

**YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER**

An Editorial

We are glad to see that at long last, the Mayor has at least condescended to give some kind of explanation to the Taxpayers for the proposed 50% raise in the Village Water rates. (After first venting his spite in the first paragraph of his letter because we have the temerity to criticize the highly exalted and noble rulers of our fair Village).

Your avowed intention of giving "all our readers and all of the other people of Andover", etc., your reasons for the raise seem to be a little superfluous since "all of the other people of Andover" won't be reading your long winded spiel by your own inference.

If you really wanted to let the people know anything about the proposed rate increase why didn't you explain it over a month ago when the proposed Annual Village Budget was published? Could this have been done in an attempt to slip the proposed raise thru practically unnoticed the way the Board gave themselves an almost 70% raise in salary back in 1957 when two of the present Trustees were in office?

You accuse us of making misleading statements—yet state that your decision will be made on the results of tests on the plastic pipe. What kind of tests can be made that will change this plastic pipe over so that it can be thawed out rapidly when it freezes again?

You say it will be necessary to save this plastic pipe because the expenditures now exceed the income for this fiscal year. If this isn't a negative approach—what kind is it?

Who is going to pay for the labor of digging it up and how? How was the original line paid for in 1956?

You refer to the statement "and in the past, a great deal of profits etc"—and then agree with us by stating "It is true that substantial amounts were transferred from the Water Department to the General Department before 1956."

Thus it would appear that the financial problems of the Water Dept., co-incide with the installation of the plastic pipe and the Village Board Members pay raise shortly afterwards.

You state that in 1960 it was necessary to transfer \$3,400 to the Water Department—was that the first year that the plastic water pipe froze up? What was all this extra money spent for? Why weren't allowances made for such contingencies in the budget?

You further state that as of May 1, 1963 the expenditures of the Water Dept., exceed the income received by \$4,332.87. Is this a total since 1956 or just for this current year? How much of this has been expended for labor and materials in patching up the water service to the "Bulk-Tainers" Corp.?

You speak of needing money to develop the additional springs purchased some years ago. WHY?

It would appear that whatever additional water might be needed for automatic washers, etc., was more than offset by losses of water users!

Take a look at the losses of some good business water users: The Dairyman's League is gone and certainly they used a lot of water. The Woodruff Cheese Plant is no longer in operation—The Andover China Company is gone—The Old School Mill of the Steuben Silk Mills is gone. The new highway took out Nye & Padden's Tractor Sales; Edison Langworthy's Garage is gone as well as houses on Main St., and Water St..

Moreover, according to the recent census, the Village population has decreased in the past few years.

The only user that has increased greatly in water demand is more than likely the Andover Central School with their new addition and swimming pool.

If more money is actually needed why not re-evaluate the present set-up so that everyone pays a fair share for the water used and put the larger users on water meters to pay for what they use—or better yet and fairer, put in water meters and then everyone will have to pay for what they actually use?

**Turning Back The Pages of Andover History**  
(Taken from the Files of The Andover News)

**50 YEARS AGO**

May 2, 1913

**J. H. Backus, Publisher**  
Gordon Pease, 67, died suddenly April 17th. His wife, three sons, a brother and a sister survive.

The farm home of Dixon Bros., five miles North of Andover, burned to the ground Wednesday afternoon.

E. R. Crandall is in Philadelphia, Pa., this week buying horses. Mrs. W. H. Randall is visiting her daughter, Miss Grace, at Ithaca this week.

Daniel Witter is in Buffalo to consult an eye specialist.

Rev. H. B. Williams returned Friday from a visit with relatives in Ohio.

George Robinson left Tuesday for Ithaca where he will work on the State Experimental Station.

Mrs. Heman Scott and Miss Drexia Scott were Wellsville visitors Friday.

Miss Cecile O'Donnell of Philadelphia, Pa., passed the week-end with her aunt, Mrs. E. Doran.

**40 YEARS AGO**

April 27, 1923

**J. N. Backus & Son, Publishers**  
Roy Brundage has purchased the Floyd Davis property on Maple Street.

Burr Ruger has purchased the Floyd Scott residence on Dyke Street.

During the hail storm Monday a carrier pigeon came down, exhausted, near the J. E. Cannon Store.

George Barrett, seeing the bird rescued it and brought it in the store, where it has recovered sufficiently that Mr. Barrett expects to release it today. The pigeon has code messages on both legs.

Olin Pingrey of Elmira was a business visitor in Andover—the first of the week.

Mrs. Henry Carr went to Salamanca Wednesday to be with her sister, Mrs. Neil Fornell who is a surgical patient at the hospital there.

Mrs. Mark Sheppard of Morristown, Pa., is spending a few days with her parents, Atty and Mrs. C. V. Barker.

Henry Stephens and Roy Parker were in Rochester Friday, where Mr. Stephens consulted an eye specialist.

**30 YEARS AGO**

April 28, 1933

**J. H. Backus & Son, Publishers**  
Best L. Cook, 50, died Wednesday, April 19. His wife, his mother and two sisters survive.

Mrs. Thomas J. Mulconery, 93, died Monday, April 24. Seven children; a brother and a sister survive.

