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# McKownville Sewage Facilities Possible Thru Albany City Agreement

## ← McKownville Sewage -

(continued from page one)

One of the gravest problems of practically every sizable community in the State of New York today is that of sewage disposal. This is especially true if any portion of the community abuts a stream of water or a lake. In all such cases the State Health Department concerns itself with the problem, as does the Federal Government. The cost of correcting such conditions is always high but the health hazards are extreme and the problem, costly as its solution may be, must be met.

County facilities would be some years away, (the target date for such a system is still far off—1974) began negotiations with Mayor Erastus Corning of Albany in an effort to establish an interim arrangement whereby the sewage from the McKownville District would be cared for through the sewage facilities of the City of Albany. Through the mutual efforts of Mayor Corning and Supervisor Walters, the Albany Common Council has just approved an inter-municipality agreement with the Town of Guilderland which will provide sewage facilities for the more than 2,500 residents of the McKownville area.

The Town of Guilderland has been confronted with the problem with particular emphasis on the McKownville area, where the situation was acute. *3 Hills Terrace*

ferences, correspondence, consultations and meetings were held. No one underestimated the importance of the problem and none doubted the financial burdens which would be part and parcel of any practical solution. The financial burdens looked for a time almost insurmountable.

In the late 1940's, the McKownville Sewer District was legally established for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a sanitary sewer system for that area. Although the plan was approved by the State Comptroller, the bids submitted were considered much too high and no further action was taken. (In the mid 1950's, considerable work had to be done on the storm sewers in McKownville, the cost of which is still reflected in a small tax for the McKownville Sewer District.)

In 1963, the Town of Guilderland joined with 12 other municipalities in Albany County, to conduct a comprehensive sewer study, which was totally financed by state and federal funds, as a part of Governor Rockefeller's "pure waters" program. Malcolm Pirnie Engineers of White Plains, New York, coordinated the studies of each municipality's individual engineer. Standard Engineering acted as the engineering consultant for Guilderland in this study.

Under the agreement, Guilderland will install main sewer lines from the Albany City Line to the Thruway. The City of Albany will accept the effluence and treat it at the Westerloo Island treatment plant.

In the course of an Albany County Health Department survey, conducted in 1951, however, it was discovered that in the early 1900's, the septic tanks of many private homes in the McKownville area had been connected to the hamlet's storm sewers. These storm sewers, never intended for sewage, empty into a small stream known as the Krumkill. This flows into a much larger stream, the Normanskill, which in turn, empties into the Hudson River. In 1964, the State Health Department, attempting to stop pollution of the Hudson, as well as other waters, issued an order directing the McKownville Sewer District to cease and desist from polluting the Krumkill.

The County study report suggested two alternatives to deal with sewage disposal problems: the first, multi-municipal treatment, whereby a number of communities would join together in a combined disposal system and the second, to permit each individual community to handle its own waste independently.

The sewage distribution lines, if built today, would cost approximately \$1,300,000. More important, however, is the fact that each year's delay in construction will cost the community an additional amount of approximately 8 percent per year, or \$104,000 per year.

Following the submission of the report, the Albany County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing, and a County Sewer District was legally established. The plans for the construction of this District are now in the final stages of completion.

If the Town waited until the County facilities were underway it would not begin construction until mid-1973. Through the agreement with the City of Albany, the Town may, if it wishes, begin the construction of sanitary sewers in the near future. This could mean a savings of over \$300,000.

Understanding the extent of the financial problem involved, the State Health Department agreed to withhold enforcement of the Order pending efforts to find ways and means for the Town to comply with State requirements. Studies, con-

During this time, Guilderland Town Supervisor Carl J. Walters, recognizing that construction of the

(continued on page two)

A public hearing is planned soon

## Lt. Gov. Wilson Speaks