

53 Mercer St.
Albany, N.Y. 12203
January 12, 1981

Mr. Mel Behn
27 Parkwood, E.
Albany, N.Y. 12203

Dear Mr. Behn:

I am writing to you as President of McKownville Improvement Assoc. hoping that you or your organization can do something to save the residents of McKownville from increased taxes and water rates and a scaled-down remedial program due to the failure of the water consolidation.

As you must know by now, Judge Pennock ruled the water consolidation vote unconstitutional. In the meantime, the En. Con. ruling on Crossgates has come out proving beyond a doubt that consolidation had nothing to do with and no bearing on Crossgates. At this point, because of the distortions, lies, careless charges and personal attacks, you'll excuse me if I get in one loud, "We told you so." But who was right isn't all that important now. Come spring, the residents of McKownville are going to have to foot the bill for a useless \$6,000 water meter, and in years to come we will have to pay for the rehabilitation of our antiquated system ourselves. At this point, I don't see anyway out of it except by divine intervention.

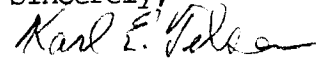
Here are the possibilities as I see them: 1) The Town Board could appeal Pennock's ruling and it might be overturned. Awfully "iffy" and we should have another plan of action. 2) We could recommend to the Town Board making water a town function. In other words, accomplish a merger of all the present districts at once. Only problem is I'm not sure the Town Board would go for it, it might take years of studies and hearings to accomplish, and I'm almost certain Guilderland Center (although it would be good for them in the long run) and possibly Westmere would vote against it. 3) There could be another election under the present resolution (only the vote itself was ruled invalid). This is unlikely because the merger would probably now be defeated by Westmere (since they have gotten their new water bills), and because Judge Pennock's ruling makes it unlikely that a valid election could be held within the given time. 4) This coming July, another petition asking for merger could be presented to the Town Board. The problem here is that the Town Board might say the hell with it (particularly those who represent Westmere and because it will be an election year). Or if the Town Board ok'ed it, if any group demanded a referendum, there is a strong chance Westmere would vote it down.

In conclusion, it looks like the taxpayers of McKownville are up the proverbial creek without a paddle. I don't see any likely solution. What makes most logical sense to me would be making water a town function, but this also seems like the longest route with the greatest amount of work. Waiting for July seems like the next most logical route, but that doesn't look too hopeful either.

I take little pleasure in having been right, foresighted, and honest in this issue. I am out of work at the present time and can ill afford both the increased taxes and water rates this will mean for me. If you have any possible plan of action or ideas of how MIA and Common Sense might work together to get McKownville out of this pickle please contact me at home (438-1844). I have complete confidence in your fairmindedness and desire to help McKownville. I also respect the minds and intentions of Lindsay Childs, John Shea, Mary Bailey, and a few others of your inner sanctum. However, with wounds still fresh, I hope you will understand if I ask that in any joint endeavor, I not have to deal with any of the rabid, demagogic idiots who made personal attacks on me and my wife and who skulked about McKownville spreading viscious lies about us.

Hoping we can work together,

Sincerely,


Karl E. Felsen

P.S. I have no objection to whom you show this letter. Keep it private, show it to your board, whatever. I don't believe in plots and secrecy.