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Water vote 'misunderstood'

Misunderstanding of the purpose of consolidating the McKownville and Westmere Water Districts in Guilderland may have led to the issue being vetoed by McKownville residents in Tuesday's special referendum, Town Supervisor Carl J. Walters indicated Wednesday.

McKownville residents cast 208 votes in favor of the proposal and 233 against. Westmere residents supported the consolidation, 195 to 46, but under town law residents in both district must approve the proposal.

Walters said he felt residents in the McKownville district misunderstood the impact of the consolidation and that several people in the district may have "taken the facts out of context."

Under the consolidation plan, water rates for McKownville residents would have increased slightly, while rates for Westmere residents would have decreased. Rates in both districts would have gone down, according to town officials, with the addition of the Westmere Extension No. 1, which is being financed through a federal grant.

McKownville residents have received all their water from the Westmere district following the deterioration of the McKownville reservoir three years ago.

Walters said the town wanted to consolidate the two districts to ease administrative work and also because the Westmere district would not be allowed to sell water to McKownville if its water surplus were depleted.

Walters said he did not know what the town's next course of action will be.

Man found guilty of selling heroin

Ricardo Wise, 21, of 197-179 Elk St., Albany, was found guilty Wednesday by an Albany County Court jury of an A-III felony, criminal sale of a controlled substance, third degree.

Wise, who faces a mandatory maximum of life in prison, will be sentenced May 17 by Judge John J. Clyne, who has the discretion to set a minimum of between one and eight and a third years.