

**Official – Town of Montezuma
Board Meeting Minutes
For July 15th, 2025
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. (**ABSENT**)
Councilman: Thomas Fitzsimmons
Councilman: Christopher Howard
Councilman: Marvin King (**ABSENT**)

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

Residents Present: Ben Ware & Thomas Coleman.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: John Greer: 1 permit issued for June 2025 Tax map#98.00-1-5.21 Robert & Kayla Stoneburg for new doublewide on Fraher rd. and it's been inspected.

Historian Report: Cheryl Longyear: In need for volunteers during July & August 2025 to do weed eating. Rest stop for the Cycle Erie Canal is on 7/16/2025 & snacks, water will be provided. Open House for the new location of the Old Mentz Heritage Center (OMHC) (97 Main St. Port Byron) was held 7/11/25 & 7/12/25 and was well attended. Paul Hahn gave a talk on local artist who have painted several local Erie Canal scenes & Paul's artwork will be on exhibit through summer months. The Center will be open Thursdays from 1pm to 3pm. The Clinton's Ditch Play at the Samuel Center for Canal History was held on July 21st, 27th & 28th, 2025 and was well attended by over 400 people. Directed by Joni Lincoln & over 20 local actors participated, also a former Board Member Joel Glimpse participated in the play. The Steering Committee for Cayuga County Trail Town Communities & Parks & Trails NY, hosted a workshop June 24th, 2025. Christopher Howard, Steve Wunder, Stanley Longyear & Cheryl Longyear attended from Town of Montezuma. Bike ride was held by PTNY, June 25th, 2025 to assess trail conditions of Rt. 31 between Port Byron & Weedsport. Lunch meeting after bike ride at Potters to discuss what needs to be done on trails. Committee is very concerned with portion of trail Rt.

31 between Savannah & Port Byron, alternative off road routes need to be re-addressed, dangerous through this trail. July news letter done & posted. After meeting in Sterling, Historical Society & Historians are considering a workshop on responsibilities for non-profit museums & Board members regarding changing laws on non-profits. (NEED VOLUNTEERS) Many visitors (from many places) responses were great when visiting our area. Bob Melvin from Conquest whom volunteered and did a lot of work for Montezuma passed away.

Highway Superintendent Report: Kenneth Cook: 2016 Ford F-250, the new flat bed is on & working well. 2015 Ford F-350 New Truck ordered should be at MDI in Aug. 2025. 2012 International 6 wheel dump truck, new oil pan installed & new truck should be done in April 2026. (2021 International 10 wheel dump truck, Cat Excavator, Highway Garage Loader all with nothing to report). Second round of mowing roadsides are done from the John Deere 5065. Road work Wilsey rd. second round paving Aug. 2025 & finish the rest next year 2026. Bobcat being fixed again & will know more by week end. Unable to mow or trim on front side and south side of Mentz Church due to the bee's again. Christopher Howard to see if he can contact a bee service. Cheryl Longyear, possibly lease Mentz Church to someone else for their meetings or services. Tiffini Sharp, maybe use for weddings or other functions, per Cheryl there is not enough parking or no heat. Also Cheryl thanked the Highway staff for all the hard work they do in the parks & on the trails. Playground equipment installed but not ready to use yet, so will tape off as the Pavilion is rented 7/20/25. The new hire for the Highway Dept. fell through as interested male requesting more money than quoted. Drug & Alcohol testing already done on the interested male, Kenneth to keep looking if the other male not hired. CHIPS bills will be submitted to NYS by Sept. 2025 deadline & check should come in Dec. 2025.

Information on the Cayuga County Strategic Plan: Copies of the plan with questionnaire left at the Town Clerks office for anyone to fill out. They are going to have more meetings on this. Also the sheets are available on the website (<https://cayugacountyplanning.wixsite.com/strategicplan>).

Budget Modifications: Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to Adopt the budget modifications as presented due too the new credit card system for Clerk & Water. Motion carried 3/0. (2 ABSENT).

Approval of Bills: Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the bills minus the NYSEG bills as they are incorrect. David Corey & Marie Cronin (Town Clerk) will go back 4 months to make sure all bills are right up until now July 2025 & then Marie will have them paid when they are fixed properly per the Board Members. Motion carried 3/0. (2 ABSENT).

Approval of Supervisors report: Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by David Corey to approve the Supervisors report as amended. Motion carried 3/0 (2 ABSENT).

Approval of the June 17th, 2025 Minutes: Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the June 17th, 2025 minutes as amended. Motion 3/0. (2 ABSENT).

Supervisors News: David Corey went to a Planning Board meeting to explain the Junkyard Laws (nothing should be closer than 20 feet from the road). The Planning Board agreed that the Laws were a good Idea. But still need minutes from them proving their approvals. 2 parts to the Resolution & Regulations to be lead agency for environmental review of Local Law #2 Regulating Junkyards for Town of Montezuma, Kevin Cox Lawyer will assist Town Clerk Marie on how to do all the paperwork needed to send to the County and in September 2025 when County returns the paperwork, Marie will call to set up a Public Hear for the Junkyard laws & scheduled it for September 16th, 2025 at 5:30pm. The Refuge project packet still hasn't been given to David Corey from Fish & Wildlife (Ian Young). Bill Stewart (Refuge)suggested David Corey to speak with (Noah Willard) from Barton Loguidice to see what's going on. Possibly call to schedule a meeting to discuss this with them. Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve Marie Cronin Town Clerk to send all the information to the County. Motion carried 3/0. (2 ABSENT). Health insurance will be going up to 16% per Greater Tompkins. There is Federal Grants for paving, if any roads touch federal land then you could apply for a grant that would pay for the road to be paved, it may take up to 4 years to get, but it could be beneficial to the Town. The Town of Tyre was awarded a grant for 1.3 million to pave (Estabrook trails) from rt. 89 up to gravel road and pave the parking lot. No cost to the Town so David Corey will apply for this.

Public Comments & Concerns: Tiffini Sharp addressed the Board on a seasonal property for Cheryl Wilder. Tiffini would like to know how the Board would like to handle Cheryl's water account. Per the Board, Cheryl should be billed for 1 quarter and the turn off, turn on fee should be charged & to bill her in the October quarter for all, (\$121.50 quarter minimum, \$25 turn off fee & \$25 turn on fee). Possibly agree on a seasonal fee. Tiffini can make any changes if needed. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by David Corey to approve the 1 quarter billing and turn off, turn on fee. Motion carried 3/0. (2 ABSENT).

Youth Program: Tiffin Sharp spoke on the agenda she has lined up for the Town Youths, meetings and a grant, but she will not be able to apply for the grant until end of this year for next year 2026. It's too late for this year to get the grant. Friday Aug. 1st, 2025 9am-12pm Superhero Day, Aug. 8th, 2025 9am-12pm, Seabreeze trip Aug. 15th, 2025 9am bus leaves Town Hall & returns 6pm to the Town Hall, the last thing is the end of Summer BBQ Aug. 30th, 2025 at 4pm Pavilion. Tiffini also collaborated with neighboring Towns to Create new programming for our community youths. Also plan on applying for funding with Cayuga County and include Port Byron school District students. Thomas Fitzsimmons would like to see if Jim Hotaling from Brutus would meet with himself & David Corey on how he applies for all of the small districts they have.

Adjourn Meeting: Motion made by Christopher Howard second by David Corey to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 3/0. (2 ABSENT).

Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin