

**Village of Iliion
Public Hearing
November 16, 2015**

Mayor Terry Leonard called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 P.M. in the Village of Iliion Municipal Building Auditorium.

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

Also Present: Village Treasurer Connie Gagliardi, Village Deputy Clerk /Treasurer MariJo Thompson, Village Attorney Mark Rose, Village Clerk Cindy Kennedy

Public: 4

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

The Public Hearing notice was published in the Times Telegram on November 4, 2015.

Purpose: The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss the proposed 14% water rate increase for Village of Iliion municipal water users, to take effect in the December, 2015 billing cycle.

Mayor's Welcome and Presentation: Mayor Leonard welcomed interested residents to the Public Hearing and presented a powerpoint presentation on the necessity of a 14% increase in Village of Iliion water rates. The Village Board of Trustees identified four main factors for the proposed increase. They include:

- 1) The Iliion water department is losing money each quarter and hopes to increase revenue for the second half of the 2015-2016 fiscal year.
- 2) The new wells were put into use to supplement the groundwater reservoirs that the Village maintains and the Village will begin to repay the USDA loan of \$5.2 Million with the first payment of \$307,971.00 in 2016. The water rate increase will assist with the repayment schedule that begins in 2016.
- 3) General personnel and health insurance costs are increasing.
- 4) The water department is facing staff retirements and replacements. This will involve a lengthy training period.

Summary: After a thorough analysis by Village Treasurer Gagliardi and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Thompson, the Village Board reviewed all options to increase water department revenue while balancing the needs of the Village and its residents. The Village Board also looks to the future and aging infrastructure. The 14% increase is thought to be the best solution at this time.

Question and Answer Period:

Resident#1: While the reasons are valid, the increase could pose a problem for those residents on Social Security, who will not see an increase in their benefits for 2016. By imposing the increase in the December billing, there could be a problem with those who wish to modify their usage based on the new estimated costs.

Resident # 2: Since there is often brown water, water main breaks, and dirty water in my area of Ilion, will I now need to pay extra if they don't bypass my meter to flush the brown water out of my system? **A pressure issue was discovered with the new wells being operated, and a new pressure release valve installation should lessen the amount of water main breaks throughout the Village. In addition to the prv, the Village water department will continue to bypass this meter whenever there is a need to flush the system.**

Resident#1: The installation of the new wells as a supplement the reservoirs was supposed to be cost-saving, but it seems to be costing more right now. **The wells were put into use to supplement the reservoirs for Village water. The reservoirs also need repair and the use of the well water will assist when those repairs need to take place.**

All input will be carefully considered before a final vote will take place on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at the November Village Board meeting.

Adjournment: 6:48 PM