

**Official – Town of Montezuma
First Budget Meeting**

**October 16th, 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.
Councilman: Thomas Fitzsimmons
Councilman: Marvin King
Councilman: Christopher Howard (**ABSENT**)
Town Clerk: Marie Cronin
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Highway Superintendent: Kenneth Cook
Deputy Highway Superintendent: David Ware
Water Operator: Stanley Longyear

Residents Present: Ben Ware

General Fund - Townwide: 2% tax increase in for the 2026 budget year. (100,000.00 parcel would be \$13.05).

A2610: Fines & Forfeited Bail: Raised for \$8,000 to \$10,000. The Court already has \$9,000 this year (2025) that's why it was raised to \$10,000.

A2544 Dog Licenses: Need to do a numeration to see how many dogs in Town and how many are not licensed. The new dog control officer is doing a great job. She would go with someone that wants to do this but will not do alone. How many licenses do we process, Marie Town Clerk to let Thomas Fitzsimmons know at next Budget meeting.

A3005 Mortgage Tax: Thomas Fitzsimmons asked if we are still getting Mortgage Tax, we get in May & November David Corey said. And Sales tax, 2 more payments, one this quarter and one at the end of the Year (2025).

A4089 ARPA Money: ARPA money done this year (2025) and David Corey did the final report for this.

A122.4 Supervisor Contractual: Lowered from \$1,750 to \$1,500. As he hasn't been spending the money.

A1220.44 Bookkeeper Contractual: Lowered from \$3,500 to \$3,000.

A1355.1 Assessment Personal Services: We had a 3yr. agreement (which is up 2025) with the Assessor incase we wanted to reassess, per Jeffrey Lowe lower his pay from \$13,100 to \$9,600.

A1330.4 Tax Collector Contractual: Raised from \$1,500 to \$1,750 as she has new software she needs this coming year (2026). Needs extra software this coming year (2026).

Thomas Fitzsimmons asking if the Courts are going to do any Grants, per David Corey he hasn't heard anything about Grants from them, only thing he remembers was they were talking about putting in an extra entrance, but never did. We also gave the Court a 3% raise.

A1410.11 Deputy Clerk Personal Services: Raised from \$4,120 to \$5,000, and Tiffini Sharp would like to be on salary for this. David Corey thinks that it is a good idea.

A1410.4 Town Clerk Contractual: Raised from \$3,000 to \$4,500. Because of the extra software added this year 2025.

A1420.4 Law Personal Services: Per Lawyer Kevin Cox, he is okay with keeping the \$28,000 for the year 2026. Thomas Fitzsimmons asking about the lawsuit going to be done, by the end of the year per David Corey, and will need to set up another Public Hearing (maybe in November 2025) after the Planning Boards both approve the corrections made to the Junkyard Law and the Zoning Ordinance.

A1440.4 Engineer: Will keep this account at \$12,000. David Corey needs to speak to them again, but having no success getting ahold of them. Will make changes later if needed.

A1450.4 Elections Contractual: Staying at \$5,000. Are changing to (even year elections), was passed October 16th, 2025. Thomas Coleman needs to be a write in for the Election this year, they said he didn't get everything in on time so we will have to write him in on the ballot.

A1620.2 Buildings Equipment: Lower from \$1,500 to \$500. No equipment needed at this time. Use this account for Furnace filters Court & Town hall.

A1620.4 Buildings Contractual: Lower from \$25,000 to \$22,000. Nothing needed for this coming year (2026).

A1660.4 Central Storeroom: Raised from \$4,000 to \$5,000 as we use a lot of paper and ink.

A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance: Raised from \$24,000 to \$26,500. Covers the New Trucks we purchased.

A1920.4 Membership Dues: Leave at \$700. Pay in Oct. or Nov.

A1990.4 Contingency Account: Leave at \$12,000. We make budget transfers out of this account.

A3120.1 Constable Personal Services: Leave at \$2,400. He is not in Court every week. Justices work every other week, they change off. He gets an extra hours pay on DA night.

