

SEWERS: WHERE AND WHEN? TOWN IS DEVELOPING PLAN

By JOYCE DURGERIAN

Decisions made during the coming months will have a significant effect on the sewerage situation in the Town of Guilderland over the next 50 years.

Town officials will consult with New York State and Albany County agencies and with representatives of neighboring municipalities on the various possible ways of solving the sewage collection and disposal problems of the Town in the immediate and long-term future.

Spurring them on is the New York State edict that a plan, for stopping the pollution of the KrumKill by domestic wastes from the McKownville area, be presented on or before January 2, 1968. They are also beset by the probability that a similar ruling will be issued concerning the pollution of the HungerKill in the hamlet of Guilderland. Under provisions of the "Pure Waters" legislation of 1965 the State has the authority to insist that municipalities discontinue any practices which contribute to stream pollution.

A Report on a Comprehensive Sewerage Study of the more populous eastern half of Albany County issued in March of this year by Malcolm Pirnie Engineers of Manhattan under a grant from the New York State Department of Health is expected to be the framework within which the decisions will be made.

Contributing to the study in Guilderland's behalf was Standard Engineering of 1743 Western Avenue. The firm was chosen by the Town Board in 1964 to plan a sewage collection and disposal system for the portion of Guilderland within the study area and to work with Malcolm Pirnie Engineers on integrating the local plan with the larger one. Approximately two-thirds of the Town's area, the segment east of a north-south line through Osborne's Corners (intersection of Routes 146 and 158, was considered.

The March 1966 report presented

alternate plans for correcting stream pollution conditions in the Albany County study area. Under one option, each municipality solves the sewage collection and treatment problems within its boundaries on its own. The other proposal provides for cooperative action among the neighboring towns, villages and cities.

In each case, Guilderland would construct its own collection systems. According to the Standard Engineering scheme, the sewer lines would follow the natural drainage pattern provided by the principal streams of the Town: the KrumKill, Blockhouse Creek - KaikoutKill, the HungerKill, the Black Creek and the NormansKill.

Since the immediate necessity is in the McKownville and Guilderland hamlets, collecting sewers would be built there in the near future—perhaps starting in 1968 and scheduled for completion by January 1, 1970.

Treatment and disposal on the go-it-alone option would mean constructing two plants. One, in the southeast corner of the Town, would take care of McKownville sewage and dump the highly treated effluent into the KrumKill. The other, located near the confluence of the HungerKill and NormansKill would dispose of the effluent in the NormansKill.

However, the inter-municipal cooperation alternate is recommended as the optimum solution for all the participating localities. Under that plan, McKownville sewage would be pumped to the Fuller Road - Washington Avenue junction of the main Patroon Creek sewer and thence to a plant on the Hudson River bank in Albany where it would be treated—for a price.

The HungerKill - NormansKill plant would still be used for Guilderland hamlet sewage and, in later years, with an enlarged capacity, for almost the entire populated eastern section of Town (including all of

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Westmere, the area extending out Carman Road to Fort Hunter School, and out Route 20 to Fullers Station Road.) Guilderland Center, eventually, would construct a collection system leading into a treatment plant already in existence on the grounds of the Voorheesville Depot. It discharges into the NormansKill.

The McKownville-Patroon Creek sewer solution depends on successful negotiations with the Town of Colonie and the City of Albany. The machinery for such cooperation is still somewhat vague. Will it be on a County Sewer District basis, a Joint Municipal Authority basis or an Inter-Municipal Contractual Agreement? Whether or not Guilderland has "suburban town" status will have some bearing on the situation. Without it the Town would be handicapped in the area of inter-municipal agreements.

There is another unresolved question which makes a good deal of the Town plan highly tentative. Now up before Albany County Health Department and New York State authorities is the matter of whether or not sewage disposal is the best possible use for the NormansKill. The creek has been considered one of the most important potential sources for a Guilderland municipal water supply. Perhaps all the Town's sewage eventually will have to be pumped to Albany plants for treatment.

All these questions make a discussion of costs somewhat hypothetical. The Pirnie report projects annual costs of \$50-\$60 per household in McKownville and \$55-\$65 in Guilderland hamlet. Lateral sewer lines are not included in the estimate. Engineers say they will run about \$10 per front foot. House connections would cost each homeowner \$300 to \$400. State and federal aid formulas have been considered in estimating the annual costs.

Town Supervisor Carl Walters is Guilderland's representative to the Comprehensive Sewerage Study Committee. James Martinetti is alternate. They and other Town officials will be busy this winter trying to untangle the snarled pollution-sewerage situation. Public information meetings are expected to be called to get reactions from the townspeople on the issue.