

Official - Town of Montezuma Board

First Budget Meeting

September 28th, 2023

At 6pm

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

Members Present: Supervisor David Corey

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman: Lee Brew

Councilman: Tom Fitzsimmons

Councilman: Tom Hitchcock Jr.

Councilman: Chris Howard

Others Present: Town of Montezuma Clerk: Marie L. Cronin

Highway Superintendent: Ken Cook

David Corey speaking to the Town Board on an Amish gentlemen asking again to cut the trees in the park on Chapman rd. David to meet with him at 11am on Tuesday 10/3/23 to look at the trees wanted and would like some of the Board to meet with him too. Ken Cook Highway Superintendent stated he would meet this gentlemen with David also. Lee Brew asking if the proceeds would go to the Towns park account. The Amish gentlemen is interested in the Black Walnut trees but may take some of the dead ash trees also.

David Corey asking the Board if they have any considerations to the 5 water proposal alternatives. C2ae called David to see if the Town is ready to move to the next step. Biggest scenario is proposal #4 which includes (Rt. 90, Denman, Wilsey, Davis, Mentz Church and Loop rd). Tom Fitzsimmons asking how to go about this. Per David we need a resolution to have them start the next step with all the information. Lee Brew, why not go for the biggest one what have we got to lose. Chris Howard stated that it makes sense to go for the biggest pot also,(scenario #4). Then if we can't get the full grant they can advise us on what we can have funded. David there are 2 different sources of funding (USDA & STATE). Chris Howard if we say go ahead with scenario #4, are we married to this commitment. Per David we're married to a little money to do the research on it, But the bottom line is it comes down to the public, C2ae will come up with how much it costs and the public will get to vote on it. The public may shoot it down, we won't know yet. Per Lee Brew, at least the Town has done something trying to get the public water. The Town has gone out gotten studies, costs. Try to do something then vacillate. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to move forward with C2ae scenario #4 of the water alternatives. Motion carried 5/0.

Start of the first Budget Meeting:

David Corey put in a 3% raise across the board for all employees of the Town except David he wants to increase his contractual instead. David has a Town Budget Pay scales for Cayuga County to see the current rates of surrounding Town's.

APPROPRIATIONS: All 3% raises reflected on the pages.

Page #1: all looks good, no changes.

Page #2: Assessor stayed the same Acct. A1355.1 \$13,100.00 with no 3% raise as we have given him so much a year for the next 3 years. The Town also needs to make a decision on if we are going to do a re-assessment this year. David to speak with Assessor Jeff Lowe on this.

Page #3: Account A1440.4 (Engineers Contractual) is okay at \$24,500.00.

Account A1450.4 (Elections) from \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

Page #4: Account A1660.4 (central storeroom) A1660.4 combine with Central Mailing & Printing contractual expenses acct. A1670.4, (eliminate the A1670.4 acct.) and leave \$3,700.00 in the A1660.4 acct. Per David Corey and make the amount \$3,700.00. Per David Corey the new Purchasing director of Cayuga County (Amanda O'Grady) is going to set up a meeting with Town Clerk Marie Cronin to see if she can get us better deals for supplies. Ink, paper etc.

A1910.4 Unallocated insurance raised from (\$18,300.00 to 20,820.00) per David insurance company projected it to be \$20,820.00, but we may come under that amount.

The Municipal Association Dues Account A1920.4 raised from \$500.00 to \$600.00.

Lee Brew asking about the Dog Control Services Account A3510.4 contractual account. Per David we are going to leave the same amount (\$5,800.00) in the account and we're not sure as all of the rest of the county is in the same situation as we are. All the Towns are looking for a replacement and Carl Collier (dog control officer now) is also trying to help look for a replacement. David said might have a led on one guy but nothing yet. Carl Colliers daughter Jen would do it but is nervous when confronting belligerent owners. The Town of Montezuma hasn't had a numeration of the dogs in our Town in years. We should have it done.

Tom Hitchcock Jr. asking why the Contingency account A1990.4 was raised from \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00, per David Corey Supervisor, it's in case we need it for the Bookkeeper in case the need for any transfers to other accounts.

