

**Official - Town of Montezuma
Board Meeting Minutes
April 18th, 2023
At 6pm**

Town Supervisor David Corey opened the meeting, led by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present: Supervisor: David Corey
Councilman/Deputy Supervisor: Lee Brew
Councilman: Tom Fitzsimmons
Councilman: Tom Hitchcock Jr.
Councilman: Chris Howard**

**Others Present: Town Clerk: Marie Cronin
Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer
Highway Superintendent: Ken Cook
Deputy HWY Superintendent: Dave Ware & Son Ben Ware
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Water Operator: Stan Longyear
Cayuga County Legislature Rep: Lydia Ruffini & Husband Bruce**

Residents: Kelly Thurston, Nancy Kratz, Kathy & Jim Decker.

Lydia Ruffini gave report on what's going on in Cayuga County. State University of NY (Sunny School) has dropped their vaccination requirement, the COVID-19 vaccine is no longer required for seniors to graduate. The Health & Humans Meeting Topic: (What's going on with our youths). Some CC BOCES Staff attended and Law enforcement: Need to raise awareness on 12 to 18 year olds committing suicide, alcohol, recreational drugs & overdose, marijuana, vaping. Try to get them the help they need before anything happens. Kids partying with adults and adults driving under the influence with children also, very concerning to the County. Farmers are out and working so pay attention to the slow moving vehicles. Lee Brew wondered, if the Youth Director Debbie Dennis would be in contact with the Town to let us know what youth programs will be offered this year. Lydia will speak to Debbie on this request. Lee Brew asking if there is a list released by the Cayuga County HWY Superintendent, of roads going to be repaired this year, see what ones will be done in the Town of Montezuma. Howland Island road culvert pipe will be getting repaired this week, please minimize travel on this road for a few days. Lee Brew requests to have a list of repaired roads sent to the Town Clerk. Tom Fitzsimmons inquired about the reasoning of the legislators voting down the contract monitoring Owasco Lake. It was voted down because the vendor has not sent it out for the bid process yet.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: John Greer gave report, see attached. Issued 4 permits for march. My Annual report has been sent into and received by the State of

New York. John also attended training school. John Greer was in court for the third time for Dustin Parker and he did not show again and a bench warrant is to be issued. Mr. Parkers lawyer wants to clear this all up but Mr. Parker is still not in compliance. Lee Brew asking about the Marina Property on Rt. 31, John stated that the planning board turned down Burt Lewis request. If Mr. Lewis goes over 4 campers then the Health Dept. will be involved. Lee Brew stating that Mr. Lewis is also in violation of septic system inspection and nothing has been done on this either (Chris Schultz inspector is aware of this problem).

Highway Superintendent report given by Ken Cook: see attached report. The salt barn, we have been asking Cayuga County Soil & Water (Tim Schnider) about the grants and now we have received an email from them with different information which we need to discuss with the Town Board before we proceed with this grant or not. The grant is not due until July 2023 but the email is deceiving so unsure what to do at this point. Lee Brew stated that on the email (copy of email attached) they are changing the regulations on the salt barn. Per Dave Ware he said yes it's going to legislation in Albany now, so the cost may be different. Source Well (federal) has done our 3 quotes. Per Dave Corey if we put money upfront we won't get it back for a year or more. Lee brew stated if we go ahead with this and they change the spec's, what happens then. Chris Howard inquired if we continue with the grant process will we have to accept it. Cheryl Longyear stated that if we proceed we do have the option to decline the grant but Ken Cook and Dave Ware HWY Dept. are concerned that it will hurt our Town with other funding grants in the future if we turn it down. Dave Corey said if we proceed with the grant process and the costs are catastrophic then the Town Board can choose not to accept the grant. Tom Fitzsimmons wondering if the Town can get funds from other accounts we have for the salt barn, (which the Board can discuss with the Bookkeeper Pat Craine) this would stop us from taking too much from the tax payers. If any Board members want to sit down with Ken and Dave at the HWY dept. and discuss any of this before we move on or bring it up again at the May meeting they are willing to meet with the Board. Last month the Town Board approved the go ahead to apply for the grant so Dave Corey said to continue with the grant and we'll go from there after we hear on grant. Town clean up, we have all the dumpsters and we will request proof of residency as not all Towns are doing this so concerns of out of towners coming to our clean up, it's not fair to the Town residents whom are taxpayers to pay for out of town trash. Lee Brew stated to put up a sign that we have video surveillance to defer anyone from coming up and dropping off things while we are not there or taking things while we are not there. It's on the website also about proof of residence. Don Russel P/T mower is back helping at the HWY garage. The new table top for the Town hall is up at the HWY garage, should we sell it or see if we can get a carpenter to build legs for the new top. The old table legs are not good to put the new top on. We have on quote for the Town Hall parking lot paving from Riccelli Northern Asphalt at \$47,210.00. We did some driveway repair at Prospected hill cemetery, ditch out on the sides of it, crush and run added so people can get up the driveway. Also do we need to leave the sign up that cemetery closed for winter time, Per Lee Brew we should keep it up and if someone does try to enter the cemetery and gets stuck or slides off then the Town could be sued for not

