

Official – Town of Montezuma

Board Meeting Minutes

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

**Members Present:** Supervisor: David Corey  
Councilman: Tom Fitzsimmons  
Councilman: Tom Hitchcock Jr.  
Councilman: Chris Howard  
Councilman: Marvin King

**Other Members Present:** Town Clerk: Marie Cronin  
Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer  
Historian: Cheryl Longyear  
Highway Superintendent: Ken Cook  
Deputy Highway Superintendent: David Ware  
Water Operator: Stan Longyear

**Residents Present:** Ben Ware, Kelly Thurston, Kathy & James Decker and Karen Kuhl (Cayuga County Tourism Rep).

Karen Kuhl from the Cayuga County Office of Tourism (whom Cheryl Longyear invited) came to speak to the Town about a Empire Trail Joint Application and technical assistants. This program is to support Historical Towns along the Empire State Trailway to become certified as an official Trailway Town and would be a valuable asset to our Town. The Town of Montezuma would partner jointly with the Town of Mentz and Brutus. This program is offered by PTNY (Parks & Trails N.Y) and Canal Corp. It's goals are to make communities more trail user friendly. (restrooms, water, overnight accommodations, informational kiosks, bike rack). Only three Towns are chosen per year. If the Town of Montezuma, including Mentz & Brutus on one application does not get picked this year then we can try again next year. David Corey wanting to know if all the bike trails would be connected. Per Karen they should be. Chris Howard, where can public learn more about this, (pamphlets, maps with red dots to say stop here and look). Karen stated on website Tourism pamphlets, publications. (See attached sheets) Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Chris Howard to go ahead with the application process. Motion carried 5/0.

Kathy Decker let Karen Kuhl know that the pamphlet totally mislabeled the Town of Montezuma Park (labeled as Port Byron). Karen apologized and will look into this. Human error, (need a steering committee first to identify things and for technical support). Cheryl stated that the support from that office is wonderful.

John Greer (Code Enforcement Officer) gave report: Annual report for 2023, 27 permits, fees taken, inspections done, compliance certificate done, complaints & violations addressed and did training courses through the year. (see attached summary sheet).

Cheryl Longyear (Historian) gave report: (see attached) The new shed and pavilion were delivered and set up on site to the Rt. 31 lot. Will ask bookkeeper (Pat Craine) for cancelled checks.

Ken Cook (Highway Superintendent) gave report: (see attached) Assisted the Montezuma Fire Department with all the downed trees from the storm & still have some clean up to do from this. The brush hog is wearing out and Ken would like to start looking for a new one with the Boards approval. Mowers have to go back to Landpro for adjustments as we are going through a lot of belts (under warranty still). Water meter readings are going well. Ken would like to hire a p/t worker as Don Russell is not at peak performance. Joel Glimpse and he does have a class A CDL if needed for plowing or hauling. Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Chris Howard to hire Joel Glimpse for the p/t & on-call position. Motion carried 5/0.

Battery Storage Project: Savion company, This system stores power in it. David Corey to meet with her (Camille Kaynor Development Manager) in February and she will be at the March Board Meeting to discuss more. Kelly Thurston asking if this is solar panels. Per Chris Howard its a storage bank for power. But we will know more when David speaks with Camille. Still would have to be approved by the Board.

Discussion on Power outage: David Corey would like Cheryl Longyear (website manager) to put something in the news letter and on the Town website that states if in need that the Town Hall would be open to public. Fire Department in Montezuma is also available for this. They are a Red Cross Approved facility. They would provide cots, blankets etc. The Highway staff went door to door around Town checking on everyone. Chris Howard a great idea for our residents. Can put after hour numbers on the contact information.

Approval of Bills: Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the Bills. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Supervisors Report: David Corey to speak with the Town bookkeeper (Pat Craine) about putting the seniors trip and the planning board payments onto an abstract #13 for year 2023., they turned them in late. A7140.2p money, have Pat move this too per Tom Fitzsimmons. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons (with Pat Craine bookkeeper making all necessary changes) second by David Corey to approve the Supervisors report. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Minutes, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 & January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes as amended. Motion carried 5/0. Motion made by Chris Howard second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes as is. Motion carried 5/0.

Tom Fitzsimmons asking if meeting with Bill Street (insurance) all went well and everything is listed as should be. Tom Hitchcock asking what the Amish gentlemen's name is and it is Daniel Miller.

David Corey received an email from Kiersten Seneca (Field Manager, Trainer) about the Cayuga Drug & Alcohol testing (clearing house).

David Corey spoke with Carl Collier (dog contract) and Carl has agreed to \$700.00 per month instead of \$750.00 per month on the contract. Contract signed (1/16/24) and emailed back to Carl.

Tom Fitzsimmons asking what the Town wants to do about the 8 outstanding water bills. Heather Tanner already sent out the low income applications. Down payments and payment plans possibly. The Board can vote on this next month and give to Heather (water clerk).

Public comments and concerns: Ken Cook stated that the 2 camera's at the rt. 31 site have been taken. We need a different set up for this as we need eyes on the site at all times. Do not want it vandalized as everyone has worked so hard to make it nice for the Town, Ken to look into pricing for new ones and plans for them. Also they need another flag pole for the cemetery. Kelly Thurston asking what is going on at the smoke shop by circle K. They have permits for all the new buildings and other things on the property and the Planning Board is still working on this. Kathy Decker say at least by the looks end of it the Smoke shop looks better, Kathy also inquired of how the Town has a new Judge in Town (2<sup>nd</sup> one). She was a write in on the ballot per David Corey, Lawyer Kevin Cox looked into all of this and it was legal. A resolution and hearing were not done to eliminate Judge Futrell's position when he resigned in February 2023 so the Board of Elections put this on the ballot. Judge Futrell didn't do his part of the resignation but the Town did their part with the State. We would have had to have a permissive referendum in the Paper and if anyone doesn't object then it becomes Law to eliminate the position.

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

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk: Marie L. Cronin