

May 6, 1966

A REPORT TO THE TAXPAYERS of MCKOWNVILLE WATER DISTRICT

Since 1951, two years after the McKownville Water supply was placed in operation (Dec. 17, 1949), a Citizens Water Advisory Board has been in existence in the McKownville Water District to research the problems that have arisen in its operation and to make recommendations to the Town Board on solutions to these problems. These advisory boards have been reorganized and members added as the necessity arose. All members are resident taxpayers of the District. In May 1964 the current Board was appointed by the Town Board at the request of the McKownville Improvement Association, consisting of five members at first and later increased to ten.

Since May 1964 the Board has held countless meetings and upon the recommendations of this advisory group to the Town Board the following improvements have been made by that body.

1. DREDGING THE RESERVOIR at a cost of approximately \$26,000 has increased its capacity from 1,250,000 gals to 3,160,000 gals. This problem, under study since the mid 1950's finally became acute and immediate action had to be taken as the reservoir had so badly silted in. A new intake was constructed at the same time to replace the inefficient old one.
2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FILTER PLANT at a cost of nearly \$50,000 have doubled the filtration capacity of the plant to better than 500,000 gals. per day. This had also been under consideration for some years as it was the second phase of the original plan for development of the water supply. Its cost has been its hold-up. It was accomplished by the use of a new type filter, much less expensive than that originally proposed and much less space consuming, thereby requiring a much smaller building addition to house it than was originally planned. It is now operating.
3. WATER RIGHTS TO THE CHURCH POND - Fruitful meetings have been held with the Board of the McKownville Methodist Church, owners of the upper pond or reservoir which when finalized it is hoped will result in leasing or acquiring water rights to this all important backup reservoir which holds 7,000,000 gallons of water in storage.
4. ASSISTANT WATER PLANT OPERATOR - An assistant has been hired to work with Supt. Jacobson as it was felt no longer desirable to have only one individual familiar with and capable of operating this complex filter plant. The new man is a qualified water plant operator.

As must be expected the improvements have been reflected in an increase in the tax rate for the Water District making it now \$9.79 per \$1000 assessed valuation. However, it must be noted that this is still below the rate of \$11.12 in 1955, \$12.42 in 1954 and \$21.35 in 1951. It should also be noted

that improvements to mains made during 1960 and 61 replaced old pipe lines acquired from the old Witbeck system in 1949 and have resulted in fewer breaks and less maintenance cost.

During the past summer seasons the filtration plant has been operated for long periods far in excess of its rated capacity sometimes filtering 1 1/2 times as much water per day as it was designed for resulting in a very poor quality water. It is hoped that the increased filter capacity will now relieve this situation and give better quality water.

Severe outdoor watering restrictions were necessary to maintain sufficient pressure for fire protection. It is felt that these may be eased somewhat with the increased capacity but we must proceed cautiously in this regard as everyone is now aware of the importance of water conservation. Studies are underway in this regard.

A report of the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization as of October 28, 1964 was extremely critical of the capacity of the plant to cope with extended fire flows for such large installations as Stuyvesant Plaza. The increased capacity of the plant relieves this situation to a large extent.

The employment of a water plant assistant who would work with the Fire Service at the time of fires was also recommended in the report. The newly hired Assistant is an active member of McKownville Fire Dept.

This advisory board feels that even at such time when the Townwide water supply can be realized that with growth now projected for the Town of Guilderland out McKownville Water Supply will still be a vital link in this supply system and as such must be carefully conserved and safeguarded.

McKOWNVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD

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