

A REPORT TO THE MCKOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ON THE
WATER SYSTEM AND ACTIVITIES OF THE WATER ADVISORY BOARD
May 16, 1967

During the past year your Water Advisory Board has held several meetings and made numerous recommendations to the Town Board for their action. Some of these have been carried out, others are in process, and others have yet to be accomplished.

After a study of the financing of the outstanding indebtedness for recent improvements, the Board recommended the speedy conversion of the outstanding bond anticipation notes to long term bonds to reduce the amount of the annual budget. The Town Board undertook to do this, combining the bonds into one sale with the bonds for the Westmere Water District to obtain the best possible interest rate. In anticipation of this action the tax rate was reduced from \$9.79 per thousand assessed valuation to \$6.535 per \$1000, and this in spite of an increase in salary for our hard working water plant operator and his assistant, first in a number of years. (I have just heard that the actual sale of the bonds was held up on the recommendation of the bonding company due to a sudden rise in interest rates but will soon be undertaken).

The new diatomaceous earth filter was placed in service last summer. Some difficulties in operation were encountered during the extremely hot weather which impaired its operating efficiency. However, it added materially to the capacity of operation and permitted the overworked sand filters to be taken out of service one by one for a much needed rehabilitation. Methods are being studied to make the new filter operation more efficient.

Restrictions on use of water were reduced from previous summers on a trial basis for the first time since their imposition in 1956. Early in July it became apparent that more stringent restrictions would have to be imposed due to lack of cooperation of some residents. However, a warning issued by the Town Board at the request of this Water Advisory Board brought about less use of water and we got by. We have recommended similar restrictions this year. Water use in July jumped to a new high with 550,000 gallons being pumped on July 2nd.

Water meters for McKownville Water District have been recommended by this Board. After many years of study of the pros and cons of this installation it was felt that our system should conform to the other districts which will also be so equipped. It has been proven that water use and waste has been reduced up to 15% in some districts after meters were installed. Bids were taken by the Town Board on April 26th to purchase the meters on one contract to equip McKownville, Westmere and Birchmont Water Districts. Of 4 bidders American Meter Co. was successful at \$33.30 per unit plus \$13.00 per unit for outside reading devices. The feeling of this Board is that installation should be done on a contract basis on bid with the total charge for this plus cost of meters being financed on a bond issue to be reflected in the annual taxrate as this is a benefit for the district as a whole.

Effect of the proposed Washington Avenue extension beyond Fuller Road and the Thruway was studied and contact with the District Office of the Dept. of Public Works made. They have made suggestions as to how the feeder stream can be protected and we have requested a chance to review the preliminary plans to determine if satisfactory. After this construction is finished we should benefit rather than suffer by the protected area which will add to our watershed.

Passing of J. Francis Purdy was a great loss to this Water Advisory Board since his untiring efforts provided a great deal of the leg work needed. The board now has 8 members, Abele, Feldmann, Hamme, Dascher, Tom King, Schwartz, Zyniecki and L.A.Swyer.

An alternate main on the North side of Western Avenue to provide an alternate water route via Stuyvesant Plaza is under design by Fraser Associates, Engineers. Snags have been encountered as additional shut offs must be provided.

Mapping of the mains, valves and hydrants of the McKownville and Birchmont districts are virtually complete as well as a study of the feasibility of consolidating these districts and improvements to the Birchmont system.

Tabulations of water pumped and water used are being undertaken which will be of great help to this Board and the Town Board and will give a greater indication of how far we can go in expanding water use without placing the interests of residents of the District in jeopardy. Further consideration will be given to the possibility of raising the dam to impounding more water for storage.

Negotiations are dormant for the moment on acquisition by lease of water rights to the Church Pond due to opposition to other property owners who abut the pond. It is felt that when installation of the Westmere system is complete these problems may be overcome.

Some cleaning up of the filter plant has been accomplished. No trespassing signs have been erected as well as an identification sign installed on the front of the building. Fencing of the entire reservoir was ruled out as prohibitive in cost at this time.

A boat was purchased for more efficient treatment of the pond and a study of the feasibility of Fluoridation of the water was recommended

Your chairman, Fred Abele, has consented to serve also on the Townwide Water Advisory Board as a liason man and was present to study the sample meters provided by the four bidders.

A very good liason has been maintained with the Town Board and Supervisor Walters has been most cooperative and helpful.

Consideration will be given shortly to obtaining the services of a consulting chemist to check on the quality of the water produced and to make recommendations or set up methods for improving the water.

It is becoming more apparent that with the growth of the Town as well as this hamlet of McKownville that the problems of providing sufficient good water are increasing in scope and complexity and the advisory boards will be called upon to do more and more leg work to provide the Town Board with sufficient information to cope with its problems.

Fred B. Abele, Chairman
MCKOWNVILLE WATER ADVISORY BOARD