A3510.4 Dogs Personal Services: Raised from \$11,000 to \$11,500 as veterinary fees have gone up. Should make a new line to pay numeration help with. Possibly (Dog Survey contractual Account # A3510.44) and put \$1,000 into it. David Corey to speak with Bookkeeper Patrica Craine.

A4068.4 Insect Control: Only sprayed once this year (2025). So will keep at \$16,000 incase we need to spray twice in 2026.

A5182.4 Street Lighting: Raised from \$8,000 to \$8,500. Electric rates have gone up.

A6772.42 Meals on Wheels: Raise from \$350 to \$450. 6 individuals received 924 meals in the last 12 months in the Town of Montezuma. If anyone needs this then they should call the office of the aging.

A7140.1 Mowing Personal Services: (Cultural & Recreation): Lowered from \$7,000 to \$6,000. Only spent \$2,686 from mowing the parks this year 2025.

Per Cheryl Longyear there is a Grant being offered by the Canal Corporation along the Empire State Trail, (can apply for \$1,000 to \$10,000 it's a matching grant) due in November 2025 and the one thing that we could use in the Route 31 Park is a water source for the public that stop there. Need options of how we could have a source of water in the park. Cheryl said maybe a water tank with spicket, only thing with that per Marvin King said water would possibly get stagnant and then the Town would be have a liability if anyone gets sick from the water. Town Clerk Marie Cronin said possibly a vending machine with just water bottles in it, that way it's cold for them. Kenneth Cook maybe a 5gallon container with water Pour Lances or (coffee host) they change the bottles and it's not too expensive. Thomas Fitzsimmons stating that there is a big problem over at the route 31 park as the toilets area needs cleaning because of disrespectfully people rubbing fecal matter all over the walls and seat. Also someone took the broom & dust pan. Highway Staff while cleaning at Rt. 31 park they find needles in the trash & Narcan being taken a lot. Drugs being done down there.

A7140.2P Playground Equipment: We put \$35,463.64 into the budget and we spent the \$21,200 because it was in the budget. Put \$5,000 into this account to cover the broken slide. Tiffini Sharp wrote a grant for the Youth Program and was awarded \$20,000 to be spent between this September 2025 and next September 2026 and there is also other Towns that would benefit from the grant which would be Throop, Port Byron, Conquest, Cato kids coming

etc. Possibly Mentz. Will have to speak to Bookkeeper Patricia Craine on where to put the grant funds. A7110.4C or under the Youth program instead.

A7310.1 Youth Program Personal Services: Raise from \$2,500 to \$4,000. Spending a lot of time on all the programs she is doing.

A7989.4 Events: Per Cheryl Longyear, she would like to take the events money (\$1,000) out of this account as no Events planned and put into **A7510.4 Historian Contractual Account** as Cheryl would like to do a book with this money (encouraged by John Spellman) Cheryl would like to see everything in one place before she decides to retire from the Town. Could sell the books and make our money back (\$10 per book). So the Account would have \$1,500 in it.

A7510.44 Historian Contractual for the Historical Society Support: Keep it at \$1,500. This is our Towns contribution to the Historical Society.

A7989.4C Mentz Church: Keep at \$500 and we need to decide what we would like to do with the Church. Bees are gone & Highway staff repaired the Church where they had to open it up to get the bees out. Possibly get grant to repair and use for the Youth Program meeting site, or Mennonite church gathering or school. Mr. Martin, David Corey to stop and speak with him on this.

A8810.44 Cemeteries Contractual – Surveying: Lower from 2,000 to zero. Never returned our calls. Mr. Marin said he would do it for free for us.

A9010.8 State Retirement: Raise from \$15,009 To \$19,499. These are figures from the State.

A9060.8 Hospital & Medical Insurance: It's gone up to 18%, so we need to raise from \$11,470 to \$13,534.

Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by David Corey to Adjourn Meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk: Marie L. Cronin

