

**Official - Town of Montezuma  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 Highway Superintendent: Dave Ware & Son Ben**

Ware

**Historian: Cheryl Longyear  
Water Operator: Stan Longyear  
Cayuga County Legislature Rep: Lydia Ruffini & Husband**

Bruce Ruffini

**Residents: Kelly Thurston**

Lydia Ruffini gave report on what's going on in Cayuga County. This month the second small business grant will be out for the small businesses to apply for. We need to spread the word on this in our area. Businesses with losses in 2019, 2020, and 2021 could receive up to \$10,000.00. Lee Brew was inquiring if there is any of the money left over from this what will the Legislatures be doing with it. Per Lydia there is a breakout committee and they will get the ARPA funds back and it will be up to them how to split it up. Lee stating that the Historical and Parks could use some of these ARPA funds. Lydia said thank you to Cheryl Longyear (Historian) for putting us on the map with all of her hard work. Septic systems may be up for inspections this year. The Health Dept. has grants for up to \$10,000.00 for replacement systems if needed. Lead poisoning is high in our County. Lydia spoke with Brian Soper CC Highway Dept. and she will give him the Town Clerks email to send a report on repair of roads schedule.

Code Enforcement Officer John Greer gave report: John issued 2 permits in May. There also is another Court date May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 for Dustin Parker, John Greer and Town Lawyer Kevin Cox will be attending.

Highway Superintendent Ken Cook gave report: See attached. The other overhead doors at the HWY dept. need work done on them and Ken would like to see if they can be worked on. (110 door and cold storage door). Cost to get rid of mattresses and box

springs per Seneca Meadows is \$150.00 a piece. Spring Cleanup went well. The Trailer park on Carner road brought many dump truck loads to the HWY dept. many concerns of this. There was only one issue with one gentleman on the senior pickup, he was stalking Hwy Employees, taking pictures of them and they finally called the police, he also came to the Town Hall and Deputy Town Clerk (Candice Cook) was confronted by this gentleman also but calmed down when the HWY dept. employees arrived. Highway Superintendent Ken Cook stated that they are still in contact with everyone on the salt barn and will keep the Town Board updated on this. Truck #2 is having issues and the Town may have to start looking around for a new or used replacement truck, sooner than later so we'll not be without a truck. Tom Hitchcock Jr. said that we should start looking now for the gently used new truck, or a motor for truck #2 on Auctions International.

Snow Plow Contract for the Highway Department: See attached report. The Town received a check in December 2022 for \$62,000.00 and on the per trip rate we are ahead as we only spent \$49,000.00. The new per trip price will be \$1,060.14. Motion made by Dave Corey second by Lee Brew to pass the snow plow contract with Cayuga County. Motion carried 5/0.

Dave Corey was approached by Anthony Amodei (In charge of the Waterloo Region) at the Hwy meeting asked if the state repaves old state rt. 31 will the Town of Montezuma take this road back. Dave says it's up to the Town Board to make this decision on this. Lee Brew stated that if we take the road back then we will have the liability if anything happens. If the State abandons this road then it will be up to the homeowners to maintain it. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. not to take old rt. 31 road back. Motion carried 5/0.

Historian Cheryl Longyear gave report: See attached.

Dave Corey Supervisor gave Planning Board report for Leah Corey: See attached. Tuesday April 11, 2023. On going permits being reviewed by Joe Verdi and the planning board. Bert Lewis, First Permit: Montezuma Anchorage Paddle Camp, LLC. He is not in compliance for the camp or permit and the Septic inspection needs to be addressed, Bert Lewis is also collecting money from campers. Second Permit: Dustin Parker, Home based business.

Dave Corey stated that the Town Lawyer Kevin Cox is trying to shut down the Smiths Junk Yard as they are in contempt.

Employee manual: Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to Adopt the employee manual as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

Discussion of proposal of Cayuga Indian Nation to rent Town Hall for a jury trial. Tabled until June 2023 meeting until the Town Board has a plan and a contract first.

Vote on the Gutters for the Town Hall: Secor Lumber Bid of \$6,600.00 and All in Roofing Bid of \$7,086.76. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to hire Secor Lumber for the gutter installation. Motion carried 5/0.

Mosquito Spraying; 2 sprayings this year. Duflo will contact Supervisor Dave Corey when he is ready to spray. The Certificate of insurance Duflo has should also have the Town of Montezuma's name on it in addition so our Town is covered.

Resolution of Budget Modifications: Lee Brew wondering if we have any ARPA funds left can we put some picnic tables and grills at the Historical site lot. Striping the Basketball court should be done soon. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to have Bookkeeper Pat Craine do all the Budget Modifications as listed on attached sheet. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of the Bills: Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the Bills. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of the Supervisors report: Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to approve the Supervisors report. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to approve the April 13th, 2023 minutes as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the April 18th, 2023 minutes as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

Supervisors News: Cayuga County Veterans will be here on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 10am to 3pm to answer questions for Veterans about their disabilities, property tax exemptions, discounts at local businesses, transportation etc. The State also will sign Vets up for a \$50.00 farmers market vouchers. Cheryl Longyear (Historian to put this on the Towns website and facebook) Dave Corey went to meeting on Veterans and Dog Control. Insurance company requesting to pad the Playground area. Lee Brew requesting the repair of the walking track at stop 69, if we fix the track then more residents could use this. Also maybe purchase new playground equipment and padding for the Town Hall and take the old playground equipment with new padding down to the stop 69 area for the kids to play on down there. Cranbrook sells playground mulch. Tom Fitzsimmons still concerns of the drainage at the Town Hall playground area, unsure if the DEC can help us. Hwy Staff researching drainage area and will inform the Town Board with a plan as soon as possible. Signs for the HWY garage stating no video devices or recording devices brought into the HWY garage. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to allow the HWY staff to put up the signs. Motion carried 5/0. The Town also needs to upgrade the Town Clerks windows for security purposes. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to get prices to upgrade windows at the Town Clerks office. Motion carried 5/0. Dave Corey to check on the window upgrade. Snow and Ice Policy for the Town of Montezuma tabled until June 2023 meeting. Dave Corey also spoke to Ian Yeardon (C2ae engineer) and within the next couple of weeks the pressure testing will be done. Baby steps this

year Ian stated. Can the Town get a list of the baby steps to be taken. The Town still doesn't have the \$3,000.00 bill yet from C2ae for the pressure test. Dave also called the Surveyor (James Marian) for the cemetery and still no answer. Refuge Project has no engineer yet. Workplace violence policy needs to be approved. Table till June 2023 meeting. Whom is liable for the water meters not being accessible for the water operator Stan Longyear to repair them. Will the homeowners be responsible for a new pit. The Town would have to notify homeowners to discuss this. Pits cost around \$2,500.00 now to put in. The Town can maybe offer the residents a payment plan for the new pit. Proposal from Seneca office Products for Tables and Chairs, 6 chairs and tables for a total of \$2,122.00. Motion made by Dave Corey second by Lee Brew to purchase the tables and chairs. Motion carried 5/0.

Public comments and concerns: NONE.

Adjourn Meeting: Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

Minutes submitted by Town Clerk:

Marie Cronin