

# No Unified Support Seen for McKownville Village Creation

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Gazette Reporter

GUILDERLAND — McKownville residents last night heard budget figures indicating the creation of a village for them would mean no increase in taxes and may mean a lower tax bill.

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As at the last meeting on the issue, however, there was no unified support for creating the village of McKownville among the 60 or so residents gathered at the Tom Sawyer Motor Inn for a meeting of the McKownville Improvement Association.

One resident warned, for instance, that the McKownville Fire Department would keep out of politics and would not answer to a village board of trustees.

Thus, the village might have to pay as much as \$500,000 for paid fire protection.

Another resident warned the issue of "secession" from the town would split the residents of McKownville, with harsh feelings between them.

Dr. Donald Reeb, an economics professor at Albany State University and immediate past president of the association, offered

a proposed budget for such a village, based on the town's current budget and cost comparisons with 11 other villages in the state.

Reeb's figures indicate the total property tax rate for village residents could remain at about \$63.94 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Those calculations also indicate the proposed village could receive revenues of at least \$419,694, based on last year's taxes, but that its estimated costs could leave it with an unallocated surplus of \$74,805, again based on current costs for services.

The revenue estimate, said Reeb, may be conservative because 1980 revenues may be higher by 5 to 10 percent.

"Insurance (cost) is probably overestimated and taxes are probably underestimated," he added, "but we can feel fairly comfortable with the conclusion that we would not need a tax increase to form a village and maybe could have a substantial tax decrease."

McKownville residents could pay the Town of Guilderland \$1,000 for holding a referendum on the issue, and if it passed, the

town would return the money, he said.

The town clerk would appoint a village clerk, and there could be a mayor and trustees elected almost immediately.

He said that contracting out for services, known as the Lakewood Plan, is the cheapest way to obtain equipment for highway services, for instance.

Again he acknowledged the idea of proposing a village of McKownville is a potential means of fighting the Crossgates Mall.

"We could include enough of the Crossgates site (within the village borders) to frustrate them enough from building Crossgates," he said, admitting any decisions against the mall developers probably would guarantee they would sue in court.

"We try to keep politics out of the fire service," said Fred Abele, a McKownville fire commissioner. "We assume politics would rear its ugly head," he added, and the fire department opposes the village's creation. He asserted the creation of the village would mean the fire district would cease to exist.

Yet Reeb read from Village Law that that would happen only if the borders of the village and the fire district were the same, and they don't have to be equal.

"I don't believe all those figures," Abele said. "Don is a glib talker, but I wonder who would drive us out first, Crossgates or the formation of a village."

"If the fire department cares to destroy itself on this issue," Reeb shot back, "that's your decision."

"I'm proud of Guilderland," said Julian Levine, a McKownville resident, a Guilderland teacher and president of the Western Turnpike Rescue Squad.

"I'm against secession. A war was fought over secession. We don't make anything stronger by splitting it apart." He called the idea of a village "immature and childish."

"Every time I see a budget that balances," he said, "I throw it in the wastebasket."

Favoring the village concept, Dr. Lindsay Childs, a mathematics professor at the university, said its creation could provide more local control by McKownville residents over their own destiny, for example in zoning decisions.

## Landfill Authority To Be Discussed For Schenectady

SCHENECTADY — A proposal by Schenectady Mayor Frank J. Duci to establish a county landfill authority will be discussed Monday night by the Board of Representatives physical and environmental planning committee.

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However, Rep. Clifford Wood, chairman, said the session principally will give committee members an opportunity to prepare themselves for landfill discussions the following night with a City Council committee.

Wood said representatives of the county Planning Department and Environmental Advisory Council will attend the physical and environmental planning committee meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the board chambers.

He said it "appeared unlikely" at the moment that the committee would make any recommendation with regard to the

mayor's proposal for a landfill authority to solve a city problem involving a projection by city officials that the Cheltingham Avenue landfill will be exhausted in October.

Members of the Board of Representatives have been invited to attend a meeting Tuesday night in City Hall to discuss the landfill situation with the City Council's intergovernmental relations committee.

Wood said the request that his committee discuss the landfill situation was made by Councilman James Tedisco, chairman of the intergovernmental relations committee.

Wood said the physical and environmental planning committee Monday night is also scheduled to discuss the Rotterdam aquifer, reclassification of the Mohawk River and establishment of an Economic Development Council.