



INCORPORATED:
APRIL 18, 1854

Village of Youngstown

VILLAGE CENTER • 240 LOCKPORT STREET
P. O. Box 168
YOUNGSTOWN, NEW YORK 14174-0168

TELEPHONE:
(716) 745-7721
FAX:
(716) 745-3400

December 1, 2025

RE: Status of the Red Brick School Building Clock Tower

Dear Concerned Resident,

We appreciate your recent correspondence and concern regarding the Clock Tower. It is a shame that for years, if not decades, maintenance needs were ignored and neglected. One of Youngstown's defining characteristics is its history. I think we can all agree that preservation of our Village history is vitally important to our future, and it is the intent of this administration to preserve it.

I would like to provide you with some background information relative to the events regarding the Clock Tower. The Village received a complaint two years ago on October 11th from a Village resident regarding the clock tower and the two arches on the Lockport Street end of the building. The Board has been aware of both situations and it has been discussed in numerous Board Meetings and discussions with Board members since the time of this complaint.

The Board's overwhelming concern has not been the cost of any work on the tower, but rather, safety to both the public and the staff. Additionally, there is significant water damage around the structure and to the flooring, roof, and the walls. Two years have elapsed, and it is safe to say there is more rot and more damage since the initial complaint which only has expanded over time. As such, there will be a significant expense for repair or reconstruction of the clock tower. Recognizing the clear dangers that exist and mitigating them is the primary initial goal of the Board. That does not mean, however, that the Board has not and will not consider the historical significance to the Village and the residents and is committed to do so.

Just to be clear, although it is true that the Board agreed to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to take down the clock tower and repair the roof, it was NEVER, to my knowledge, the intent of the Board not to repair or replace the clock tower. In an email from Mayor Reisman to the Board just last year on December 11th, he said, "We can use the remaining funds (ARPA) towards possibly removing the clock tower for safety and patch the roof (stopping any more water damage) until we can either get a grant, do a fundraiser for a new tower, or budget it for the next year." Additionally, shortly after the initial complaint, I personally reached out to Christine Rath, Founder of Friends of Youngstown, a 501(c)(3) charity, to assist the Village with a "Save the Clock Tower" fundraising event.

To summarize, this Board is currently in a position where it needs to deal with a potential safety issue, and then determine how best to repair/replace the clock tower. The Village is also

currently reconstructing the arches and will be doing extensive brick work on the building. As previously mentioned, the Village Board has previously earmarked ARPA funds to remove the clock tower for purposes of preserving its integrity and repair the roof. The Clock Tower will be removed in a manner to best preserve it after which the Board will put out an RFP to repair, reconstruct, and totally replace it, if required. In speaking with DPW Superintendent Quarantillo and local contractors, all agree, that taking the structure down, repairing the roof, and then obtaining bids would be far easier and safer than trying to repair a rotting structure at that height on a steep roof.

The Village will work with its new grant writer, Shana DiCamillo, local organizations, such as, Friends of Youngstown, local residents, and others in the upcoming year to determine how the clock tower project will be financed. The Village has significant additional infrastructure expenses on the horizon, yet, I am confident that some funds will be allocated in the next budget year for this project. Hopefully, private, corporate, and public funding will assist the Village with this cost. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements and updates regarding this project. If you would like to assist the Village with this project in any capacity, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself, or the Village Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Stortecky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stortecky".

Rick Stortecky, Deputy Mayor