

**Village of Ilion
Public Hearing
February 10, 2016**

Mayor Terry Leonard called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Village of Ilion Municipal Building Auditorium.

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

Also Present: Village Treasurer MariJo Thompson, DPW Supervisor Jack Sterling, Fire Chief James Trevett, Village Clerk Cindy Kennedy

Public: 29

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

The Public Hearing notice was published in the Times Telegram on January 30, 2016.

Purpose: The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear from Village of Ilion residents on their thoughts, feelings, and ideas regarding the closed stairs leading from Otsego Street to Remington Avenue.

Mayor's Welcome: Mayor Leonard made introductions of all Village of Ilion officials present at the meeting. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was hear the thoughts and feelings of the public in regards to the future actions to be taken on the stairs leading from Otsego Street to Remington Avenue. Mayor Leonard received two emails on this topic and they will be used to help guide the decision-making process also.

The stairs are in a state of disrepair and barriers have been placed for safety reasons. DPW Supervisor Sterling issued requests for bids and the option for repair has been ruled out. The one estimate submitted was \$172,480 for replacement and did not include the engineering costs to put it out for bid. Engineering costs would add \$20,000 to \$30,000 to the estimate.

Discussion/Comments:

- It was determined by two companies that repair was not an option and replacement was necessary.
- The stairs did not deteriorate overnight, the damage has happened over several years.
- The orange fencing at the top and bottom of the stairs is also damaged.
- The stairs were used on a regular basis and village residents would like them repaired.
- There are trees down, hanging wires, railings in disrepair, and debris that needs to be removed in the area.
- According to the Village's Procurement Policy, any repair over \$30,000 requires an engineer's input.
- Remington Arms will be celebrating their 200th anniversary this year, and the Village will reach out to them.

- There may be Village employees who are familiar with concrete work and can help with the repair. The scope of work that is needed exceeds what our employees are capable of at this time. The job must be designed by an engineer and put out for bid to contractors. There can be some in-kind participation by Village employees to include cleaning of brush and debris.
- The stairs are frequently used as shown by the 5 to 6 bags of trash that have been filled during Village cleanup days.
- Can another town's engineer work with this project? The Village works with a list of engineers on all Village projects.
- Can a school designed for architecture (SUNY ESF) supply students to work on this project?
- It was suggested that the Village raise water rates for those water users outside the Village limits to raise capital for the stair project.
- Grant money awards may be researched for the project if the stairs can be considered an "historic landmark."
- How many complaints have been made since the stairs closed? Two emails have been received and all Village residents present feel that the stairs need to remain open.
- There could be a possibility of community groups starting fundraising campaigns to help with the costs. One suggestion was a "buy/sponsor a stair program."
- Could a narrow section of the staircase that is not in disrepair be opened up?
- Is there a possibility of using alternate materials instead of concrete? Any effort to repair the stairs would only last 20-25 years.
- Could BOCES students help with the project? It is unknown if the scope of the project could be handled by a BOCES class.
- Could a sidewalk along the side of the stairs be worked into the plan? An engineering firm would need to design the plans.
- The Village insurance company requires that the stairs be adequately replaced or repaired for the safety of Village residents.
- Utica College had local legislators lobby to receive \$2.5 Million for a grant. Can our local legislators lobby for grant money to replace or repair the stairs?

All concerns and comments have been noted and the Village Board will now consider the matter and make a final decision.

Adjournment: 6:29 P.M.