

**Official – Town of Montezuma
Public Hearing & Board Meeting**

September 16th, 2025 at 5:30pm

Supervisor David Corey opened the Public Hear & Board 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
Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer
Historian: Cheryl Longyear
Highway Superintendent: Kenneth Cook
Deputy Hwy Superintendent: David Ware
Water Operator: Stanley Longyear
Town Clerk: Marie L. Cronin
Deputy Clerk/Water Clerk/Youth Director: Tiffini Sharp
Town Lawyer: Kevin Cox

Speakers & Residents present: Brian Skidmore from Barton Loguidice, Ben Ware, Nancy Kratz, Ken & Daryl Zimmerman, Cheryl Wilder, Robert Ratliff, Robert Wellington.

Start Public Hearing: Motion made at 5:30pm by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by David Corey to open the Public Hearing on the proposed Junk Yard Law. Motion carried 5/0. Cheryl Wilder whom owns the Montezuma Hotel wanted to know how to subdivide her property with her neighbor Robert Wellington. Cheryl was told by Code Enforcement officer John Greer that she will need to bring this request to the Planning Board. They meet the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm, here at the Town Hall. John Greer will give her the application she needs. The Cayuga County Planning Board sent approvals back on the Junk Yard Laws & Zoning Laws. Kevin Cox the Town Lawyer stated that there are pages on the Junk Yard Laws, that need to be addressed before voting on this. First one is on page #7 of the regulating junk yards. (#7- certification that the owner intends to restore said motor vehicle within (6) six months from the date of the application. The motor vehicle shall be adequately supported & shall not create a safety hazard while repairs are being made. Any violation will result in the immediate revocation of the restoration permit, and the vehicle shall be subject to the provisions of this junk law. Permits shall be valid for (60) sixty days & may be renewed for a specific vehicle (2) two times for a period of (60) sixty days. A copy of the restoration permit shall be affixed to the interior of

the windshield in order that the permit be visible from the street. If they do not apply for the permit it will be a violation, so then Code Enforcement Officer John Greer will take care of this. Also John Greer can send a letter stating that they have a year to clean everything up, once they have been sited.

Thomas Hitchcock Jr. asking, then after restoration what do they have to do with the vehicle. Does this follow under the amount of vehicles on property. Yes per Kevin Cox. Kevin Cox to send all new corrections to Town Clerk Marie Cronin, then Marie will send to the County Planning Board and Town of Montezuma Planning Board for approval, then have another Public Hearing after all changes done. David Corey asking how did the case get thrown out of court in Rochester, per Kevin Cox, there is a State Law that governs Junk Yards which say's (a Town doesn't have a Junk Yard Law), then they can use the State Law. Cheryl Longyear asked how can this be enforced going forward if they're already pre-existing. Per Kevin Cox, there is a clause you put into the law that if you have a pre-existing you have to clean it up & come in and get a license. They have to renew license for Junk Yard yearly. David Ware asking if there is any law for Agricultural vehicles, old Fire Truck on Denman rd and other old farm equipment. Per the Town Lawyer Kevin Cox we could expand the law to cover some of this. David Corey asked about grandfathering into the Junk Yard. Per Kevin, no there is no grandfathering in. David Corey read that any Town employee can inspect property, not just the Code Enforcement Officer.

In the Zoning part pg.#10 of the lg. white binder in Clerks office parts are crossed out (junk yard). Pg. #22 mark junkyard as local law #2, pg. #55 & 56 cross out on #7 – j. (1-11). Pg. #131 make the changes as shown (Amendments) sec. 19.01 – procedure. The new zoning law will be Local Law #3

End Public Hearing: Motion made at 5:53pm by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by Christopher Howard to end the Public Hearing. Motion carried 5/0

Vote on the Local Law Regulating Junk Yards. (On Hold) No Resolution signed until corrections added to both zoning ordinances & junk yard laws are made and sent back too Planning Board and County. No comments from any residents at the Public Hearing. Motion to approve the changes made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by David Corey. Motion carried 5/0. Cheryl Longyear asking if the zoning laws have to be approved also. Per Kevin Cox, not at this time. The zoning law makes reference to the changes in the Junk Yard Law. Next Public Hearing will do both zoning and Junk yard laws.

