

PUBLIC HEARING

March 6, 2002

At 7:00 P.M. Supervisor Lester called to order a public hearing at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York on March 6, 2002. The purpose of the hearing was to hear all persons in favor of or against the Town of Sweden leasing the Consolidated Water District to the Monroe County Water Authority for a period of 40 years.

Present: Councilman Carges, Councilwoman Connors, Councilman Wheat, Councilwoman Windus-Cook, and Supervisor Lester
John Stanwix and Herb Grabbe of Monroe County Water Authority

Visitors: Keith Beadle and Kayleen Burgio, 35 Fairview Dr., Roberta & Patricia Herzog, 5356 Lake Rd., Mary & Rick Lill, 336 Gallup Rd., Everett & Pat Peake, 280 White Rd., Jim Hamlin, 50 Park Ave., Marty Herrmann, 82 White Rd., George F. Lloyd, 5490 Redman Rd., Jerry Doud, 7000 4th Section Rd., Pete Hare, 752 East Ave., Glenn & Marjorie Aures, 90 Gordon Rd., Dick & Linda Knab, 444 Gallup Rd., Norm & Char Wright, Gallup Rd., Robert Marvin, Gallup Rd., Fred Porter, 4048 Sweden Walker Rd., Jack Mazarella, 51 Brookdale Rd., Lance Kepler, 4875 Sweden Walker Rd., Lauren McCracken, 650 White Rd., Michele Eisenhauer, 81 Shumway Rd., Walt & Helen Eisenhauer, 2400 Colby St., Jessica Streb, 157 Root Rd., Jim Kuster, 6151 Brockport-Spencerport Rd., Gary Skoog, 6142 Lake Rd. S., Rob Sweeting, 40 Crestview Dr., Frank & Julie Lapinski, 4016 Sweden Walker Rd., Roy S. Huscher, 32 Woodlands Way, Gary Chapman, 4342 County Line Rd., Eric McCracken, 660 White Rd., Ken Warren, 70 Royal Garden Way, Ray Morris, 45 Maxon St., R. Connors, 281 West Ave., Cheryl Bates, 69 Royal Garden Way, Dan Kepler, 4350 Redman Rd., Leisa Strabel, 110 Frazier St., Phil Bailey, Elaine Jones, Crestview Dr., Sharon Stettner, Owens Rd., Robbie Hess, Suburban News.

At 7:00 PM the Supervisor called the Public Hearing to order. Councilman Carges made a power point presentation giving a little history of the Sweden Consolidated Water District. Starting in 1997 the Monroe County Water Authority purchased the Brockport Water Treatment Plant. This meant a reduced cost to the residents. The Town reduced the fund balances also. However customers on the Holley line still had high rates. The Town made consistent attempts to buy the Holley water line. The town did some looping to increase water flow and pressure. In 1999 there were talks with Monroe County Water Authority, but the decision to lease was tabled. There were two new persons on the Town Board. Also in 1999 MRB Engineers did a comprehensive study of the water system. It showed the huge expense it would be to expand the water system. In 1999 a committee to study the water situation was reconvened. In the year 2000 the Town was able to negotiate the purchase of the Holley water line. That immediately reduced the rates for residents on that line. During 2001 the Town continued to lose money on the water system. Negotiations with the Water Authority started up again in September of 2001.

There are conditions of the lease. The Authority would reimburse the Town for the Holley line. The Authority would reimburse the Town for in stock meters or plumbing. The price difference between plastic and steel will be negotiated. The Authority will contribute 100,000 feet in 8" pipe and appurtenances towards any projects that would help improve our current system. The Authority will take dedication of the water line in the Sweden Park.

Current debt is \$15,704.00. The water fund balance is \$40,628.13. The Water Reserves Fund for Improvements is \$48,900.40.

Major Purchases have been: 1999 – Excavator, 2000 – Bobcat, 2001 – Truck.

Water Costs:	<u>Sweden</u>	<u>MCWA</u>
	\$2.95	\$2.16
	\$240/yr. Bill	\$50 - \$60 savings

No. of customers in Town of Sweden is 1,038

Mr. John Stanwix of Monroe County Water Authority spoke. There are 19 towns in the county. 16 are on the 40-year contract. The water rate is across the board to all towns. It is a 365 day a year, 24 hour a day operation. Development is not controlled by MCWA, but by the municipalities. The MCWA built the new water tank in Sweden. MCWA is an independent organization. The money the Authority raises is put back into the system.

Herb Grabbe Financial Director of the Authority said that the rates don't change across the county, the quality is the same, and the service is always there. During a 40-year contract the system is brought up to standards. It is very normal for municipalities to take time to make the decision to lease to the MCWA.

Public Comments:

Rob Sweeting, Crestview Dr.: He wants the Board to look seriously at making the change. Mr. Grabbe said that the MCWA responds to the community with money issues, construction needs, quantity and quality. The authority does not seek out the municipality. Financial hardship is normal for a municipality.

Gerry Doud, 4th Section Rd.: Asked if Monroe County Water Authority and the Town of Sweden have already signed the contract. Mr. Stanwix replied "No they have not".

Linda Knab, Gallup Rd.: Asked how this would impact the newly formed water projects that don't have water yet. Mr. Stanwix replied that this would not have any impact on the projects. Councilman Carges said that the cost of the project would be known by the end of the month as well as a timetable. Rates will be cheaper.

George Lloyd, Redman Rd.: Redman Rd. is a proposed water district. He is hoping the lease will be a benefit to his neighbors. Water quality is very poor. Safety is an issue also. There are 41 homes in the proposed district. Mr. Lloyd has purchased a truck which he calls his "water wagon" to transport water to his home. He asked why the water supervisor was dismissed prior to the public hearing and signing of the lease. Mr. Stanwix replied that the county does provide excellent engineering help. The Authority can serve as a consultant and be a supplement to the knowledge of the current highway superintendent. As always everyone must work with the State Law regarding formation of districts.

Don Dunn, Frazier St.: He wanted the questions answered that were in the ad in the Suburban News. Mrs. Stettner (water billing clerk) and Elaine Jones (Finance Director) both said that the Town did not ever pay a late fee to Monroe County Water Authority. Mrs. Stettner explained the computer generated bill showing the \$1500.00 late fee, which never was paid and why it wasn't paid. The Town Clerk spoke and said that all FOIL requests were honored.

Roy Huscher, Owens Rd.: Past Superintendent of Water & Sewers. He thanked the town for its support over the last 18 years. He's been employed by the Water Authority before and it's a class operation. He is sad to see it (Sweden Water District) go but he is sure that they will do a good job (for the Town).

Michelle Eisenhauer, Shumway Rd.: What is the time line for signing the contract? Board will go back and discuss the comments and make a decision by the end of the month.

Paul Kimball, Supervisor of the Town of Clarkson: He has been 19 years in his position. Thirteen of the years the Town owned the water system. The remaining were with the MCWA. Clarkson is too small to operate and maintain the system. System has been upgraded since going with the Authority. Also two housing developments have been created. A new joint water district is being formed on East Ave.

Jack Mazarella, Brookdale Dr.: Owns land on Colby St. Where is the money that the quarry has been setting aside for a water line to the airport? That should be finished. Will that be part of the MCWA? The fund alluded to is the reclamation fund used to reclaim the land after mining is complete. MCWA is looking at the cost to loop to increase pressure and providing water.

Frank Lapinski, Sweden Walker Rd.: Mentioned that the MCWA prefers ductile iron to PVC. This would change the cost of the Sweden Walker Rd. project if they had to go to ductile iron. The engineer for MCWA responded that PVC tends to be more brittle than ductile iron. The longevity is not known yet. Iron will last 100 years. Water quality is better; iron is more durable and safer to work with. Mr. Lester said that this lease project would be beneficial to the Sweden Walker Rd. project. You would no longer have to do the under the canal boring. Water would come from the Ridge Rd. line.

Fred Porter Sweden Walker Rd.: County standards may be more expensive and more costly for the Sweden Walker Rd. project. Supervisor Kimball said that from their experience looking at PVC in stone bedding vs. ductile iron in good soil there is minimal cost difference. Mr. Grabbe said that they must look at what is good for the customer, what is lasting with the minimum amount of services (repairs). In using PVC for expansion the risk is accepted by the town. Julie Lapinski, Sweden Walker Rd.: Is the current water supply is fluoridated? MCWA answer is yes.

Mike Kuster, Brockport Spencerport Rd.: He has a concern that Fred Perrine might not be re-elected and who would be able to serve their needs? Mr. Lester said that qualifications would certainly be an election issue in the fall. The person running and elected would need to meet qualifications. Who would provide the same good service that Mr. Kuster has received? The MCWA has 90 people in operations. If there is a break in the line, the Town does not pay for the water that is lost.

George Lloyd, Redman Rd.: Who is in charge since we no longer have Roy Huscher? Mr. Lester replied that the Town of Clarkson and the Village of Brockport have said they would help the Town in the interim.

Tim Bates, Royal Gardens: Has the MCWA been contacted concerning the Crystal Ridge development since it is a very large addition to the Sweden system? We (residents) were given water amount figures as far as the pumping station. He does not believe the peak demand

periods were addressed and without elevated storage we are going to be relying on pumping. Power outages could be a problem. If we are looking at adding the Shumway Rd. loop to the booster station has this been figured in with the water demands that will be required by the Crystal Ridge development? How will that impact the entire Sweden system? Mr. Lester was not prepared to answer these questions. He would be glad to take it up with him with the Town Engineer. These are the types of things that the MCWA and their engineers like to work on with the Towns.

Mary Lill, Gallup Rd.: What is the timetable for the Gallup Rd. Project? At another meeting it was suggested that the project could be completed by December of this year. Now I am hearing that there is delay. Supervisor Lester said that he honestly doesn't think that it is realistic to be looking at this year for completion. He thinks that there should be a meeting with the new Superintendent. (He starts on Monday). The Town is going out for bids to see what the cost for construction is by a private contractor. The year 2003 is a more realistic time for completion of this project.

Supervisor Lester on behalf of the Board thanked Roy Huscher for all his years of service to the Town. The Board offers to write a letter of recommendation for him. He was an asset to the Water Department. (Round of applause for Mr. Huscher).

Supervisor Lester thanked all for attending the Public Hearing. The Board will still receive comments

As there were no more questions or comments for or against the proposed lease of the Town of Sweden Water District to the Monroe County Water Authority, the Supervisor closed the Public Hearing at 8:30 PM.

Gail A. DeToy
Town Clerk