

extracts from McKownville Improvement Association minutes - Water supply issues 1925-1938

17 March 1925

Motion made by A. Smith and seconded by C.P. Kimmey, that the Secretary be instructed to request the State Department of Health to make a test of the water used by this community.

21 April 1925

Secretary reported that he had requested the State Department of Health to make test of water used in this community

16 June 1925

A report from the State Department of Health on a test made from samples of water, some of which were taken from the reservoir, and others from the taps of the consumers, was submitted and ordered filed herewith.

Mr. L.C. West, president, stated that Mr. B.F. Witbeck had been advised of the recommendations made by the State Department of Health, and that Mr. Witbeck was willing to co-operate in every way to eliminate the source of contamination from the watershed of our present water supply.

The following motion made by Walter R. Marden, seconded by Alfred Garrison, was unanimously carried:-

That the president be and hereby is authorized to confer with Mr. Witbeck in connection with taking immediate action to eliminate the source of contamination from our water supply, also that proper signs be posted prohibiting all persons from trespassing or in any way contaminating this water supply.

21 July 1925

The President reported that he had carried out instructions on investigation of our water supply system with Mr. B.F. Witbeck and also had taken this question up with the State Department of Health, and was informed by them, that in order to establish rules and regulations it would be necessary for them to have a request come from the owner of the water supply system.

20 October 1925

Mr Gordon stated that President West had taken up with Mr. Witbeck the matter of improving the service of our water supply, and stated that Mr. Witbeck was now making improvements which would soon be completed.

[minutes after 18 Sept 1926 to 20 Oct 1931 are missing]

20 October 1931

Mr. Foskett moved that a committee be appointed to study the condition of the water. Motion passed. Committee: Raymond Foskett, J.R. Jenkins and Mr Ammenheuser.

16 November 1931

Water Committee report. Mr Foskett. The State can do nothing so long as the chlorine content is maintained. Dr. Barnett, health officer, is continually testing the water and states that it is perfectly safe to drink.

The committee suggests that a water district be formed.

Report accepted and filed. The President instructed the Water Committee to confer with the City of Albany to ascertain their attitude on supplying water.

15 June 1932

President Feldman reported on water conditions and the information received from the Albany Department of Water.

Moved and seconded that a committee be appointed to interview Mr. Witbeck and the Public Services Commission. Carried.

21 June 1932

President Feldman reported on the water situation that the City of Albany would supply water either through a district control meter, or individual house meters.

The committee to be appointed by President Feldman under action by the Board of Directors was named as follows:- H.N Vanneman, Weiler, Foskett, Jenkins, and Marden.

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W. H. Witbeck reported for the Pitkin-Witbeck Realty Co. that at present a new main could not be put in but they proposed to extend the present 4" main to easterly end of the district and raise the reservoir level about 7 ft.

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Moved and carried that our appreciation be expressed to Mr. W. H. Witbeck for his report and efforts on the water situation.

[letter 24 June 1932 from BF Witbeck confirming these committments]

28 June 1932

Mr Feldman reported that the meeting was called to hear the report by the water committee appointed at the June 21 meeting

Mr Vanneman read the letter from Mr Ben Witbeck agreeing to extend the 4" main down to Hillcrest Avenue and connecting in the side street pipes.

Moved seconded and carried we accept the report of the Water Committee and that the clerk acknowledge.

19 July 1932

Chairman Vanneman for the water committee reported that the new pipe had been ordered and would be laid when it arrived, and the Committee was continued.

18 October 1932

Mr Vanneman reported for the water supply committee that conditions were unchanged and the work at a standstill, but that Mr. Witbeck was back from Mexico and the committee was continued to confer further with Mr. Witbeck. Letter was read from Mrs. Finegan calling attention to the fact that the new main had been stopped at Brookwood [St] although it was the understanding that it should be carried to the Helme's line.

20 Dec 1932

Dr. M.O. Barrett was presented as the speaker of the evening and he gave a concise history of the McKownville water supply system and assured the Association that the water is entirely healthful and mentioned some of the improvements planned for next year, and followed this by suggestions and information regarding sewage disposal and the talk was followed by questions and discussion for some time. Dr. Barrett also offered to arrange for a speaker from the State Board of Health for the next meeting and the offer was accepted.