Chris Howard asking about the Constable Account A3120.1, the Town Borad explained we have a constable in the court (Roger Phillips).

Page #5: David asking the Board if they want to keep the Insect Contral Account A4068.4 at \$15,000.00 & per Lee Brew leave in the acct. if any concerns arise.

Account A5010.1 Personal services for Highway Superintendent, Lee Brew says to raise from \$53,560.00 to \$54,000.00. All the Board agree that Ken Cook and the rest of the staff at Highway Garage are doing a great job. Tom Hitchcock asking about the Salt barn for Highway Garage. Per Ken Cook nothing will start until the end of 2024. (2 years) Chris Howard any money we need now for. Only thing we would need is the \$4,500.00 for the soil testing per Ken Cook and that won't need to be done until after budget.

Page #6: A5182.4 St. lighting acct. raised from \$6,000.00 to \$6,500.00 as costs are going up.

A6510.4 Veterans acct. raised from \$200.00 to \$600.00. \$200.00 is for the meeting hall rental at Montezuma VFW and the other \$400.00 for the Flags with the Veterans pictures on them. Joel Glimpse and Heather Tanner are working on this and Heather will pay ½ of the first 30 flags, the families will pay the other ½ of the flags and the Town agreed to pay for more flags if needed.

A6772.42 Meals on Wheels raise from \$200.00 to \$300.00.

A6772.41 Scat Van Raise from \$1,000.00 to \$1,100.00.

A6772.4 Senior Citizens are happy with the \$3,000.00.

A7140.1 Mowing raise from \$3,200.00 to \$4,000.00.

Tom Hitchcock Jr. asking where is all the money for the playground. Per Tom Fitzsimmons it is account A7140.2P. \$2,000.00 gets transferred to this account every year. Can we set aside some of the money the Town is making from NYCLASS to update playground at Town Hall and also put something down at stop 69, and maybe equipment down behind the Butterfly garden area, per Chris Howard. Try to make the Town look attractive, especially for the future residents.

Page #7: A7310.4 Youth Programs \$600.00. Cheryl Longyear to call Debbie Dennis check and see if they have any options for the Town of Montezuma. David Corey to call Mark Emerson (Supervisor of Mentz) and Ron Wilson (Mayor) to ask about merging with Port Byron for youth programs if they're still doing this.

A8010.11 Board of Appeals keep at \$400.00 don't raise to \$500.00. Need to turn in voucher to get paid. \$25.00 per meeting for each. Patti Verdi, Chris Howard, Dawn Bisgrove.

Page #8: A8160.4 Refuse & Garbage account contractual will be fine at \$5,500. Can grindings be sold or just left for Towns residents.

A8810.1 Cemeteries mowing raise from \$3,000.00 to \$3,500.00.

A8810.44 Surveying account leave at \$3,000.00. David Corey wondering what the Town is going to do about the surveying of the Cemeteries. (James Marin) hasn't returned any of Davids calls. Per Lee Brew, we can't sell lots or anything until the surveying is done and numbers on the sites.

State Retirement went down per bookkeeper Pat Craine and the \$10,752.00 is what the state gave her.

The Town Board received a Letter from Cheryl Longyear (Historian) on combining the Town of Montezuma and the Mentz lock 52 Historical Society, requested \$1,500.00 to be put in the Historian Contractual account A7510.4 which would bring this account up to \$2,000.00. Tom Fitzsimmons stating maybe we should make a different account for this, possibly put it on with the (Programs for the Aging Account) Historical Society, Make a new listing in this area for this. David Corey to speak with the Bookkeeper Pat Craine to see if possible. David to put the Historian contractual back to \$500.00 for now A7510.4. Other Board members concern of where to put the new account. David to get information from Cheryl Longyear and Pat Craine.

A8810.1 Cemeteries Mowing raise to \$3,500.00.

Page #9: no changes.

REVENUES Page #1

A2530 Games of Chance (VFW) wasn't showing as they paid in December 2022 instead of January 2023.

Account A2140 Town Hall Rental get rid of this account and merge with the A2410 Shelter and hall rental account. Raise Shelter and Hall rental acct. to \$400.00.

Real Property Taxes leave the same and no need to do a tax cap as we are not raising taxes

A1120 Non-property tax items: David Corey proposing to take part of the sales tax and put \$120,000.00 into the Highway fund (DA5130.2 Equipment) to help pay off the new truck that we ordered. So this would lower the account A1120 from \$240,000.00 to \$160,000.00. Tom Hitchcock Jr. stating that this should be the Towns standard operation from now on (moving the sales tax as stated above) to cover the Town from going into debt. This way we have money set aside every year in case we need to purchase any other new trucks for the Highway dept. May need to set up a separate account.

The hunting / fishing DEC licenses are put under other revenue Account #A2770 along with Miscellaneous items (faxes, copies etc.). Put in with clerk fees A1255. Order signs from Tom Hitchcock Jr.

Smith junk yard, has the Town heard anything, they appealed so no answers yet on this, David Corey spoke with Lawyer Kevin Cox and they had 30 days but still no answers.

Page #1 Highway Fund (APPROPRIATIONS)

DA5112.2 equipment per Tom Hitchcock Jr., Paving and road maintenance. CHIPS were raised this year 2023.

Ken Cook Highway Superintendent, would like to give his staff a raise this year, including the seasonal staff (Don Russell). Dave Ware is at \$20 per hour and Tom Young is at \$18 per hour. David Corey to check on this and bring it to the Board at a later date. Chris Howard asking about adding another task to the Highway staff if they do take over the water meter readings.

Tom Fitzsimmons asking if EJ Prescott (whom received \$45,000.00 for the meter installation from the Town), could pay the Town back that was paid to IN-LINE (the worker didn't stay the hours he was supposed too) to change 225 meters at \$200.00 a piece but they only changed 179. Concerns of taking a big loss on the water bills. Water Operator Stan Longyear & Highway staff completed the other 46 meter changes not them which should be \$9,200.00. Tom Hitchcock Jr. and Chris Howard agree the Town should have a refund. 2 houses should have meter pits put in (\$1,200.00 per pit), per David Corey do you think it would be fair for the Town to pay for half and the owners pay the other half of the installation of the meter pit. Tom Fitzsimmons asked what the magnetized system is, (per Ken Cook it's an antenna that sets the meters). David Corey did state that EJ. Prescott reduced the bill.

DA9010.8 State Retirement at \$5,135.00 that is what the State told Bookkeeper Pat Craine.

DA9030.8 Social Security at \$9,180.00.

DA9060.8 Hospital and Medical ins. Up 8% - raise to \$20,122.00.

REVENUES - Highway Page #1

DA1120 Non-Property tax Distribution Raised from \$20,000.00 to \$120,000.00. Buying equipment outright should save the Town on the interest.

Water District #1 APPROPRIATIONS – Page #1

SW1-8310.1 meter read account \$6,000.00, should be hourly now and not salary. \$25.00 per hour (2 ½ hours) possibly. Lower to possibly \$4,000.00. If Stan does a bunch of test runs (for training him & someone also go with him to train (\$2,000.00 asst. acct. SW1-8340.11) in case of emergency) then the Town can put more money into this fund. Stan to print off readings so he has them as well as the water clerk Heather Tanner. No decision made on this. Mileage should be lowered also.

SW1-8310.11 Water Clerk raise from \$5,000.00 to \$5,150.00.

SW1-9030.8 Social Security raise from \$2,500.00 to \$2,907.00.

SW1-9730.6 Water Project acct. is \$36,720.00 due to 2 monthly charges per month from the County on water.

SW1-2401 Interest & Earnings raise from \$3,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

The Town needs to decide if we'll proceed with property re-assessment. Town to ask Jeff Lowe Assessor about this. David to speak with Jeff.

Meeting with the Amish gentlemen Tuesday 10/3/23 at 11am to talk about the trees he wants to cut. National Grid has never returned Davids calls.

David to give Bookkeeper Pat Craine changes on this Budget sheet for next meeting Thursday 10/5/23 at 6pm.

Adjourn: Motion made by Chris Howard second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 4/0 as Lee Brew had to leave meeting.

Minutes submitted by Town Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin

