

Recently the Town paid Delaware Engineering for a report on the McKownville storm water system. It recommended that a new system be installed in the streets at a cost of \$6.5 million. Homeowners cannot afford that—the Town is attempting to find grant money but in the meantime, the old “clay pipe” system is what is being relied upon.

The May meeting of the Association will discuss all of this more thoroughly. The proposed tax is \$0.26 per thousand of assessed value. A \$200,000 home would pay a tax of \$52.00, and a \$50,000 home would pay \$13.00.

Each year the money will be put into a fund to maintain and repair the older “clay pipe” storm sewer system in McKownville—and to accumulate surpluses to build new lines. The Town Highway Department will do the work.

Around \$40,000-\$60,000 will be raised yearly---with \$15,000 used for maintenance and repairs and the remaining accumulating and used to construct new lines, as recommended in the Delaware Engineering report. Grants will supplement the costs of new sewer lines.

In 1949, the McKownville Improvement Association proposed a storm sewer district be created—the Town refused. (A copy of the memorandum concerning this effort is attached)

Town Supervisor Runion has pledged his cooperation in the effort to form a storm sewer district. (See the attached memo that the Board of the Association wrote to Mr. Runion spelling out the reasons for the proposal).

To form a special district several hundred signatures need be gathered, presented to the Town Board, and a general vote in the McKownville neighborhood need be held. A majority of those voting must indicate approval if the district is to be formed.

~~These are significant tasks and much help is needed.~~

The tax might be thought of as an insurance premium—paid to the Town so that each home will not have cellar walls caving in, or gardens that are frequently flooded.

Hopefully McKownville will take this opportunity to get the “clay pipe” storm sewer system under the jurisdiction of the Town so it can be inspected, maintained, repaired, and ultimately replaced and improved.

The older portions of McKownville need to tax themselves so that storm water damage is not a continuing problem and an improved storm sewer system is created.

No obvious alternative is available.

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