

Supreme Court Justice Lawrence M. Cooke stated in his decision, "An award will not be set aside as excessive or inadequate unless it is such as to shock the sense of justice of the court."

Fire commissioner Frank Casatelli said, "As far as we're concerned, this is a shock to our sense of justice." He promised to appeal "all the way to the governor," if necessary.

Meanwhile, the commissioner said, the fire district will hold a new referendum on the \$102,000 price, plus the cost of the new firehouse and a new fire truck.

Bond issues had already been approved by voters for a \$110,000 firehouse and \$65,000 for purchase of the land. The new referendum will supersede these figures.

How did the land go up from \$40,000 to \$102,000? The Potter Club Alumni association (a State University fraternity) purchased it in 1962 for \$40,000.

Seeing the need for a new firehouse, the McKownville Fire Commissioners in 1965 offered the Potter Club \$55,000.

No deal materialized, so the fire district condemned the property with the approval of the voters. The Potter club then sold the land to Bowman Associates of Syracuse for \$67,000. This was followed by the condemnation commission's award to the Syracuse real-estate group of the present \$102,000 land value.

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### Fire Unit Plans Appeal If Court OKs Award

If the Supreme Court accepts a condemnation commission's recommendation awarding \$102,000 for land on Western Ave., the McKownville Fire District Board of Commissioners will appeal the award.

The commissioners announced this decision in a recent newsletter calling the price of the land taken for a firehouse site "unreasonable and excessive."

"If it is approved and were it accepted it should permit one real estate speculator to gain approximately \$35,000 of McKownville taxpayer money for property owned less than six months."

The district must have a new firehouse, and as soon as possible in view of rising construction costs, the board said.

The land in question, located at 1248-1250 Western Ave., is owned by Bowman Associates of Syracuse. Bids for construction of the firehouse were opened Tuesday.

The Syracuse firm purchased the land last year for \$67,000. A bond issue referendum passed by district taxpayers established \$85,000 as the maximum price to be paid for land, and an appraiser for the district valued the land at \$50,000.

Condemnation proceedings have been going on since last fall. If the court rejects the recommendation, another commission will be appointed and hearings held again.

The board hopes the construction bids will help to clarify the financial situation somewhat.

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031267/1966-08-05/ed-1/seq-4/>

<https://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/lccn/sn84031267/1966-12-23/ed-1/seq-4/>