

For your benefit and information, a resume of a part of the recent Annual Meeting discussion of the Fire District, is here printed.

Mr. Bruno Olendrowicz, a prominent local resident asked the following questions:

"What is a Fire District and why was this one created?"

"What departments come under Fire District management?"

"How do water rates compare with comparable communities?"

"Can water be supplied to other sections economically?"

Mr. Jeddie F. Brooks, chairman of the Prudential Committee, answered that it was his opinion that a citizen of the community always had a right to ask and expect a worthwhile reply. He called on W. Elwin Dunn, Clerk and Treasurer of the District to speak for the committee.

Mr. Dunn said in part: The Adams Fire District, created in 1873, was older than the present town of Adams. A petition, to furnish the village of South Adams with pure water, was approved by the State Legislature and for further protection it was created a Fire District. Limits were established with regard to the elevation of the reservoir, and only within those limits has the Fire District the authority to expend the funds of the district. It has been the practice of the Prudential Committee to approve extensions of the district limits, but at all times with the view of elevation and ability to supply water to that section. Persons residing outside of the district have been allowed to get water from the district at their own expense.

Under control and supervision of the Prudential Committee, come water with its construction, maintenance of pipe lines, reservoirs and pumping stations, fire department apparatus and equipment, fire alarm and street lighting. The Alert Hose company is always considered a part of the Fire District. There are some 30 districts within the state, some Water, others Improvement, a few Water and Improvement and several Fire Districts. Water in most cases is all that is supplied from water revenue, several have Fire and Water, but the Adams Fire District is the only district in the entire state that supplies street lighting in addition to water and fire protection from water revenue.

At the time of drafting the By-Laws for the District, a study was made of district records with an effort to determine just how street lighting became a part of the Fire District. In the 1874 annual meeting the district voted to leave in the hands of the

Prudential Committee the "putting up of nine street lamps and provide means for lighting the same". It was agreed by this act the district had assumed the street lighting which has continued ever since.

A few years ago a study was made of water rates in other comparable towns. It was found that in Adams, while paying for street lighting in addition to Fire and Water, the rates compared very favorably with others that only paid for water or water and fire out of water revenue. Over the years the records show that approximately one fourth of the district expense has been for street lighting. The budget for this year is about the same. In other words if it were not for street lighting, the water rates of Adams could easily be nearly one fourth less, or much lower than most comparable communities.

The elevation of Bassett Reservoir is the same as for many years. At one time the Prudential Committee recommended and an effort was made to establish a new, much greater and higher storage reservoir on Tophet Brook. This was voted down by the voters. Had it been approved Adams would have been in one of the best situations, water being considered, of any community in the State. To secure a new sight today, would be a tremendous undertaking financially and would be far in excess of any benefits that could be derived from the few and widely separated homes that could be supplied, and the additional street lighting could not be estimated as to its additional cost.

When one considers what one gets for the amount that water costs him in Adams, in consideration not only for water and fire protection, and its volunteer fire department, second to none in its ability to fight fires, and the street lighting as well, we can congratulate ourselves on the fact that in Adams a very fine return in value is received for every dollar that is contributed for your water.