

**Official – Town of Montezuma
Board Meeting Minutes
July 18th, 2023
At 6pm**

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

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

Others Present: Town Clerk: Marie Cronin
Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer
Highway Superintendent: Ken Cook
Deputy Highway Superintendent: Dave Ware
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Water Operator: Stan Longyear

Residents and Speakers: Lydia Ruffini & Bruce Ruffini, Ben Ware, Kelly Thurston.

Lydia Ruffini (Cayuga County Legislature Rep) gave report on what's going on around Cayuga County. Lydia will not be at the August meeting. It's been slow at the County, but would like to talk about the Youth bureau. They have a lot of funds for the Youth Bureau and Towns are stating to ask for funds. Encourage the Town to apply for funds with Debbie Dennis at the Youth Bureau, Lydia would like to see the smaller Towns get some of these ARPA funds. Lee Brew inquired how much ARPA funds do they have. (\$250,000.00) per Lydia. If anyone is looking for a job or knows someone looking for a job have them contact Lydia or go on the County website and see what the County has to offer. Accountants needed. Cheryl asking about a typist position at the County Historical Society. It's very important to fund this position at the County and keep the office, as the historical society uses the office frequently. We can't hire anyone for this job if the County isn't paying them well.

John Greer Code Enforcement Officers report: see attached report. 3 permits issued, 2 pools and 1 deck. John is working with Gary Terwilliger at the County Planning Board to update ag. District. Lee Brew inquiring about the court case the Town has in progress right now With Sheila Smith. They will be in Supreme Court on 7/19/23 per Dave Corey. Tom Fitzsimmons, update on Dustin Parker. John Greer stated that Dustin Parker applied for a pool permit. Dustin also had a survey map done as he is trying to get the site plan approved, he was in court about 2 weeks ago. Then the Planning Board will have to approve the plans and it will also have to be approved by the County. Does he still only have a bait shop permit. (per John Greer, no as the gentleman that came in lied about it Paul Myer.) Lee Brew wants the Town to be vigilant about the new

property purchase in our Town that Dustin Parker has made on Fuller road. Per John Greer, they are wetlands and unsure if Dustin could do anything with them. Tom Fitzsimmons asking about the house on rt. 90 with all the cars and camper at the road. Has this been dealt with. Per John they have been in court over this and were given fines. The police were over to the house last night 7/17/23 but unsure what was done.

Cheryl Longyear Historian gave report: see attached. Volunteers did (at Heritage Park) weed eating, clearing all lock 62, trail checks butterfly garden work staining the sign in boxes on July 8th, 2023. Our hosting the bike ride on July 12th, 2023 went well. Sent out postcards for them. Served snacks and drinks. There were 750 bicyclists. Tom Fitzsimmons, Bring it up to the Town Board to see if we can get Cayuga County Soil and Water to come in with their boom mower again to do our trails. They stated that they could do a good job within 10 hours at \$85.00 per hour. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Dave Corey to grant this request with Cayuga County Soil and Water. Motion carried 4/0. Cheryl Longyear said that the Heritage Park Committee has given up the idea of a floating dock and instead would like to put a pavilion and tables and shed at the rt. 31 park project. Approval needs to come from the State Parks. Dave Corey recommending to increase pay from \$12,500 to \$15,500 for Kristy LaManche the Administer, whom is doing a fantastic job for our Town. Motion made by Dave Corey second by Tom Fitzsimmons to increase Kristy LaManches pay the \$3,000 requested. Motion carried 4/0.

Ken Cook Highway Superintendent gave report: see attached. 2015 Ford F350 needs oil pan and springs and highway staff can do the repairs, cost only for parts. 2012 international 6 wheel truck Ken states they are still looking for the thermostat housing w/bypass, ordered one from international but unsure when they will get one. Quotes on new truck see attached quotes. International & Tenco, Western star, Freightliner and Kenworth. Chris Howard, is there any things from the old truck (box, etc.) that can be used on a new truck chassis. Not recommended as it could end up putting the new truck into premature failure. Vehicle replacement, most say 10yrs. on the big things. DEF sensor came in 7/18/23 and was put in on the 2021 international 10 wheel dump truck and is working. Lee Brew asking if the Highway Department is recommending that the Town purchase a new truck. Per Ken Cook, yes Ken is asking the Board if they can order the truck, Supervisor David Corey will need to sign a voucher for this, works like buying a car if in 16 months the Town decides not to take the new truck the Town can back out and the company will sell the truck to the next Town ordering one. If the old truck breaks down, the Hwy Dept. will have to see about borrowing a truck from another Town to get us by. Brian Soper from Cayuga County HWY Dept. said the HWY Dept. could use one of their trucks but they aren't in good shape either. Also the State would lend us one too. Tom Fitzsimmons asking for a meeting with representative from international (Philip Brigandi) to speak with the Town Board and Supervisor about everything with the truck before a decision is made. Ken Cook to set up the meeting. Dave Corey tabled this request until next month (AUG) meeting. Pulleys replaced on the John Deere 5065 brush hog at the cost of \$462.06 Overhead door openers & safety switches installed and working as should. Drain pipes in cold storage were buried, so HWY Dept. staff cleaned up the pipes and extended them so no water is coming in on the floors now.

