

FELLOW RESIDENTS OF MCKOWNVILLE

The issue at question in today's referendum seem to have become lost in a confusion of numbers. They are stated in the simplest terms as follows:

1. Consolidation will cost McKownville Water District residents MORE MONEY IN TAXES. We cannot agree in principle to the assumption of the total debt of the Westmere Water District.
2. We know that the Town of Guilderland has--without the benefit of the required legal notice and public hearing--sold, granted easement, and given away the property of our Water District. We can only assume--based on the record--that it will continue to act in this vein.

The first point is self-explanatory. The second point bears clarification.

- a. In 1949, the McKownville Water District was created. The property rights of the District are based on this original sale from Emma VanLoan to the McKownville Water District, which deed was duly recognized by New York State, and was duly recorded in 1949.
- b. In 1958, the Town, after advice from the New York State Department of Audit and Control, gave proper notice, held a public hearing, and granted an easement of 0.25 acres to Stuyvesant Plaza (S.P.) for \$5,500. (1958 price per acre - \$22,000.)
- c. In 1962, the Town, gave proper notice, and held a public hearing, on it's intent to sell S.P. an additional 1½ acres for \$10,000. At the hearing, two separate offers were made by attorneys for two different prospective purchasers. One offered \$25,000. and one offered \$50,000. for that same parcel. The people did not agree to the sale and the Town's resolution was withdrawn.
- d. In 1968, the Town--WITHOUT ANY LEGAL NOTICE OR PUBLIC HEARING ---but with the blessing of the McKownville Water Advisory Board--gave S.P. an easement for that very same 1½ acres PLUS an additional 0.6 acres (total gift -- 2.1 acres) for \$1. (They don't even have to pay taxes on an easement!)
- e. In 1969, the Town--WITHOUT ANY LEGAL NOTICE OR PUBLIC HEARING but with the knowledge of the McKownville Water Advisory Board sold Niagara Mohawk two parcels of land, totaling 0.42 acres, for \$1,000. This 1969 price per acre -- \$2380.

(Please keep in mind that the owner of Stuyvesant Plaza, Mr. Swyer, was then--and still is--a member of this Advisory Board.)

- f. In 1972, the Town, WITHOUT ANY LEGAL NOTICE OR PUBLIC HEARING-- but with the support of the McKownville Water Advisory Board-- psssed a resolution to sell 0.6 acres to S.P. for \$2,500. The McKownville Improvement Association retained a professional appraiser-who estimated the value of that parcel to be at least \$12,000. Your Association solicited contributions and hired an attorney to represent the residents of the Water District, based on two separate legal opinions that the property, in deed and in fact, belonged to the Water District. S.P. decided to withdraw it's offer.
- g. In 1973, the Town GAVE the Guilderland Sewer District a strip of our land for the sewer line from Westmere and S.P. You didn't hear about it because there was NO NOTICE OR HEARING!
- h. In 1978, the Town

Fellow residents, we don't know what's going to happen in the future, but we can read the record of the past. Please join your neighbors in the vote today to preserve the ONLY piece of green space that WE OWN. Don't let this place for OUR CHILDREN be taken from them.

We ask you to VOTE; and to vote NO on today's referendum!

Place: The McKownville Fire District

Time: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The Officers of the McKownville Improvement Association, Inc.

Timothy Cohan, Pres.
 Donald Reeb, V.P.
 John Davis, Tres.
 Alice Torda, Sec.
 James Dermody
 Verla McCarville

Peter Balint
 John Esler
 Lloyd Lininger
 Eugene Napierski
 John Smircich
 Thomas Van Buren