

Official-Town of Montezuma

Board Meeting Minutes

March 19th, 2024

At 6pm

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

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

Other Members Present: Town Clerk: Marie Cronin
Deputy Clerk: Candis Cook
Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer – (Absent)
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Highway Superintendent: Ken Cook
Deputy Highway Superintendent: Dave Ware
Water Operator: Stan Longyear

Residents and Speakers Present: Patty Verdi, Ben Ware, Kathy & Jim Decker, Nancy Kratz & the Savion speakers, Camille Kaynor, Hudson Echelard & James McDaniel.

Code Enforcement Officer Report given by David Corey (John Greer Absent). 1 building permit was issued for February 2024. Update on Smith case, postponed for now (until April 2024). Will advise with any updates.

Savion Battery Storage Project Managers came into the Montezuma Town Board Meeting to give a presentation on the Battery Storage Project. Camille Kaynor (Development Manager), Hudson Echelard (Permitting & Environmental Manager) and James McDaniel (Engineering Manager, Energy Storage) were the speakers of this project. Everything covered on this Project is in the attached booklets. Savion is hoping that the project will come online in 2028. Many comments and concerns from the Town Board Members and the Town Residents. Per Savion the Town has time before voting on this project as Savion has many things to do before this project can start and bring all the data to the Board for review first. Per Camille probably mid year 2025 or later.

Historian Report given by Cheryl Longyear (see attached sheets). Rt. 31 project, the benches, picnic tables, bike rack and trash recycling cans have been ordered. Cheryl stated that the new charter for their merger with Old Mentz Heritage center has been received from the

State Education Department with approval. All banking has been switched that needed to be done with this merger. Robert Wellington asking if the Town knows when and if the bridge work on rt. 90 bridge is going to be done. Nothing was sent to the Town explaining any work at this point. For the May puppet show we'll have a Band, Food Truck and bounce house.

Highway Superintendent Report given by Ken Cook: see attached sheet. Ken would like to start looking into pricing for a truck as the 1 ton has many miles on it and rust holes in the body. 7 items from the Highway garage have been put on Auctions International site for sale. The camera was installed at the Rt. 31 park and working properly. Ken would also like the Boards approval to attend and stay in Ithaca for highway training school on June 3rd through June 5th, 2024. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the Highway training school in Ithaca for Ken Cook. Motion carried 5/0. Heather Tanner (Water Clerk) and Ken have been communicating well on all the water meter reading reports. The Town garage is in need of contracting with a Tree Service as they do not have the equipment to take care of some of the trees that are too big for them to handle. David Corey, wants Ken to get some prices first before the Town makes any decisions. David Corey talking about the (CHIPS) that the State is trying to cut, he went to a meeting about this.

Resolution to remove Lee Brew from Bank signature cards: Motion made by Chris Howard second by Marvin King to approve taking Lee Brew off of the Bank signature cards. Motion carried 5/0.

Code of Ethics Policy: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Chris Howard to adopt the Code of Ethics Policy on file. Motion carried 5/0.

Procurement Policy: Motion made by Chris Howard second by Marvin King to adopt this Policy as is on file. Motion carried 5/0.

Workplace Violence Policy: Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Tom Fitzsimmons to adopt this Policy. Motion carried 5/0.

Tom Fitzsimmons asking about the Civil Service Applications for the switching of jobs, David Corey explained to Tom that this has all been taken care of already. Board should see this so David Corey will make copies for the Board.

Resolution from c2ae company: Motion made by Chris Howard second by David Corey to approve this resolution (see attached Resolution) with c2ae. Motion carried 5/0. Honorable Claudia Tenney and Honorable Chuck Schumers office will also have funding for water projects, but the Town Residents need to send letters of support to each of them stating why they need water. (by April 1st, 2024). Bring letters to Town Clerk Marie Cronin they will be emailed to the proper places.

Approval of Bills: Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Chris Howard to approve the Bills as presented. Motion carried 5/0. Town Clerk Marie Cronin and Deputy Clerk Candis Cook will be going to training in Albany April 21st through April 24th, 2024 and Tax Collector Donna Burleton will cover the Town Clerk office Monday & Tuesday 11am to 3pm, office closed on Wed. 24th, 2024.

TDS Approval: Motion made by David Corey second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the new phone system proposal and replace the old phones. Motion carried 5/0.

Supervisors Report: The Town has received a total of \$15,000.00 from Daniel Miller for the trees he removed from the Towns property. NYCLASS interest 3,024.00. Tom Hitchcock Jr. (Constables pay) ½ way through the amount in the budget. Per David Corey he is in the Court all the time now instead of just sometimes. Per David we'll have to adjust this amount. Motion made by Tom Hitchcock Jr. second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the Supervisors Report as amended. Motion carried 5/0. Town Board personal services account. David to check into this with Bookkeeper Pat Craine.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Chris Howard second by Tom Fitzsimmons to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

Workplace Violence Training on Thursday March 28th, 2024 at 6pm. David Corey asking the Board if the Town Clerk Marie Cronin can assist him with the Court Audit. Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to have Marie assist David with the Court Audit. Motion carried 5/0.

Supervisors News: David Corey going to a County wide water meeting with Stan Longyear 3/27/24. The Thruway Authority budgeted for tapping into the Town of Montezuma water line for this year 2024. Need to decide the water rates for them. The Town might need to let our engineers at c2ae and Town Lawyer Kevin Cox know about this. David will contact them.

The Flyer for the Port Byron Library that Heather Tanner (water clerk) received to put with all the water bills that are sent out. It would be best posted on the Towns website, facebook and newsletter, as the water bills that go out are postcards and not sent in envelopes. The flyer was given to Cheryl Longyear to post on all the sites, and Marie Town Clerk will notify Port Byron Library with what we have decided.

Public comments and concerns: New Judge Patty Verdi would like to thank the Board for getting her internet line hooked up into her office at the Court. Tom Fitzsimmons asking about the late water bills and if the Town plans to do anything on this. 90% of the late payments have come in per Heather Tanner (water clerk). See if we can break the late payments up into weeks not 6 months. See if we can get cell phone Numbers on water bill postcards incase of leaks at the homes, that would help us notify customers ASAP.

Adjournment of Meeting: Motion made by David Corey second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin