

**Official – Town of Montezuma
Board Meeting Minute
August 15th, 2023
At 6pm**

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

Members Present: Supervisor: David Corey
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
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Water Operator: Stan Longyear
Water Clerk: Heather Tanner

Residents and Speakers: Lydia Ruffini CC Leg. Rep., Bruce Ruffini, Ben Ware and Phil Brigandi Allegiance Trucks Sales Manager.

Lydia Ruffini gave report on what's going on in Cayuga County. Concerns about the solar batteries fire in Jefferson County, they are highly toxic and seep into the air, ground and water system which is causing farming issues as well as air quality issues. Cheryl Longyear stated that the Town of Montezuma has a Comprehensive solar plan that the Town worked on with Cary Terwilliger for clauses to protect the Town. The Town of Conquest has 2,000 acers for a solar farm which is dangerous for this area. They have No pubic water around this area it is all wells. If anything happens in this area, like in Jefferson County it would be devastating to the community. Lee Brew wondering if the DEC is getting involved with this issue, and how does our new Senator Rachel May feel about this. David Corey at shared services meeting asked about the records management funding for digitizing records for the Town. Lisa Cooper from the Town of Sterling has digitized the records for her Town. The County has the funding for this but will take approximately 2yrs. Lydia stated they are putting all our Towns last. Dave Ware asking about funding for new updated radio system, if 911 goes through with this will the surrounding areas be involved and updated. Lydia has not heard anything about this but will check into it with Sheriff Brian Schenk and EMS director (Riley Shurtleff).

Code Enforcement Officer John Greer gave report: 2 permits issued. Update on the Smith case and they are trying to appeal. The Smiths have at least 2 more weeks to comply. Should have a code written for our Town that states if a solar farm is going to be built in our area then the company needs to be bonded so the company whom puts solar farm in is responsible for the total cleanup of the area. John to look into this.

Historian Cheryl Longyear gave report: see attached report. The parks are seeing people from all over the world coming to walk through the area and love it.

Highway Superintendent Ken Cook gave report: see attached report. Phil Brigandi Municipal Sales Representative for Allegiance Trucks spoke to the Board on the new truck specs. so the Board understands what is involved with the purchase of the new truck and cost etc. Will still be 1 to 1 ½ years to get the new truck. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to order the new 2024 international HV507 SFA 4x2 truck & Tenco plow/body pkg as quoted for \$235,181.00. Navistar, inc. will be building the truck, Phil is the middle man for this sale. Lock in price if we buy ASAP, have 30 days only for this. Our Dump truck will be paid off in 2025 and the excavator will be paid off in Sept. 2023. Tom Hitchcock Jr. recommending the truck swapping as the trucks get older swap them out while they still has value. Tom also wondered about the parts for old truck (they are all on national back order). Chris Howard wondered why the big difference in price with the specs. being the same. Phil stating the labor cost are different. When Financing the truck the Town has at least 2 years to come up with this amount. The truck needs to be paid in full 30 days after receiving the truck.

Planning Board report: David Corey gave report for Leah Corey, see attached minutes for July 11th, 2023 and August 8th, 2023 for the planning board.

Budget Modification: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to pass the Budget Modification of increasing the ARPA revenue account A4089 by \$2,299.00. And increase acct. A7140.4 Playgrounds & recreations centers contractual by \$2,299.00 to receive ARPA money,(this was due to the re-doing of our playground area at the Town Hall). Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of the Bills: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Lee Brew to approve the bills. Motion carried 4/0, Tom Hitchcock Jr. abstained. Lee Brew, Interest charge from First National Bank of Omaha credit card and Town Clerk Marie Cronin to call on this, they were supposed to wave the fee.

Supervisors Report: NYCLASS interest rate is up to 5%. We made \$3,491.86 for July 2023. Lee Brew inquired if the Town has received the second sales tax check yet and per Dave Corey yes and unsure why it's not showing up on the Supervisors report, Dave to speak with bookkeeper Pat Craine. Lee Brew asking if we can authorize the Town Clerk to purchase a sign with an arrow showing that we sell the hunting and fishing licenses here. Lee also asked about the games of chance A2530 acct. check which was deposited but not showing on the supervisors report. Town Clerk Marie Cronin to look into this. Cheryl Longyear inquiring about the reimbursement check for the grant. Per Dave Corey he did not think we have received it yet. Tom Fitzsimmons stated by the end of the year we will be having a problem with medical insurance. Lee Brew are we going to advertise for a new dog warden. Dave Corey working on looking for a replacement for next year 2024. Tom Hitchcock Jr. do we own the St. lights or NYSEG, per Dave Corey we lease the St. lights from NYSEG. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Chris Howard to approve the Supervisors report. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Minutes from July 18th, 2023. Lee Brew stated that last month we talked about renting the Town Hall to for the Indian trial. If the trial is during business hours we will be closed and advertise ahead of time so the public knows we'll be closed while the trial is in session.

Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve minutes as amended.
Motion carried 4/0. Tom Hitchcock Jr. abstained.

Supervisor news: The Va (Wall That Heals), will be at Falcon Park September 14th, 2023 at 8:30am. The Wall will be open 24 hours a day until the closing ceremony on September 17th, 2023 at 1:30pm. Looking for volunteers to work in 4 hours shifts. Dave Corey is looking into the cost of cyber insurance to keep our files protected. Dave Corey also met the Cayuga County Director of Purchasing and she was very informative. Spoke about shared services for salt. Dave also was sent a risk transfer guide for the Indian Trial renting of our Town Hall and forwarded a copy to the Town Lawyer Kevin Cox and Mark Lincoln the Superintendent of police at Cayuga Nations. So our Lawyer will get with their Lawyer to discuss this.

Executive Session: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Lee Brew to go into Executive Session to discuss (some potential problems) at 7:34pm. Motion carried 5/0. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to end Executive Session at 8:43pm. Motion carried 5/0. Motion made by Lee Brew second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to reopen Board Meeting at 8:44pm. Motion carried 5/0.

Public comments and concerns: No public comments or concerns at this time.

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

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