having signs up. Chris Howard, if you post a sign properly it should cover liability for the Town. Lee Brew, If we put a chain across the driveway then you need reflective tape so someone can see it.

Historian Cheryl Longyear gave report: See attached report. Tom Fitzsimmons stated that he tried to call the canal systems office in Syracuse and Albany, left messages on both answering machines with his name and number but no return call from either place as of yet (about the level of the River).

Discussion of the Employee Handbook: Town Clerk Marie Cronin put the revisions in the handbook and reprinted them. The Board can talk about it more in May. Per Lawyer Kevin Cox the Town does not have to keep in the Handbook #5 - Any Employee retiring after 25 yrs. Of service will have their health ins. Paid for by the Town until they are eligible for Medicare. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to delete the above revisions on 25yrs of service. Motion carried 5/0.

School Board Meeting May 9th, 2023 at 6pm at the Town of Montezuma Hall. Encourage all to attend. Also a Planning Board Meeting this night too. Will look online and see if we can locate the Budget for the Port Byron School 2023.

Thursday night April 20th 2023 please attend the sexual harassment and workplace violence class at Town hall 6pm all attend.

Call the water meter #1-800-557-3088 to set up your appts. to change the meters. If your water meter is in a pit outside you should be okay not being home.

Approval of Bills: The Town is tax exempt but, American gas is charging sales tax on all of the Towns electric bills, Dave Corey called and they are sending us a refund check for \$403.00 of the sales tax they charged us. All Board Members have a copy of the insurance policy from Eastern Shore to review to make sure everything is on the policy that should be, we will be going over budget on Eastern Shore. The Association of Towns is doing a shared service on electric and gas which could save money for the Town. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the bills. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of the Supervisors Report: NYCLASS interest the month of March 2023 has earned the Town \$3,276.88. Tom Hitchcock Jr. inquiring about putting this interest money into a central account in case we need it for any repairs, it's making interest in each account so unable to put into a central account. DA5110.4 account for the \$7,642.38 tree landers grinding should be coming out of the General Fund and not the Highway fund, will need a budget transfer to have the amount come out of General Fund account A8160.4 (recycling fund), Dave Corey will speak to Pat Craine (bookkeeper) about this. The payment was made on 1/18/2023 check #5601 for \$7,500.00. Tom Fitzsimmons inquired can the Board get copies of the bank statements for all accounts. Dave to ask bookkeeper Pat Craine to see what she can do. Also would like all the Supervisors reports emailed to all Board members before the

meetings so they have a chance to review them. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the Supervisors Report. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Lee Brew Second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the March 21st, 2023 minutes as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

On Thursday April 13th 2023 the Town of Montezuma Board approved phase #1 of the c2ae contract. (The Hydraulic analysis & Refine Project Area) at the cost of \$3,000.00.

Public Comments and Concerns: Kathy Decker inquiring on internet hook up, they have a box out there now but no cable run to it yet. Tom Fitzsimmons requesting that ALL department heads get the Supervisors Report emailed to them so they can review before the meetings and keep track of their budgets. (as early in the month as possible). Dave Corey to make sure Pat Craine Bookkeeper has all the emails to accomplish this request.

Adjourn: Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

Minutes submitted by Town Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin