

**Official- Town of Montezuma  
Board Meeting Minutes  
For September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
At 6pm**

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

**Members Present: Supervisor:** David Corey  
**Deputy Supervisor/Councilman:** Thomas Hitchcock Jr.  
**Councilman:** Thomas Fitzsimmons  
**Councilman:** Christopher Howard  
**Councilman:** Marvin King (ABSENT)

**Other Members Present: Town Clerk:** Marie L. Cronin  
**Code Enforcement Officer:** John Greer  
**Historian:** Cheryl Longyear  
**Highway Superintendent:** Kenneth Cook  
**Deputy HWY Superintendent:** David Ware  
**Water Operator:** Stanley Longyear

**Residents Present:** Ben Ware, Kathy & James Decker.

**Code Enforcement Officer Report given by John Greer:** John stated that for the month of August 2024 he did not issue any building permits. But would like the Board to know that at a property on Route 31, (Map #86.00-1-49) Mawhir home John Greer will be putting a sign on to condemn the home because he thinks that there is squatters living in the home. The paper give the squatters 5 days to remove themselves and belongings. They have been using a generator as NYSEG removed the electric meter box. The property hasn't been maintained either. Unsure if the land taxes are paid on the property, so it may be up for foreclosure soon. John also contacted Mandy at the Cayuga County Health Dept. about having the septic system inspected. She will discuss and get back to John.

**Historian Report given by Cheryl Longyear:** See attached sheet: Cheryl published an article in the Citizen newspaper on the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of the Richmond Aqueduct. Per David Corey it was a fantastic article. National Grid still working on Chapman rd. Park bench plaques (3) of them were installed to the benches, after the previous ones were taken. Purchased by the Historical Society.

**Highway Superintendent Report given by Kenneth Cook:** See attached sheet: Kenneth has given a copy of the Annual Town of Montezuma Inventory report for 2024 (everything at HWY garage), when something is sold it will be dropped off and something new added it will be in bold print, and a copy was left with the Town Clerk Marie Cronin to keep on file. Board Members reviewed the copy before it was filed. Safelite Auto Glass came in to the HWY Dept. to replace the windshield on the 2015 Ford F-

350 as it had chips and pitting in the old one. Safelite cannot replace the windshield on the 2012 6 wheel dump truck, so Kenneth took the truck to Juno's in Auburn to replace the windshield. Kenneth also stated that the insurance said that we have a \$500.00 deductible on glass. David Ware inquiring about a new garbage disposal company, Town Clerk Marie Cronin to check into this ASAP. David Corey asking Christopher Howard if Joseph Verdi is going to take all the playground equipment for scrap. Per Christopher Howard, yes he intends on taking it. Kenneth Cook would like to send David Ware to Water School. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Christopher Howard to send David Ware to water school. Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Christopher Howard to also send Kenneth Cook to finish up at water school. Motion carried 4/0. Kenneth Cook is looking into prices for renting a lift to put up and take down the flags in Town for safety issues. Also looking into EZ-PASS for the trucks. By the time we get the bills from the State the fees were little and the late fees were high on this last bill. Makes more sense to use EZ-PASS. (CHIPS) paperwork in and should receive a check in December 2024. HWY has been working very hard to get all the water meter readings and issues cleared up, and they are getting closer to accomplishing this. Kenneth has gotten permission to put the meter pit in at Craig Cooks house. Craig just needs to know the cost. Kenneth Cook had to have a conversation with John Speed as he was digging up our Curb Stop so he could shut the water off so he can demo the home. Kenneth let him know he cannot do that on his own. Stanley Longyear aware and Kenneth Cook fixed the shut off at the curb stop. Then when the new house gets put in, it will need a water meter pit installed. Thomas Young had to go to emergency room for multiple bee stings from mowing at Mentz Church, on medication for 4 days. We need to do something about them as there are numerous bees there and no one can even get out of the car over there. Need to call a bee keeper.

**Budget Meeting Dates:** David Corey would like to schedule at least 2 meetings & a Public Hearing to Vote on the Noise Ordinance that Lawyer Kevin Cox drew up for us. Public Hearing on Thursday Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 5:30pm, followed by the first Town Budget Meeting at 6pm. Then the second Budget Meeting on Thursday Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6pm. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Christopher Howard to approve the date and time for Public Hearing for the Noise Ordinance. Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by David Corey to rescinded the passing of the Noise Ordinance on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes, as they need to have the Public Hearing first before passing ordinance. Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the dates and times for the Budget Meetings. Motion carried 4/0. Town Clerk Marie Cronin to put all above the dates and times in the Newspaper. Also need to talk at Budget time about Duflo Mosquito Spraying. David Corey to call and speak to them.

**Budget Modification:** Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to approve the budget modification as presented. Motion carried 4/0.

**Approval of Bills:** TDS phone bills are extremely high and Town Clerk Marie has been in contact with TDS to correct the mistakes and credit the Town back the extra funds spent. They quoted us a very reasonable bill, but not honoring it at this time. Cindy Hatcher from TDS wants the Town Council to know she is working on this. Eastern Security came in to fix a mistake when the new phones were installed (disabled the fob security line) Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to approve the Bills as presented. Motion carried 4/0. Marie to check into why when

everyone calls in or out it says Town clerk is calling. Will discuss with TDS (Brenda Dobeck). Thomas Fitzsimmons asking about the extra charges on all the electric bills by Catalyst power, David Corey to look into this.

**Supervisors Report:** HWY general repairs account has mistakes, David Corey to speak with Bookkeeper Patricia Craine on this. Per Kenneth Cook, he spoke to the Board about the Fuel system the HWY gets from Port Byron School and it hasn't been working properly, so Port Byron School is not making the Town pay for fuel received as we are the ones that have notified them of their fuel system not working. This is the second time our HWY Dept. made them aware of this (they spoke to Cory Rooker). Thomas Fitzsimmons asking if we pay retirement monthly or quarterly. Per David Corey he believes its monthly but will ask Bookkeeper. Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the Supervisors Report as amended. Motion carried 4/0.

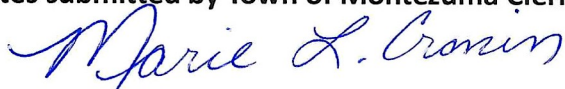
**Approval of Minutes from August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to accept the August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes as presented.

**Supervisors News:** Barton Laduidice having problems with the DEC, and had some Archaeological finds. Regulations have changed as of Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 so they may not be able to do this year. But next week the Town, State and health dept. should be receiving a full report on the lead testing to keep on file at the Town Clerks Office, would like to have copies of testing from all properties (are they looking into houses to test or not). Health Care going up 14% next year 2025. Bill Kimbel (Engineer from c2ae) will make sure chlorination for the Town is feasible when the Thruway Service Area connects to the water line, we may need to increase chlorination. Port Byron Water Dept. put in a new Chlorination system.

**Public Comments & Concerns:** Deputy Town Clerk/Records Assistant Candis Cook resigned as of Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Tiffini Sharp is interested in the positions Candis Cook has resigned from and has filled out an application. Will discuss if I would like to hire her.

**Adjournment of Meeting:** Motion made by David Corey second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

**Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk:**



Marie L. Cronin