

Official – Town of Montezuma
Board Meeting Minutes
July 23rd, 2024
At 6pm

Supervisor David Corey opened 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 of Montezuma Clerk: Marie Cronin
Deputy Town Clerk: Candis Cook
Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Highway Superintendent: Ken Cook
Deputy Highway Superintendent: Dave Ware
Water Officer: Stan Longyear
Town of Montezuma Lawyer: Kevin Cox

Residents and Guest Speakers Present: Ben Ware, Noah Willard (Baron & LaJoudice) about the wildlife refuge project.

Code Enforcement Officer Report given by John Greer: 2 permits issued for June 2024. A gentleman wanting to put in a singlewide trailer still in need of plans for pad. So he is at a standstill. The gentleman also received a waiver from the Health Dept. for his Septic system. John Greer is unsure of how this is possible. They also put in a new driveway.

Noah Willard from Barton & LaJoudice: Noah gave an overview of the Wildlife Refuge Project. They are in the permit process at this point to run water to the new Visitors Center. We are looking for a Sub consultant US Fish & Wildlife. A Resolution presented to the Town of Montezuma to be the Lead Agency for the Project. Wildlife refuge wants good drinking water for the Visitors Center as the cistron can no longer be used for the water. The plan is to connect to Aurelius water supply line on River Rd and run a water line north under route 5 & 20 to the other side and install a (T) in the line. Run the line west along 5 & 20, bore under the River to the other side (Town of Tyre) and continue along 5 & 20 to the Wildlife Refuge Rd., then north to the Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. The Town of Montezuma needs to be the Lead Agency for this project (environmental review) which is at no cost to the Town of Montezuma. US Fish & Wildlife is funding the entire project. Chris Howard asking if there is any liabilities for the Town. Noah stating none. The Town will open for comment from any parties affected by the projects, (request information fielded through the Town of Montezuma). After the 30 day comment period then the Town can give them a neg. declaration to proceed with the

project. The installation of the (T) line could help if the Town of Montezuma in the future, decided to do another Water District and put another Hydrant in. Per Noah, the Town could possibly hook up in the future. Tom Fitzsimmons is asking about the SEQRA/SERP, Noah let Tom know that Barton & LaJoudice will be doing all of this and it will be paid for by the Wildlife Refuge. The Lead Agency is just a title that says the Town of Montezuma is the lead agency. Marvin King, what happens if down the road a water pipe breaks, who would be responsible financially for the repair (Town of Montezuma). At this point none now per Noah. But if the Town of Montezuma takes ownership, then this would have to be a separate contract. Under the Bardge canal, (who would be responsible if a pipe breaks). The Town of Montezuma would only want to be responsible to the shore line not to the center of the Bardge Canal. Our Town will not take any part in the Bardge canal line. Barton & LaJoudice does have County approval from the Town of Aurelius and the City of Auburn for this project. Per the Lawyer Kevin Cox, after we sign part one, Notices will be sent out (by Barton & LaJoudice) for a coordinated review. After the 30 day comment period goes by, then the Town of Montezuma would do part two and three of the SEQRA and make a determination whether it will or will not affect the environment. It's a low impact project so it will probably not have any issues. No liability to the Town per Kevin Cox, we are just Lead Agency for the purpose of the review. Kevin has reviewed the whole policy and it is very well put together by Barton & LaJoudice. Under RT. 5 & 20 the line will go north of all utility lines. Any bedrock concerns, per Noah none up to 60'. Noah will possibly be back for the Sept. 2024 Board Meeting after the 30 day comment period & a decision is made. Bid process will possibly be Jan. 2025 and construction late fall 2025 or spring 2026. Should the Town of Montezuma notify the Circle K store on this project.

Vote on Resolution for Lead Agency for the Wildlife Refuge Project: Motion made by David Corey second by Tom Fitzsimmons to adopt this resolution as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

Historian Report given by Cheryl Longyear: see attached sheets. The route 31 Heritage Park Area is doing well. All the tables, benches, grill and receptacles installed at the Pavilion. Cycling annual rest stop hosted by the Town and went very well. Cheryl would like to see a restaurant in this Town to bring in more facilities for visitors.

Highway Superintendent Report given by Ken Cook: see attached sheets. The new mower is working very well. Hwy has done a bunch of road clean up of branches from the storm. Still having Water Meter Reading problems. Still need 2 pits put in. Dave Corey and Ken Cook to see the residents this week on this. The Town of Montezuma will still pay ½ of the installation of the pits and the resident the other ½. Will also give them a 6 month period to pay. Ken would like to have a water committee meeting to maybe get everyone on the same page for the jobs, billing and problems. Is Joel Glimpse still on the committee, per David Corey yes he is still on it, but needs to be appointed every year. Tom Fitzsimmons would like Lawyer Kevin Cox at the meeting as we are running out of time with this project agreement for all of our water program software. The 1 year warranty is almost up, then it will cost the Town \$1,200.00 per year. We have many issues with the programs. Maybe the Muller staff could come in and train our staff. Training needs to be slowed down and explained to us so we do this properly. The 2 systems (Williamson Law and Muller) were not reading each other, and all it was, was a date issue (just needed to be changed). But when Andy from (In-Line Services) got there to fix the dates we had no clue of how he did it. Heather Tanner water clerk also needs to come to the meeting

to tell her issues with system. Bills went out late again because of issues. We need everyone in the room at the same time until everything is fixed. Per Ken Cook, we need 2 guys in the truck to read the meters and Pat Craine (Bookkeeper) is still not paying staff for reading the meters. David Corey said to contact her on this. Need upper management from Muller and Williamson Law to come to the meeting to fix this. Sub contractor EJ Prescott bailed on us, they are no longer doing anything on this project. Ken Cook said there is 4 steps to this project, Zip drive Heather down loads the route ID, then goes into the laptop, then once everything says read, and no red dots are left on the map then it gets downloaded into Heathers computer, but going from ez-reader to Heathers computer system is not working. The Town also needs the water clerk to be here more hours to deal with these issues until corrected. Per Dave Ware there is a read report and All report and ext data report for the meter leaks report, and they can't throw a new system at us and expect us to just figure it out. Training should have been 2 to 3 days for Heather and meter readers. Need to set something up ASAP on this.

Budget Modification Resolutions: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Chris Howard to approve all of the Budget Modifications as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Bills: Motion made by Chris Howard second by David Corey to approve the Bills as presented. Motion carried 4/0. Tom Hitchcock Jr. abstained as he has a bill in there. David Corey spoke with the lady on the new Phones to be installed and the bill will reflect on the next bill and should be half of this bill. Catalyst to save us 7 cents on electric bills. Some is electric and some is gas and I'll check the water bills for this. The LED lighting did not save us any money like it was supposed too.

Approval of the Supervisors Report: Motion made by Tom Fitzsimmons second by Tom Hitchcock Jr. to approve the Supervisors report as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of the Minutes June 18th, 2024: Motion made by Chris Howard second by David Corey to approve the June 18th, 2024 minutes as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

Public Comments and Concerns: Residents asking if the Town of Montezuma has a noise ordinance. Lawyer Kevin Cox to draw one up and we will bring it to the Board at the August 2024 meeting for a vote. Marvin King and Chris Howard possibly, 9pm to 7am ordinance. Law to respond to our Town. Lawyer Kevin Cox, respond to criminal, zoning and other issues.

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

Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin