



McKOWNVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT, Inc.

1250 WESTERN AVENUE

McKOWNVILLE, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12203

May 27, 1980

Fellow Property Owners of McKownville Fire District

The people of McKownville have, for some time, been facing a problem which we feel could have immediate consequences on the community. The problem is WATER in terms of fire flow and pressure.

Since 1973 the McKownville Water District has purchased all water from the Westmere Water District. The water is supplied through a metered connection and a SINGLE 8" main. Should there be a break in this strategic single line the entire fire district would be without water, and in the event of a structure fire during such a break a serious situation would occur.

The obvious solution is very simple, more connections with the Westmere Water District lines which would allow the water to reach McKownville by alternate routes and provide greater flow. Two such additional connections are immediately possible and a third possibility exists. The way to accomplish this and eliminate the metered connection is consolidation of the two water districts which currently have a common water source.

Several years ago such a consolidation was proposed and unfortunately was defeated. A joint committee composed of fire department and fire district personnel has studied the situation and has taken the following steps:

1. Discussed such a consolidation with officers of the McKownville Improvement Association.
2. Requested the Town Board to take immediate steps to institute such a Water District Consolidation.
3. Met with the Water Department and have been assured alternate hookups could be made with the department's own forces to minimize costs.
4. Submitted the proposal to the McKownville Water Advisory Board for their approval.

The cost of such a consolidation is estimated to be approximately \$1.00 per thousand dollar assessed value, a reduction for McKownville residents, and approximately 10¢ per thousand dollar assessed value increase for Westmere residents. Both estimates are based on the 1979 assessed valuations.



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As Fire Commissioners and Fire Department members we are directly concerned with the fire safety within our District and have strived constantly for over 60 years for its improvement. The larger buildings, motels and offices have increased the necessity to provide dependable fire protection.

What about the McKownville Reservoir? The Town has studied various additional water sources (Hungerkill, Norman's Kill). Why should it ignore the Krumkill? We recommend that the Reservoir be retained as another possible source of water. This included keeping Crossgates out of the Watershed which is the source of the Krumkill.

Addressing that subject, on April 2, 1980, the Board of Fire Commissioners for the McKownville Fire District adopted a resolution opposing Crossgates Mall and on April 8, 1980, the members of the McKownville Fire Department adopted a similar resolution. Both resolutions have been forwarded to Hearing Officer, William J. Dickerson, and made a part of the hearing.

We hope you will agree on our concern about the consolidation of the Water Districts and that you will support our action in this matter. Remember, we as volunteer firemen have the utmost concern for you the residents of the community.

Sincerely yours,

McKownville Fire Department
and
Board of Fire Commissioners