

Official – Town of Montezuma

Board Meeting Minutes

September 19th, 2023

At 6pm

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

Members Present: Supervisor David Corey

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman Lee Brew (ABSENT)

Councilman Tom Fitzsimmons

Councilman Tom Hitchcock Jr.

Councilman Chris Howard

Others Present: Town Clerk Marie Cronin

Code Enforcement Officer John Greer

Historian Cheryl Longyear

Water Operator Stan Longyear

Highway Superintendent Ken Cook

Deputy Highway Superintendent Dave Ware

Residents and Speakers Present: Lydia Ruffini (CC Leg. Rep), Bruce Ruffini, James and Kathy Decker, Ben Ware & Dawn Bisgrove.

David Corey asking all to keep Lee Brew in our thoughts and prayers as he is going through an illness.

Lydia Ruffini (CC Leg. Rep) gave report on what's going on in Cayuga County. Lydia is on the Committee for the County Office Building Project and if anyone has anything they would like to share in regards to the project please let Lydia know. Lydia also stated that the districts have gone from 15 to 11 districts now. Everyone is up for re-election this year and Lydia doesn't want the year they have worked on the project to go to waste. Lydia asking how much money do we want to spend on this project, and the constituents want to spend as little as possible. They have a plan to just bring everything up to date. The Office building is in need of new heater and work on elevators. David Corey asking is they are going to tear the old building down, per Lydia no they are repairing the old. The County has 3 basic designs at this point to choose from. The Office of the Aging like where they are located now so do not want to go back to the Office building. The County is trying to bring the emergency services and 911 together. Kathy Decker asking if the records retention room will be consolidated. Per Lydia no the County is digitizing

records at this point so will need less space. It's called the Dreams Project and the County gave 3 Million of ARPA funds to them, then the State gave them 2 Million so the County put their 2 Million back into their ARPA funds. Cheryl Longyear asking if the funds can be used for playground equipment. Lydia stated to do an ARPA funds search and see what it can be used for. Emerson Park had improvements to their playground area with ARPA funds. The State gave the County over \$100,000.00 for the youth program and we already have a quarter million in funds already. We are in search of people to head committees to accommodate programs for our youths in our Towns. Call Debbie Dennis the head of the Youth Bureau in Cayuga County. Cheryl Longyear will contact Debbie on this, it's also hard to get volunteers. Auburn had an amazing program for their youths this year. Cayuga County Tourism put together a packet (Lydia gave Town Clerk Marie Cronin this packet), from Karen Cool Executive Director. They put up a new Hotel in Auburn as the Tourism has been increasing.

Code Enforcement Officer John Greer gave report: (see attached) issued 2 permits. John attended a code class last month at Liverpool fire station, Class was on fire separation. John also issues and order to remedy to the rt.90 household trying to get them to clean up the area which they still haven't done. They have already had a small fine but still nothing.

Historian Cheryl Longyear gave report: see attached report. Per David Corey stated that national grid is surveying and checking the tower that is leaning. Tom Fitzsimmons asking if David can ask national grid about our drainage issues at the Town hall Lot

Planning Board report given by David Corey: see attached report.

Superintendent Ken Cooks report: See attached report. In need of tires for a couple of the town trucks and Ken has called Tallmage tire to get quote. Would like to keep Don Russell on for mowing but need a resolution to put more funds into his account. Chips paperwork is all filled out and sent in. Received the thermostat finally for 2012 international truck (6 wheel) and its working fine.

David Corey stated that he's been approach by an Amish gentlemen about cutting the Black Walnut trees on The Towns property on Chapman rd. He wants to bring in horses to accomplish this. Dawn Bisgrove asking if the Town will get paid for the trees. Per David the Town would be paid for the sales of the trees and David Corey let the gentlemen know that everything would need to be cleaned up and not one mess left there. The gentlemen has a paper stating the Town would not be responsible if anything happened. The Board to set up a meeting to discuss this with the gentlemen first before making any decisions. Kathy Decker asking if he would take down some of the ash trees and they don't want to deal with them.

Discussion on the Indian rental of our Town Hall for the Trial. Kevin Cox (Town Lawyer) gave the lic. agreement to David Corey and copies given to the Town Board to look it over before a decision is made. Still need specific dates for trial.

Waterline proposals from the C2ae engineering company: David Corey got 5 different proposals and need the Town Board to look them over and it can be discussed at the next meeting. (9/28/23).

Budget meeting dates for 2023, David Corey asking if the next 3 Thursdays in a row would be okay with all the Town Board. (09/28/23, 10/2/23 & 10/12/23) at 6pm. Town Clerk Marie Cronin to put the dates in the Newspaper ASAP. Dave to get preliminary budget copy to all the Board and Clerk.

Assessor Jeff Lowe asking if we could have a tax exemption for the veterans. It would be \$35 per year and that equals out to \$1.00 increase to all the Towns people taxes. Motion made by David Corey second by Chris Howard to give the vets the tax break. Motion carried 4/0.

Budget Modifications: As stated on the resolution attached. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the Budget Modifications as stated. Motion carried 4/0.

Approval of the Bills: Motion made by David Corey second by Chris Howard to approve the bills. Motion carried 4/0. Also David went to a shared services meeting last week and spoke with the new County Purchasing Director (Amanda O'Grady), she is going to see if she can save the Town some money on office supplies like ink etc. (we're paying too much) She will call to meet or speak with Marie Cronin Town Clerk.

Approval of the Supervisors report: The Town made \$3,470.00 in interest last month from NYCLASS and their rate has now gone up to 5.12%. David also stating that the 2nd quarter sales tax is reflected in the Supervisors report now. Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the Supervisors report. Motion carried 4/0.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Chris Howard to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried 4/0.

Supervisor News: Losing Carl Collier the dog warden for our Town. He will be retiring at the end of this year, but is trying to help us resolve the issue. The other Towns are also going to be without. Lee Brew The Town is looking for 2 republican inspectors for elections. 5am to 10pm on election day.

Public comments and concerns: Ken Cook stated that 9/19/23 in the morning he had to turn the parking lot light off as it was buzzing, so it is off until it gets fixed. Cheryl Longyear asking if all departments will be getting budget sheets to work on. Tom Fitzsimmons asking about a bill from a water leak at (home of Roma Ray Dwyer rd.) she paid the bill but can the Town do anything for Norma like putting her under the #34 onetime deal that the Town has for excessive water leaks. Norma would be charged what we paid the County. She would be saving about \$178.00. Motion made by David Corey second by Chris Howard to allow the onetime deal. Motion carried 4/0. For the trial meter read on Friday 9/22/23 is it a possibility to have Stan Longyear (water operator) do the normal meter reading as Heather (water clerk) needs to make out the bills on Monday 9/25/23. The Highway staff is training on how to read the water meters so Stan is not the only person who knows how to read meters.

Adjourn meeting: Motion made by David Corey second by Chris Howard to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk: Marie L. Cronin