M. r. and Mrs. Fred Halsey are the parents of a son, born April 27th.

A farewell dinner honoring Rev. Charles McHugh was held at the Blessed Sacrament Hall Thursday evening. Father McHugh leaves this week for his new duties at St. John's Church in Olean.

C. S. Rennells was called to Coudersport this week by the death of his brother.

Dr. Howard Leahy of Buffalo was a week-end guest at the home of his mother, Mrs. Michael Casey.

Mrs. Denzil Baker, and daughters, Audrey and Frances spent last week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Rogers of Rochester.

Miss Kathryn Gallagher of Depew was a week-end guest of her mother and family, Mrs. E. Gallagher.

Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Trowbridge and son, Robert of Pulaski were week-end guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Trowbridge.

The United States leads in the world production of macaroni products because North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana have ideal soil and weather conditions for raising hard durum wheat.

**Letter To The Editor**

May 7, 1963

Sir: As a result of your editorial in last week's paper and the usual negative approach which you so enjoy using in matters relating to the Village, the Village Board, and the Village employees, I would like to give your readers and all of the other people of Andover some of the reasons why the Village Board feels that a water rate increase is not only justified but very necessary.

First there were some misleading statements in your editorial which I would also like to mention. In your editorial you wrote—"We understand that the Village Board has made plans to just patch in the places wherever they can find a leak." Actually our decision will be based on the results of tests on the plastic pipe. Your editorial states—"We are told that enough 2" galvanized pipe was purchased to run a new line." This is true as far as it goes, but the fact is that there was only enough 2" galvanized pipe purchased to run part of the way between the "Diner" and "Jim" Joyce's driveway. It will be necessary to save as much of the undamaged plastic pipe as possible mainly because the water department expenditures now exceed the income for this fiscal year.

Another statement in your editorial—"and in the past a great deal of the profits from the Village Water Department and Electric Department have been plowed back into the general fund". We are allowed by the contract with the Power Authority of the State of New York to transfer \$4,500.00 per year from the Electric Department to the general fund. This approximates the usual and accepted 6% return on the electric plant valuation of about \$72,000.00. It is true that substantial amounts were transferred from the Water Department to the General Department before 1956. This is no longer the case, with the exception of 1958 when \$1,000.00 was transferred to the General account. However, in 1960 it was necessary to transfer \$3,400.00 to the Water Department and in 1962 we transferred \$233.88 from the General fund, still the expenditures exceeded income by \$1,035.69. As of May 1, 1963 the expenditures of the Water Department exceed the income received by \$4,332.87.

Now to consider the rates, some years ago the Village bought additional springs near our present water supply because of the constantly increasing demand for water for automatic washing machines, dishwashers, showers and outside faucets. The survey work, and the plans have been completed and we need more funds than our present rates can provide to develop these springs and put them into service.

Consider, please, the increased cost of labor, material, social security, retirement, ordinary re-

pairs on catch basins, reservoir and distribution system; thawing freeze-ups, etc. I believe that the present board and all of the previous boards deserve a lot of credit for having kept the tax rate at \$14.00 and the water rates low in the face of these constantly rising costs. The cost of repairs and upkeep will naturally increase with the age of the system. I would also like to mention that any increase in tax rate and/or water rates will cost several of the board members more than the average homeowner in Andover and we certainly are not going to increase these rates unless we feel that it is absolutely necessary.

Another problem which must be considered is that the chlorinator which has been in service for about twenty-five years must be replaced immediately at a cost of about \$1,000.00.

The proposed rates do not necessarily mean a 50% across the board increase. For example, most homeowners today should be paying what we propose as the minimum for homes—computed as follows on our present rates: Kitchen first faucet \$5.00, bathtub \$2.00, toilet \$2.00, lavatory \$1.00, laundry \$5.00 and outside faucet \$3.00, total of \$18.00. This does not include the provisions in the present rates for charging for additional faucets and toilets. Each year we receive numerous complaints from people who pay for an outside faucet when they see someone with a garden hose extended through a window or door to sprinkle lawns and gardens or to wash a car. Some people do this in order to avoid paying the \$3.00 per year charge for an outside faucet. The biggest increase will be to those paying the minimum charge. This is necessary because considering the investment in our system and the cost of operation the privilege of having water service at all dictates that all customers share this cost reasonably. Whenever it is necessary to thaw a frozen service it costs the Village more than a minimum user would pay in several years at the present low rate.

Finally, when you consider the proposed rates in comparison to other systems in our area, Wellsville \$10.00 per year, Whitesville \$30.00 per year and Alfred which is all metered, these proposed rates are fair and reasonable. Consider also the benefits such as a good, hot bath or shower whenever you want one or need one, water for cleaning, water for coffee, tea or just a glassful at the touch of a faucet, a green lawn, fire protection, a swimming pool, a swimming pool. Consider too the cost of this necessary service compared to the cost of luxuries such as television and telephone which which thankfully many of us enjoy. After considering all of these things if you don't agree then please come to the Meeting next Tuesday evening at the Village Office at 8:00 p. m., and tell the board your reasons. Thank you.

Very truly yours,  
Paul E. Kilbane, Mayor

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