

Pray Church

MCKOWNVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of July 29, 1965

PRESENT: Dascher, Feldman, Hamme, Purdy, Reynders, Richey

Gordan Robinson as Supervisor.

Mr. Purdy, acting as Chairman.

Mr. Purdy called the meeting to order at 8:00 o'clock. He informed those present that although Mr. Abele was unable to attend, he had requested that a meeting be held on this date. He advised that the meeting was called for the special purpose of discussing the seriousness of conditions in the newly created Three Hills Terrace Water District, and presented a draft of a letter proposed to be submitted to the Water Resources Commission.

Church Pond
Mr. Robinson remarked that he did not consider a water shortage in the McKownville reservoir. He also read a letter from Mr. Abele and stated that he resented the contents of the letter inasmuch as plans were underway to obtain a long-term lease from the McKownville Methodist Church. Mr. Robinson stated that an informal meeting had been held and the Church was unwilling to sell its pond. He felt that if a lease could be obtained for the rights needed, the McKownville Water District needs could be satisfied. He further advised that Mr. Fraser had been requested to make the necessary engineering assessment of the amount of land that would be needed to determine rights of the dam control; thereafter prices could be discussed.

Mr. Purdy emphasized the need for control of water flow from the Church pond and that necessary steps should be expedited to obtain such control. He stated that the matter has been discussed for well over a year and now needs to be settled in lieu of the present Three Hills Terrace situation. Mr. Robinson reiterated that such action is being taken.

Much discussion took place on the contents of the proposed letter to the Water Resources Commission. At the suggestion of Mr. Hamme the points of restrictions and conditions were individually covered.

Point 1. "Water to be supplied from the McKownville Water District only on a temporary basis, for the period of two (2) years until December 1967, or until water can be supplied from the Guilderland Westmere Water District." Mr. Robinson agreed and said water can be expected from the Westmere supply long before December.

Point 2. "Water meters be installed on all services in the Three Hills Terrace Water District."

Point 3. Water to be used only for sanitary and household purposes; outside use prohibited."

Mr. Robinson advised that there is a petition signed by three-quarters of the residents of Three Hills Terrace indicating that they will be only too happy to comply with the restrictions. They only want water for sanitary and household purposes. Three Hills Terrace can be shut off at any time there is a shortage.

Both points agreed on.

Point 4. "For the period when water is being supplied from McKownville, water services to be only to those properties occupied with residences or business in existence on August 1, 1965, as this water service is being extended by the McKownville Water District to help reduce an emergency hardship condition to existing residents in the Three Hills area and is not to be used to promote real estate developments. It is known that on streets proposed to have water mains, that there are approximately 45 locations where residences could be erected in addition to considerable undeveloped acreage."

Mr. Robinson questioned this, but said he could not answer. In his opinion, he didn't believe it was legal, but that it might be possible for the Commission to do something. He advised that it would take approximately 2 years for such development -- by the time there were necessary planning board meetings, required engineering, laying out of streets and paving.

Mr. Purdy said he wasn't sure what the Commission could do and that was why he felt it was necessary for the Board to have it spelled out. Mr. Robinson said that he couldn't say there wouldn't be any other house built, but if there was, you cannot deny the right to tie in on the water line. He said that the Three Hills Terrace District could be shut off at any time there is a shortage.

Mr. Hamme inquired as to how many buildings could be built at a time without a permit. Mr. Robinson answered that more than 3 could not be built at a time. He said the Albany County Board of Health controls enter into this.

After further discussions of Point 4, there were no objections to the Board asking the Commission for a restriction.

Point 5. "Charge for the water to be determined by totaling all costs connected with operation, maintenance and improvements to the McKownville water plant, this total to be divided by the total of gallons pumped, all on an annual basis."

Mr. Robinson commented on the reference to the 4" mains in the letter and said that the engineer has stipulated that there will be a pressure valve that will maintain a minimum of 40 lbs. of pressure, and when below that, Three Hills Terrace will not get any water through the Birchmont District. One thing that may have effect on the watershed

increase or decrease, could be when Washington Avenue will be extended through the Colonie Road. He didn't know how it would effect McKownville but it may be 2, 3 or 4 years away. He said that the Westmere Water Supply would be in operation by that time. He said that the Birchmont District would be taken off of the present lines and it would add to the McKownville Water Supply.

Mr. Hamme said that he felt the letter was necessary since no records could be found of what originally transpired when the Birchmont District was established, although he understood from discussions that an agreement had been made for a temporary provision to the people in that area but that it never came about.

Mr. Purdy said that he would like to have a determination by the Board to present the letter in context to the Water Resources Commission and asked for a motion. Under question, Mr. Robinson stated that he felt the closing paragraph of the letter should be amended to clarify whether the Board was or was not willing to sell water to the Three Hills Terrace.

Mr. Feldman moved that the letter be adopted as amended to be submitted to the Water Resources Commission. Mr. Reynders seconded the motion. All agreed. No objections. Motion carried.

During the meeting discussions, Mr. Robinson informed the Board that the Albany County-Wide Sewerage Disposal study has been completed and that a report was expected to be made public by the end of the year. He said that there was an Albany County-Wide Water Resources Meeting held on July 14th for a comprehensive study of water conditions and for consideration of a study for provisions for the next 50 years. He said that the State will pay for the study. He said that the Guilderland survey is finished. There was discussion as to the amount of water that could be saved if the spillway was boarded up. There was no decision as to what action should be taken but it was suggested that the Supervisor have the engineer look into the matter. It was discussed that one member of this Board should be on the Town-Wide Water Advisory Board. Nothing was finalized.

The meeting of the Water Resources Commission will be held on August 4th, at 1:00 o'clock in the Town Hall.

Mr. Feldman moved for adjournment at 10:00 P.M.
Mr. Richey seconded.