

\$4.4 million budget approved in Guilderland

By MAUREEN MC TAGUE

GUILDERLAND—The Guilderland Town Board unanimously adopted its \$4.4 million budget Tuesday night after approving one minor change in the spending package presented at a public hearing last week.

That change, a \$189 increase in the budget for the McKownville lighting district, was approved at the urging of McKownville residents who requested additional lighting services.

The 1976 budget shows a \$570,000 increase over this year's \$3.83 million budget. The tax rate in the general town budget will remain at the 1975 rate of \$8.62 per \$1,000 assessed valuation, in part because of the re-distribution of federal revenue sharing to the general fund.

Tax rates for the Guilderland-Village of Altamont general and highway budgets will also remain the same, but taxpayers face increases in special budget areas, including sewer, fire and water districts.

A public hearing conducted midway through the meeting on a request from a McKownville pediatrician for a zoning change on a 2.55-acre parcel of land on Schoolhouse Road in McKownville drew support from town residents.

Dr. Anthony Mastrianni, who has wrangled for three years with the McKownville Improvement Association over the current location of his medical offices at 1461 Western Ave. in McKownville, would like to relocate on the Schoolhouse Road property.

Dr. Mastrianni's Western Avenue location is a technical violation of the town's

zoning ordinance, which states that medical offices cannot be located in a residential zone unless the physician resides in the same building.

In order to construct a medical building on the Schoolhouse Road property, adjacent to the Thruway, the town zoning board must approve a zoning change from R-15 (residential with a 15,000-square-foot minimum size lot size) to B-1 (business.)

The property is generally believed to be unsuitable for residential purposes because of its proximity to the Thruway.

A McKownville resident presented a petition to the town board signed by 17 residents of the Schoolhouse Road area who support the zoning change.

The town board referred the zoning issue to the zoning board and will await its recommendation before taking further action.

In other business, the board awarded a \$16,993-contract for an addition to the Westmere Water Office to Harold Lapham & Sons, Inc. of Albany, the low bidder.

Board members also set \$178,140 as the maximum price for the construction of three sewage pumping stations under construction by Buckman-Pistana Construction Corp. The contract, originally awarded last August, has been increased by \$4,000 to allow underground construction of the Pine Ridge pumping station.

The other two pumping stations will be constructed above ground, but residents of the Pine Ridge area made a special plea for a construction plan that would make their pumping station less visible from their homes.