

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MCKOWNVILLE WATER DISTRICT

May 17, 1966

Many items of improvement were accomplished during the past year and others seem on the road to being done so we have an optimistic report this year. Supervisor Walters and the members of the Town Board have given us excellent cooperation since taking office in January in our efforts to make our little water plant more efficient and to give us its maximum output.

Last year the reservoir was dredged, improving the raw water storage situation.

The filter plant was enlarged and now can filter up to double its former capacity. It can now process all the available water. However, it should be noted that the new filter is primarily to help with peak loads and is not intended to operate at this capacity all year.

Since the new filter was placed in operation early in the year the two original filters have been torn down and rebuilt to give better operating efficiency.

Early this year, upon the recommendation of this board, Bill Olsmitt, a resident of the McKownville Fire District was appointed as assistant water plant operator. He is an active fireman and thus fulfills the recommendation of the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization to have a liaison man between water operation and fire department.

Efforts to acquire water rights to the upper reservoir or Church Pond have been carried on but have hit snags. Meetings were held by the Water Advisory Board and the Town Board with the Church Board of the McKownville Methodist Church, owner of most of the pond. They are willing to reach an agreement. However, there is the matter of the other four property owners on the upper end of the pond. One of these uses water from the pond which he would not be able to do if the pond were to be drawn down. Furthermore, Mr. Fraser opines that in the event of draw down the water table in the area might be lowered affecting the users of wells nearby. The legal rights and responsibilities of the Town and the Water District are now being explored.

There have been questions as to the high cost of water this year. This is occasioned by the fact that the large improvements undertaken last year were financed by five year bond anticipation notes and have not been covered by a long term bond issue. This is now being explored for a solution. Since other improvements were under consideration it may have been the intention of the town to convert them at one time. If bonds are sold the rate per year on the basis of 20 years or so should be reduced materially. However, the total interest charges over the years will be four times as great. Studies are being made.

The Water Advisory Board has recommended a more reasonable and liberal set of restrictions this year in which outside water use would be permitted on alternate days over the period of most of the day. However, this is with the stipulation that water be used for not more than three hours at any one time and that reason be used. In the event of fire all hoses are to be turned off immediately. If these more liberal rules prove to be unsatisfactory a return to more stringent regulations will be necessary. It is hoped all will cooperate to conserve this most precious item.

Two recommendations of the Water Advisory Board to the Town Board have been recently placed in the hands of Engineer Fraser.

- a. The preparation of up to date detail maps of the distribution system as recommended by the New York Fire Insurance Rating Organization
- b. The preparation of cost estimates to install a second main on the north side of Western Avenue from the filter plant to a point of connection with the Stuyvesant Plaza lines. Mr. Swyer has agreed to bring his line to this point of connection. The purpose of this is to provide a second avenue of flow from the filtration plant to the balance of the system in the event that the big main on the south side of Western Avenue should be broken/ This was also recommended by NYFIRO in its 1964 report. The Stuyvesant main is now a semicircular dead end line.

The Water Advisory Board at its recent meeting recommended that a connection with the Westmere Water District be installed at the time its distribution system is built. This is for possible interchange with this district at a future date. It was the feeling of the Advisory Board that it would be much more economical to do the job now than to wait until later as costs are ever on the rise. This work would cost approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 as it includes valves, a meter and pit, pressure reducing valves and approximately 1100 feet of new 8" or 10" main on Schoolhouse road to replace the existing 6" line which would be inadequate. It was felt that in the event of emergency there is no longer a chance of getting water from Albany and that temporary fire connections such as have been used in the past could no longer service a district which has grown to such proportions as we have.

The Water Advisory Board has recommended the installation of water meters to all users. This controversial item has been studied since 1955. However, since all new systems installed will be metered it was felt that McKownville Water District should be likewise, again in the face of ever rising costs. *No comments from audience 5/10*

We have made many other recommendations such as cleanup of the filter plant grounds, an identification sign for the building, no trespassing signs and many other small items. Fencing has been studied but is very costly.

We are informed that Federal Aid is not available to communities not a part of a regional plan. However, we have recommended that no effort be left undone to get this aid if possible. A study of possible fluoridation of water in this system as well as the new systems being installed has been recommended.

Application of Birchmont District to be consolidated with McKownville District has been studied. It has been recommended to the Town Board that this be thoroughly studied before decision is made. Residents of Birchmont District are wholly within McKownville Fire District and the scope of this Association. Questions have been raised as to the possible cost of this move to McKownville Water District. After analyzing different approaches to the economics of the move it can be proved detrimental or not financially, depending how the figures are analyzed. In my own opinion a united McKownville is better than a divided one. Further analysis will be made in detail.

The Board of Underwriters have been kept informed of improvements which will affect their 1964 analysis of Fire Defenses.

Fred B. Abel CHAIRMAN
WATER ADVISORY BOARD