

Background

At present, McKownville buys and receives all its water from Westmere through one 8 inch metered connection near Western Avenue and Schoolhouse Road. By the time the water reaches the eastern end of McKownville, friction has reduced the water volume to dangerously low levels. Also, having only one connection is an "all your eggs in one basket" situation in the event of a break in the main. 7

Needs

We have two obvious, immediate needs--greater water volume (the rating underwriters recommend four to five times the volume we now have in the eastern end of McKownville) and additional connections.

Possible Solutions

There are two possible ways to meet our immediate needs:

- 1) Additional metered connections
- 2) Consolidation of the McKownville and Westmere Water Districts

Pros and Cons

Both methods would equally provide greater volume and additional routes to bypass breaks in the line. However, there are some important differences between the two methods.

Short Term Costs: Each metered connection would cost approximately \$10,000, or \$30,000 for three additional connections. Under consolidation, additional hook-ups could be made quite easily using present Town manpower and equipment without any capital improvement expenditure. 7

Long Term Costs: Metered connections would supply McKownville water at the rate contracted with the Westmere Water District (presently twice the rate charged Westmere residents). Consolidation would equalize the rate throughout the new enlarged district, resulting in a yearly savings to McKownville residents of > approximately \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The present rate is subject to change in future contracts. WHY TOWNERS?

Guarantee of Supply: As long as we have a contract with Westmere, we can be relatively certain of our supply during the course of that contract. However, such temporary contracts give us only a very limited right to a future contract and guaranteed supply. Consolidation would give an equal right of supply to all users in the new district. Consolidation would in no way affect the quality or usefulness of the McKownville Reservoir.

Recommendation

Consolidation is significantly preferable to additional metered connections. Consolidation of the McKownville and Westmere Water Districts would have the substantial advantage of lower short term and long term costs, would give a greater guarantee of future supply, and has the unanimous endorsement of the McKownville Volunteer Fire Department. Supporting and encouraging consolidation makes common sense.

Action

There will be a hearing at the Guilderland Town Hall, Tuesday, July 8, at 8:15 p.m. to consider the request for consolidation. If better fire-fighting capabilities for McKownville and a guaranteed source of less-costly water are of any importance to you, please attend this meeting and voice your support. You are the best person to look out for your interests.

This fact sheet was prepared and printed by Common Sense, a non-political, rather loosely organized, group of McKownville residents interested in examining community concerns in a cool, objective manner. We have no dues, no by-laws, no officers, and no axes to grind. If you are interested in joining, call one of us and we'll give you the pros and cons.

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