Resolution #2025-16: Resolution to allow Town Clerk Marie L. Cronin to send all corrected Junk yard laws to the County and the Town Planning Boards to review and approve with the changes made. Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by David Corey. Motion carried 5/0.

Historian Report: Cheryl Longyear: (see attached sheet) Cheryl wrote an article for the Citizen on the first packet boat that traveled on the Erie Canal on it's completion in 1825 on the trip from Buffalo to NYC for the Wedding of the Waters. Replica boat of the Seneca Chief built in

Buffalo will make a trip on the canal in celebration of the 200th anniversary to re-enact the Wedding of the Waters trip. The boat will dock in Clyde, Baldwinsville, Montezuma aqueduct when it passes through. Donated (by OMHC) white pine trees will be planted in the Rt. 31 parking lot (symbolic tribute) land of the Haudenosaune as a commitment to a sustainable future. They are being planted in memory of four former historical society board members who have passed away this year. Mellony Carner, Robert Melvin, Paul Baker and Bumpo Gregory. At aqueduct and lock 62 dead fallen trees removed & weeding done. Cayuga County Bicycle Safety Program held on September 14th, 2025 at the rt.31 parking lot for the youth program was well attended and Tiffini Sharp whom organized this did a great job. Joe Mushacl from Cayuga County Health Dept. had the kids doing different activities and everything was free, he also brought helmets for the kids that didn't have one. A Draft was made up of design for the former church building & cemetery. And would like to put the sign up on the property if the Town agrees. Per the board 5/0 allow Cheryl to do so.

Code Enforcement Officer: John Greer in August 2025 issued 3 permits in one day. Tax map #85.20-1-75 at 8174 Chapman rd to install 10' x12' shed. (Fredrick Sponable). Tax map #85.20-1-77 at 8166 Chapman rd to install 10' x 12' lean to. (David & Terry Thurston). Tax map #85.20-1-2.1 build a 40' x 40' pole barn on 8173 high street (Nicholas Church).

Barton & Loguidice: Brian Skidmore from B&L. We spoke about the Town sponsoring the water main extension to the wildlife refuge visitors center. We closed out SEQUA process for that which was an amendment. The Town agreed to execute the permits documents when needed. Some we did by ourselves (Town signature no required). Canal Corporation permit which David Corey already signed & sent back. We put together a proposal also for the solicitation for the Fish & Wildlife Refuge, hiring the Town of Montezuma to execute the water main extension on their behalf. We had engineering costs, legal costs, Administration costs for the Town, Town personnel that are involved, DPW, Supervisor, Town Clerk, approve invoices and paperwork to be done, monthly payment applications. Budget line to compensate the Town for this work. An email was sent this afternoon at 3:10pm (Noah Willard spoke with Brian Skidmore & David Corey on this) Ian Young the gentleman from fish and wildlife service said they have reviewed the documentation in response to the waterline request for proposal, initially I was expecting to receive a proposal for the construction not just the estimated amount. Please work with your subcontractors (we have none yet), to submit a proposal that reflects the true cost of construction. Once the proposal has been supplied, we will be able to proceed. Per Brian, B&L haven't responded back as we haven't spoken to Ian on this. Brian thinks that they are asking for the Town to bid the project to provide them the bid for the contractor that's going to do the job. The problem is the part of our proposal is to provide assistance to the Town of Montezuma in bidding the project #1, but we can't bid it as we don't have any permits. We're just submitting the permit applications, the last of the applications. We're not going to bid a job if we don't have permits. Until we have the permits in hand first before bidding the job. Brian said he would like to go back to Ian and say, if you want to proceed with this project then, don't authorize construction at this point. Do an amended solicitation. Town just provide the services necessary to bid the project. We are still under contract with Beardly associates,(whom are designing the

