

McKownville Sewer C

By FRED Le BRUN

Costly but necessary was how a sanitary engineer described the proposed sewer system to be built in McKownville, at a public informational hearing at Christ Lutheran Church in Vestmere last night.

F. Thayer Martin, of Standard Engineers, the firm conducting a sewer survey for the Town of Guilderland, explained the how and why of the state-mandated system, at the invitation of the McKownville Improvement Association, to a crowd of over 100.

The sewer system, which eventually will be part of the county-wide comprehensive sewer

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er network, was mandated by the State Health Department after the state agency determined the present facilities are polluting Krumkill Creek, Mr. Thayer said.

“There is no choice for the people in the McKownville Sew-

er District,” Mr. Thayer said, but the engineer tried to show that the envisioned system would ultimately benefit the entire Guilderland area.

Plans for the system, construction of which would begin in McKownville and then extend

Costs Outlined

step by step throughout the township, will be presented to the Town Board for a public hearing soon, Mr. Thayer reported.

The county-wide plan, which includes the City of Albany, will not begin functioning until 1973, he said, but until two proposed disposal plants — one near Menands and the other near the Port of Albany are ready, McKownville would use Albany's present facilities.

An agreement between Guilderland and the City of Albany has already been drawn up for the interim period, Mr. Thayer indicated.

Ultimately, all of Guilderland's sewers would feed into a city trunk-line leading directly to one of the two disposal plants, the engineer added.

The interim period, he said, would span about two years, from the spring of 1971 when the McKownville sewer lines would be functional, until 1973 when the new disposal plants will be operative.

Project Costs

Westmere, which would be the first system to tie in with the new McKownville system, would share a small portion of the project cost.

Cost for the McKownville homeowner will vary, Mr. Thayer said, depending on the year and how many lots are involved.

For an "average" homeown-

er, on one lot, in an "average" year, the cost would be about \$95, Mr. Thayer predicted. This does not include cost of hooking into the system in the first place, which could run from \$400 to \$500 per home, he added.

The cost formula, which Mr. Thayer will recommend to the town board, is set up to include such divergent users of the system as a shopping center and a one-family residence. (Stuyvesant Plaza, for example, would pay the equivalent of 165 homes, Mr. Thayer said.)

Cost passed on to the user is divided into five items, the engineer said: debt for basic system; debt for excess capacity; debt for county facility; local operating cost, and annual charge, first payable to Albany and later to the County sewer district.

For the average homeowner in McKownville, in an average year, cost of the basic system and county facility debt, plus annual charge, is \$65. Local operating costs will be added to the semi-annual water bill, and would come to about \$15 yearly; and debt for excess facilities would be shared by everyone in the district at about \$12 per year.

Installation Plan

Trunk lines of the new system would probably be placed through the middle of existing

streets, with outlets to each property line.

Standard Engineers will send teams to each home in McKownville to advise the owners on the best and most economical way of hooking into these trunklines, Mr. Thayer said.

Questioned on how long after

the sem is complete will homeowners be required to join, Mr. Tyer reminded the audience at the town is under mandate to stop pollution, and that State Health Department will probably give the town a year after completion to have residents hooked up.

After the town board has held a public hearing and voted to accept the program, state and federal agencies must approve the plans also. Construction should begin next fall, with the first homes connected sometime in the summer of 1970, Mr. Thayer said.