24 January 1933

Mr Feldman presented Mr Doppert from the State Department of Health who gave a very instructive discussion of the various steps and conditions governing the formation and organization of water and sewer districts in suburban communities and the benefits and advantages to be derived from such local arrangements. He also outlined some of the possible ways for improving the quantity and quality of water for this district, also methods of raising funds for such improvements. After discussion a vote of thanks was extended to Mr Doppert.

21 February 1933

President Feldman announced that Mr Jenkins had been named chairman of the Water Committee and Mrs R.H. Finegan named to fill the vacancy on that committee.

Mr Jenkins reported that Mr Austin (Public Service Commission Bureau of Water Supply) was making a survey and report would be made after the survey is completed.

21 March 1933

The Water Committee reported that Mr Austin (PSC) had completed gathering data and was seeking a meeting with Mr. Witbeck.

18 April 1933

Mr Jenkins for the Water Committee reported that the PSC had referred to the legal department the refusal of the water supply owners to supply information as requested and that a legal 30 day notice had been served, returnable April 22nd.

16 May 1933

Mr Jenkins reported for the Water Committee that the supply of water seemed to be diminishing rapidly and that the PSC had issued a warrant for a public hearing 10.30am May 18th, and urged all who could do so to attend the hearing.

The Water Committee by resolution was appointed the official representative of the Association for this hearing.

20 June 1933

Mr Jenkins reported for the Water Committee that the connection of the Brookwood supply pipe to the new main had been made with a marked increase in supply for those drawing from that pipe. Also he reported that a steel tower tank had been purchased but the present pumping plant is not adequate for the needed to supply the tank, and that a wooden tank had been secured to be placed on top of the present tank, which also involved some electrical difficulties.

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Mr Feldman presented Mr. L.R. Shearer a hydraulic engineer who addressed the meeting at some length on the various steps necessary to form a water district and gave approximate costs of a new system, and for "taking over" the present system and developing it to the proper state to furnish an adequate supply, and also gave approximate costs of getting water from the City of Albany, and putting in new mains; and a vote of thanks was extended to Mr Shearer for his talk.

25 July 1933

Mr Feldman reported that the PSC had intimated to him that if we considered getting water from the city or organizing a Water District that the informal proceedings would be discontinued.

It was moved, seconded and duly carried that the McKownville Improvement Association go on record publicly that the the present time is not favorable to make any change in the present water supply. Copies of this to go to the papers and to the PSC and B. Witbeck. The president and secretary to prepare the statement for presentation.

[13 Oct 1933 - Report of Public Service Commission on hearing 18 May 1933 on complaints about the water supply of the Pitkin-Witbeck Realty company]

[24 October 1933 - Public Service Commission order of discontinuance of proceedings]

21 November 1933

Mr Feldman read the final PSC report on the water situation, which closed the informal case before the Commission as of Oct 24th 1933.

15 May 1934

Mr Jenkins reported progress of water committee and read tentative agreement drawn up by City of Albany and water district to be formed. There were several discussions on different paragraphs of agreement.

19 June 1934

Mr Jenkins of the water committee reported that some progress had been made in the matter of extension of the 8" water main and additional fire plugs.

21 August 1934

The water situation was again discussed. Mr Feldman stating that he had been in communication with Mr Redmond of the PSC who told him that the best proposition would be to go to Mr Witbeck and ask about putting in a filtering system and said that if the Improvement Association would go down on record to pay higher rates the PSC would recommend such procedure. It was suggested that a committee be appointed to go to Mr Witbeck. The matter was discussed but not acted upon officially.

It was also suggested that an engineer be engaged to make a survey with the idea of obtaining some valuation of the present water supply system.

16 April 1935

Mr Jenkins read portions of old and new law re water supply stressing the fact that the additional requirements of the new law were that the water be not inadequate or of objectionable physical property. It was reported that some improvements had been made in the existing supply and that more are to be made to comply with the new requirements.

15 November 1938

Mr Parsons reported no unfavorable reports on water.