

Official – Town of Montezuma

Special Workshop Meeting

September 14th, 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 (ABSENT)

Councilman: Tom Fitzsimmons

Councilman: Tom Hitchcock Jr.

Councilman: Chris Howard

Others Present: Town Clerk: Marie Cronin

Water Operator: Stan Longyear

Residents: Patti and Joe Verdi

David Corey spoke to the Town Board about an Amish gentlemen wanting to cut trees on Town property on Chapman rd. They want the black walnut trees not any ash trees. David to speak to the gentlemen again and then discuss further with the Town Board.

Veterans Tax Exemption: David Corey to speak with Assessor Jeff Lowe about the Veterans exemptions, and will talk to the Board about it at the Tuesday regular Board Meeting 9/19/2023.

Executive Session: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons at 6:05pm second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to go into Executive Session to discuss the water billing issues. (EJ Prescott Company). Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by David Corey at 7:09pm second by Chris Howard to end Executive Session. Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by David Corey second by Chris Howard, to have the Water Clerk Heather Tanner make all the necessary changes to the water bills as discussed in Executive Session, and for Williamson Law Book Company to put the multiplier in the computer. Also Heather to add the zero at the end of the bills so they reflect the right amount being charged for water. Motion carried 4/0. Motion to made by David Corey at 7:10pm second by Chris Howard to re-open Meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

Tom Fitzsimmons stating that Heather will go through all the water accounts of the people that have been paying the minimum on the water bill for the last 4 or 5 quarters, add them up and

she will cut them off at 10,000 gallons and they won't pay anything extra. Heather the water clerk has a list of 22 reads but should have 46 reads. Stan Longyear to get reads for Heather Tanner water clerk. At least 20 people will be billed for the 10,000 gallons and the others will be charge as is on the meter read (about 14 or 15 accounts). The Town also needs to know the owners of the old meters (they are up at Highway garage) and the reads, pictures from the old meters at the time before the new meters were put in. Tom Hitchcock Jr. asking if the old meters are tagged. Also in the past, Realtors have stuck the Town before with water payments due to renters moving in and out of the rentals. The water operator Stan Longyear to do a practice run of the drive-by water meters on Monday 9/25/2023. Tom Fitzsimmons requesting if the practice run can be the regular readings as the water clerk Heather will need them for the bills on that day.

David Corey on September 19th, 2023 the regular Board meeting, about the contract from the insurance company on the Indian trial rental situation. Board to review and then make a decision. Tom Hitchcock Jr. inquiring on when the Cayuga Nation is planning on holding the trial. Per David Corey in November 2023. They are going to work around the Town Board and will pay us ahead of time.

Tom Fitzsimmons asking about IN-LINE SERVICES, concerned that the Town will not have the proper documentations of all the water accounts and readings. Heather Tanner (Water Clerk) can't print all accounts at the same time so we have documentation of all with the readings. She would have to do the accounts one by one. David Corey to ask IN-LINE SERVICES if there is anyway to print and save all accounts at one time. Chris Howard inquiring on a time frame for Heather to get all of this work accomplished. Heather is efficient and should be able to accomplish this in a timely manner. Marie Cronin (Town Clerk) uncomfortable with fielding water calls. Tom Fitzsimmons said to refer the residents to either himself or David Corey or Heather Tanner. When Heather fixes all the accounts will she call the residents that have not paid yet. David to call a resident to explain that the Town is working on what to do for her bill of \$800.00.

Public comments and concerns:

Patti Verdi asking about the new water meter at a one of her tenants home that is over a \$1,000.00, (rental property). The bill said that the tenant used 72,000 gallons of water, and the tenant has never gone over 12,000 gallons in one quarter, Patti Verdi stating to the Town Board that this needs to be addressed as the tenant will not be able to pay the \$1,000.00 bill, especially because there are no leaks at the residents home (Patti went and checked on this). Patti asked for a copy of the old meter when it was removed and it showed 8933 and new meter stated higher. Tom Fitzsimmons stating that Town of Montezuma will rectify this bill, and on the bill it should show the reading from old to the new and he doesn't see it on Patti's copy. Patti was looking at the Williamson Law tutorial site to see if she could find out how the water system worked, but it didn't show anything. Williamson Law per Tom Fitzsimmons needs to put

the multiplier in and Heather to add the zero at the end of readings to make them correct. All accounts read low because the multiplier was not put in yet. It reads by 10 gallons per David Corey.

Adjourn: 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