

**Village of Ilion
Public Meeting
April 08, 2015**

Mayor Terry Leonard called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Village of Ilion Auditorium.

Present: Mayor Terry Leonard, Deputy Mayor Joanne Moore, Trustee Fred Hartmann, Trustee Bridget McKinley, Trustee Kalman Socolof

Also Present: Library Director Thomasine Jennings, Police Chief Timothy Parisi, Fire Chief James Trevett, Village Clerk Cindy Kennedy

Public: 49

Pledge: The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

The Public Hearing was posted in the Herkimer Telegram as required.

Purpose: The purpose of this Public Hearing was to present the residents of Ilion with the tentative 2015-2016 Budget.

Mayor's Welcome: Mayor Leonard thanked everyone for coming and showing an interest in the workings of the Village and the budget process.

2015-2016 Budget Overview:

Property Tax Increase of 1.972%, Village of Ilion
1.585% Town of Frankfort

Appropriations: \$6,397,806- This is a net decrease of \$40,143 in appropriations from last year

Estimated Revenues: \$2,177,736 A net increase of \$65,818 over last year

Appropriated Amount from the Fund Balance: \$40,000; down from \$200,000 last year

Electric Fund Surplus Contribution to Village: \$370,095 (\$102,995 this year)

Water Department Budget: \$1,352,200 with \$1,287,200 coming from water rents

Electric Department Budget: \$6,492,244 with \$6,462,400 coming from Rate Payers

Library Budget: \$196,524; The Village's distribution to the Library was reduced by 5% from last year.

Summary: Mayor Leonard summarized the process that he and the Village Board went through to come up with the 2015-2016 budget. Their goal is to do their best to operate the Village of Ilion in a fiscally responsible and effective manner.

Question and Answer Period:

- 1) Is it true that two police positions are being cut? **No, one police position and one fire position through attrition are planned.**
- 2) These positions will not be replaced? **As of this budget, no, but if there is a way to find the money, the Board will make every attempt to reinstate the positions.**
- 3) There is a \$175,000 salary line increase minus positions cut, why is that? **There is a 1.7 % salary increase to village employees, and due to a pre-existing contractual obligation, the police department is scheduled for a 3% increase in salary.**
- 4) Why have overtime if one position is cut? **Overtime was exceeded this current year and with the new budget, it will be controlled differently.**
- 5) Why is the marina losing money? **Although new DEC regulations, underground fuel tanks and other unfunded mandates have driven costs up, the marina is not losing money.**
- 6) The parks are a mess and there is money budgeted for parks. The village should be doing a better job of maintaining the parks. **The concerns have been noted.**
- 7) What is the expenditure for a consultant/negotiator that shows up in the budget? **The Village has hired Butch Ventura, a contract negotiator, to assist with the 3 Union contracts that the Village is negotiating at the present time.**
- 8) Why is there so much police overtime? **Chief Parisi, the PBA and the Village Board have worked hard on this issue and had to take this tough stance. There is a possibility of relooking at the layoff in 6 months from now. After the one cut to the force, the police force will have 1 Chief, 1 Captain, 1 Investigator, 4 Sergeants, and 9 Officers.**
- 9) Why put off looking at the police cut for 6 months, why not look now? **The Board is unable to keep that position and stay under the 2% tax cap that the Governor is calling for. The new budget is at a 1.972% increase.**
- 10) How many drug busts have occurred in the Village? Why would you want to cut the police force? Why is more budgeted for snow removal next year? More is budgeted for next year's pedestrian mall and parks. That money could be used to hire more police. **The concerns have been noted.**
- 11) In the Fire Department, what happens if no one retires and there is not a position eliminated through attrition? **The Board was expecting an attrition situation and if it doesn't occur, then they will relook at the budget.**
- 12) The Fire Department works within the current system. If people were polled, they would not want a cut to the police or the fire department. In the DPW department, there is a second mechanic in the budget, why not use an MEO? **The concerns have been noted.**
- 13) When is the official date of the police position cut? **June 1st, when the new budget starts.**
- 14) The potential budget reflects two fire retirements possibly, is that 16 plus the chief? **The worksheet that the Board based the numbers on reflects 1 potential retirement.**
- 15) The budget reflects a \$200 raise for Mayor Leonard. Why is that? **The \$200 is allocated toward conferences that the Mayor must attend throughout the year.**
- 16) Can the Board explain the Attorney fees for the budget? **Attorney Mark Rose handles all of the Village's legal issues for a retainer of \$24,000 per year.**

Adjournment: 6:32 p.m.

