

REPORT TO THE MCKOWNVILLE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ON THE
MCKOWNVILLE WATER SYSTEM AND WATER ADVISORY BOARD - MAY 21, 1968

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During the past year the McKownville Water Advisory Board held a number of meetings and made a series of studies and made recommendations to the Town Board. Cooperation of Town Officials has been excellent and many suggested improvements have been expedited.

The long discussed water meters are finally being installed. Towne Piping Contractors, in the Town of Guilderland was low bidder and began the meter installation the first week of January. Installation should be complete by the end of May. On the recommendations of the Water Advisory Board this work was put up for bid with a detailed set of specifications prepared by J. Kenneth Fraser Associates, Engineers. This obviously paid off as most contingencies had been provided for and the quality of workmanship has been excellent in nearly all cases. Bid price for the installation was \$42,394 to be paid for by bonds of the Water District.

A supervising Chemist was recommended by the Water Advisory Board and was hired as of January 1st to make recommendations for improvements to the treatment of the water. He has already recommended changes in the treatment of the reservoir to reduce the algae growth and improve the quality of the raw water. He has also recommended changes to improve ~~work~~ the efficiency of the settling basin by altering the dosage of alum. This should also increase the efficiency of the sand filters. He is studying improvements to the methods of operating the new Diatomaceous Earth Filter to increase its efficiency which it was felt never came up to expectations.

A thorough study of the Consolidation of the McKownville and Birchmont Water Districts was made including its financial effects. As a result the consolidation was approved by the Town Board. It has been recommended to the Town Board that the improvements considered as a part of this consolidation be made without delay before any appreciable rise in cost.

Effects of the Washington Avenue extension on our watershed were studied and recommendations made to the State Dept. of Transportation. Safeguards are provided by the plans and specifications both during and following construction. Highway drainage should increase our water collection area. I was present at the pre construction conference at the District #1 office and have been in touch with the resident Engineer as well as personally visiting the site to follow up the construction.

A study was made by this Board on improvements to the distribution system at Stuyvesant Plaza and how it could be tied into the plans for a new main on the North Side of Western Avenue which was recommended in the report on the fire defenses in 1964. It was found that a cooperative effort could be made by the District and Stuyvesant to bring the line to their property line and complete their piping into a more efficient loop system. This would give water an alternate path to reach the balance of the District should the big main on the South side of Western Avenue be damaged. The cost was proven to be negligible (approx. 60¢ per thousand assessed valuation for the work being contemplated). It was also noted that Mr. Swyers assessed valuation now constitutes 20% of that of the entire District and will reach 25% when work underway or about

to commence is completed. Mr. Swyer will pay a portion of the cost directly as well as an additional amount through taxes. Included in the package was an easement to tile additional amounts of the feeder stream, now an unsightly mess and to provide parking area over it. Fraser Associates is now preparing details. A permissive referendum is necessary.

A new roof was installed over the settling basin at the filter plant. The old one, in place since 1949, had deteriorated from the moisture.

Outside sprinkling regulations were recommended to be the same as used last year and the Town Board adopted this system accordingly.

The valve connection between Westmere and McKownville Water Districts is to be set in a "demand" position as recommended backing up the pressure in our own district when necessary, without manually opening valves.

A survey made of the elevated storage tank revealed it should be cleaned and painted. No major repairs are indicated at this time. Fencing has been ordered to enclose the tank base as per the demands of the Insurance Carrier to prevent unauthorized persons from climbing the tank.

A recommendation was made that the McKownville water be fluoridated. An informational meeting is to be held by the Town Board sometime in June to be announced. A permissive referendum is necessary.

Mapping of the mains and valves have been completed as previously recommended and detailed record plans are now available.

There have been no further developments in the negotiations to purchase or lease the water rights to the church pond which was tabled pending completion of the Westmere system.

The Water Advisory Board has again recommended enforcement of the watershed rules to cut down on possible pollution.

The forthcoming sewer installations may present some problem to the Water District as certain water lines may have to be relocated. A study of this is underway by Standard Engineering Corp. We have been told we will be allowed to review the plans when ready in preliminary form and will keep in touch with them. The Engineer (Fraser) has recommended that we replace the relocated pipe with larger lines where such relocation becomes necessary and in cases of pipe not deemed large enough to meet standards.

I have regularly attended meetings of the Townwide Water Advisory Board of which I am now a member. One of the undertakings is the preparation of a water ordinance which will govern the operation of all water districts throughout the Town. It has presently been prepared in very rough draft, is to be reviewed and then submitted to the Attorney for comment before submitting to the Town Board. It will supersede all local ordinances of such nature.

Fred B. Abele, Chairman
McKownville Water Advisory Board