Tom Fitzsimmons stated that the Highway staff did a good job on painting and cleaning up the Town Fire Hydrants.

Discussion on Indian Nation Hall Rental: Chris Howard, are the trials open to the Public, Dave Corey stated not sure but probably not. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to accept the rental of the hall for 6 days, with all the stipulations (insurance, \$1,000 per day and will meet with Town Lawyer Kevin Cox to make up a contract) as stated by the Town of Montezuma Board. Motion carried 4/0.

Supervisors report approval: NYCLASS interest so far this year is \$19,000. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to approve the Supervisors Report. Motion carried 4/0.

Approval of the Bills: Association of Towns shared Electric, we're paying rates 10-12 cents kilowatt hour, good energy is 2yr fixed rate of 7.4 cents per kilowatt locked in rate. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to approve the Supervisor to switch our electric services as stated and sign the appropriate papers to change this. Motion carried 4/0. Dave Corey was concerned with the large bill for the street lights, the Town is leasing street lights this is why. Lee Brew thought we bought the lights. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Lee Brew to approve the Bills. Motion carried 4/0.

Budget Modification: Transfer \$1,500.00 from Contingency Acct. A1990.4 to Central Storeroom Acct. A1660.4. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Lee Brew to approve the Budget Modification. Motion carried 4/0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Lee Brew Second by Chris Howard to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried 4/0. Town Clerk attached to the Minutes the Annual Water Quality Report Certification form done by Heather Tanner the Towns water clerk.

Supervisors News: Basketball court is partially stripped and will finish tomorrow, Duflo will be spraying for mosquitos this week. Dave Corey spoke to Ron Wilson (Port Byron Mayor), still waiting for the Supervisor in Port Byron (Mark Emerson) to call him back. Then will set up the water meeting as needed yearly on the first Wednesday in August with our Town. Lee Brew interested in the verification process. Dave also has a meeting with Jeff Gallahan (State Assemblyman) Thursday July 20th, 2023 at 2pm, he wants to meet Dave Corey. Dave has a Shared service meeting on August 9th, 2023 and CPR class Aug. 9th, 2023 at the Town Hall, 6pm (3hours), the cost is \$30.00 per person and no more than 12 people, all Town employees should take this course. Not able to invite Town residents to attend at this time.

Public comments and concerns: Cheryl Longyear asking about the remarks for funding for out Town youths that Lydia Ruffini talked about. Lee Brew stated Lydia is looking for a proposal that's specifically for the Town of Montezuma youths. Lee Brew stated that years ago the Town of Montezuma, Mentz and Port Byron had a youth program and wondered if Dave Corey can ask the Mayor of Port Byron (Ron Wilson) if they still have a youth program and could our Town join it. Town of Montezuma used to have sea breeze trips for our kids in Town, but after the Covid

everything stopped. Advertisement to let everyone know about things going on in the Town is difficult to get out to the public. Tom Fitzsimmons wondering if we could maybe get some of the old playground equipment from Port Byron school when they replace theirs for Montezuma Town Hall and stop 69. The Hwy Dept. is going to make our current play area compliant with the insurance company. Marie Cronin (Town Clerk) moved all of the paper products in the electrical room to the kitchen area to make the Town compliant with insurance company. Dave to send them a report on both. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to have the Hwy Dept. dig up the mesh and put down the playground mulch at \$23 per yard. Motion carried 4/0. Chris Howard asking if maybe calling Throop to see if when they replace their equipment can we take some. Dave to speak with Mayor Ron Wilson of Port Byron on this and call Throop too about theirs also. Our Town Hall playground is in a Poor location, as the main road (Rt. 90) is a hazard for kids to cross alone. Possibly could the Town think about moving it over by the VFW across the street in that open field, (if National Grid will allow), and maybe National Grid if asked would donate some equipment if the playground can be put on their property. Also would need fencing around the area for safety, (rt. 90, VFW guests and fire dept. vehicles). Chris Howard said another spot possible for a small playground is the lower spot behind the Butterfly garden. Electronic signs for advertising things going around Town would help. They are very expensive per Dave Corey.

Adjournment: Motion made by Chris Howard second by Lee Brew to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

Minutes submitted by Town Clerk

Marie L. Cronin