

Read at [Town Board] Public Hearing by J. Esler 7/8/80 (8 July 1980)

July 7, 1980
19 Elmwood St.
Albany, NY 12203

To Supervisor Walters and Members of the Town Board:

Throughout my life I have been a part of numerous fraternal, service, and civic organizations. I realize the tremendous value of committees, sub-committees, and advisory boards in assisting an organization to fulfill its mission. It was with this thought in mind that I accepted your appointment to the McKownville Water Advisory Board, and with this strong feeling of civic duty that I have faithfully attended the few meetings that have been held during my tenure, and made whatever contribution I could to the Board's deliberations.

Last month, I attended a meeting of this Board which was convened, I thought, to discuss the problems that have been identified by the McKownville Fire Department. Shortly after the meeting began, and, literally, while my back was turned, a motion to consolidate water districts was made and seconded. When I attempted to conduct some discussion of the motion, a call to "move the question" was made and granted, a vote on the motion taken.....and then the meeting adjourned.

Mr. Supervisor, in all my years of participating in group activities such as this, I have never -- repeat -- never seen a body, whose primary duty is to provide sound advice, conduct its business in such a close-minded and capricious manner. It was a scene that I hope never to see repeated again, and a scene that I have sworn that I will never again be a party to. I am ashamed that any group, entrusted as it is with the welfare of the Water District and, in that respect, with the interests of the citizens of the District, could so utterly disregard any honest search for facts and any attempt to seek reasonable remedies to issues confronting the Water District.

Mr. Supervisor, and members of the Town Board, it is in consideration of these events, and with my sincerest regrets, that I hereby tender my resignation from this Board, effective this date.

[original handwritten document transcribed by W Kidd]

[refer to scan of original document: 19800708-JEslerresignltr050.pdf]

[the Water Advisory Board meeting must have occurred on Tuesday June 3, one week before the first draft of this letter was written]