

Oswego considering Lake Michigan as possible water source

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Linda Girardi

Oswego is looking at Lake Michigan as a possible source of water, Village President Gail Johnson said.

Johnson mentioned the possibility during her State of the Village Address Tuesday at the Kendall 11 GDX Theater.

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The village currently uses well water. The concept of using Lake Michigan water in the village is an outgrowth of work with Montgomery and Yorkville on future water sources for the area.

"We are working together to develop governance for a future water treatment plant with Yorkville, Montgomery and the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. We once thought the only solution was the Fox River," Johnson said.

Johnson said her administration now sees the feasibility of Lake Michigan water as an alternative water resource.

"We know that Lake Michigan water is a possibility," she told the audience.

Johnson said for years Oswego had been told the only alternative to well water was using water from the Fox River. She said village officials were told it would be too expensive to use Lake Michigan water. However, a new study has shown it may not be so cost prohibitive, she said.

"We are going to go out for further study to give us the costs of laying pipe and connecting with the DuPage Water Commission to get Lake Michigan water," Johnson told The Beacon-News after her address.

"We are talking with Yorkville and Montgomery (about the concept)," she said. "Montgomery isn't so excited about (connecting) with Lake Michigan. Yorkville is definitely interested. We are going to look at it. It is in our residents' best interests that we explore every option. This is absolutely a viable option."

Oswego officials have had concerns about using strictly well water, because studies have shown that aquifers that supply drinking water to communities in the region are continuing to be depleted from overuse.

Water levels in those aquifers have declined from 1860 to the present, according to the reports. Projections by the Illinois State Water Survey predict that water levels will continue to decline and that portions of the aquifer will be dewatered if current water use continues.

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