building). To get the permits for the contract. Then put it out to bid. The only thing Brian Skidmore would like to do is carve out some of the Town's support budget, carve out some of the Legal services budget and carve out B&L's support in submitting proposal and B&L's bidding assistants services, and submit just the construction services. David Corey spoke with Ian, and stated that we don't know the cost until we bid it, but they want the cost before the bidding. They want B&L to come up with an estimate for what it's going to cost which is unreasonable. Brain stated that he's unsure of what else to do. Unsure if they (Beardsley) didn't understand the permitting piece of the proposal. B&L is not in the position to put the job out to bid. Brain Skidmore or Noah Willard will send a response within the next couple of days on this. Brain state he came to our Board meeting tonight to see if the Town was in a position to approve B&L agreement at this point, regardless of how they would split this up, B&L services need to be authorized at some point. It would be great if the Town would approve the agreement. Obviously B&L are only going to do the work that's approved by the Fish & Wildlife Service. We've already provide our services for putting the proposal together, & we'll do the revised version, they understand that the Town of Montezuma doesn't have the money to pay B&L at this point. Christopher Howard asking of ownership of the line going under the canal, per Brian, yes the Town is. Is any provisions if any problems with any of the canal piping. Yes there is and no penalties to the Town. We also have the right to cease and desist at anytime. B&L would need a contingency for unseen conditions. This is how B&L would protect the Town. The contractor also needs to hold a Bond, performance & material labor bond, so if they fail to complete the project or fail to meet the specifications for the project materials or methods of construction or the quality of the finished product is not up to spec's there is a bond. Also have a labor & materials payment bond if they stiff the laborers or one of the materials suppliers, contractors that are working on the job & don't pay them, there's a Bond, they also have to have a 1 year warranty from the date of completion (guarantee no break in the watermain the first year, they're responsible for it). It's a NYS Municipal Law for public infrastructures. Per Kevin Cox, Ian isn't sure of what is really going on. David Corey spoke with Ian and unsure if they know what they're doing. Noah Willard knows more of what's going on. Tiffini Sharp asking if the Board approves the funding and if the Board does this and we are denied then is the Town responsible for paying B&L. Per the Lawyer Kevin Cox, no they (B&L) know there are risks. Christopher Howard wants to be overly cautious about the idea of approving a bunch of things without ducks being in a row. Thomas Fitzsimmons said we are relying on the engineers, the Town will not have anything invested. And as discussed before, the Town shouldn't have to be worried about the line under the River for at least 80 to 100 years. Per David Corey they're supposed to be sending the Town money and pay off of it, but nobody gets paid until they send us money. Thomas Fitzsimmons said that he hopes they don't come in some night hand us things we haven't seen yet & want us to vote on it. Per Kevin Cox he won't let that happen.

Highway Superintendent: Kenneth Cook: 2016 Ford F-250 had to have new oil dipstick tube installed by conquest auto. 2015 Ford f-350 going to paint truck frame and box so we can sell it. 2012 inter 6 wheeler dump truck, new 6 wheeler dump truck still good to get April (per Shane at TENCO). 2021 inter dump truck changed a brake cam. CAT EXCAVATOR & Hwy garage nothing to report. John Deere 5065 new tires installed & ready for winter. Road work for Wilsey rd is

done for this year. Mowers still good and using them. Bobcat still have the flail mower until they build the new finish mower. Loader - McLaughlin tire resealed bead (left rear tire) again because of rust on rim. Town Wide: Water meter readings will be done on Sept. 18th, 2025 & this will be Thomas Youngs last day of working for the Town of Montezuma. CHIPS – are all done & will be sent out for review. David Ware, the bees are being taken out of Mentz Church Cemetery by a gentleman whom lives in Cayuga (he has hives all over and sells his own honey). Highway inventory handed in, copy in Town Clerks office. The walls of the church are open right now until all the bees are removed, he is not charging the Town as he is taking the bees and he took a lot of the honey, close to 80,000 bees. Kenneth Cook will repair and calk and seal up building after all bees gone, and will see if Lowe’s manager will donate paint for this project. Cheryl Longyear thanked the highway staff for all the work they have done to help get rid of the bees. No bees noticed inside the church and a lock was bought to keep the door from coming open.

Budget Modification: Transfer \$800 from Contingent Acct. A1990.4 to Deputy Town Clerk A1410.11. Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the Budget modification as presented. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of Bills: Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second By Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5/0. David Corey on Seabreeze Park, he explained that the Bookkeeper took the money that came in (from Town of Throop & cash money received for tickets) and credited it to the Youth Program. Cheryl Longyear asking about the Staples account, (her flash drives), so Town Clerk Marie L. Cronin explained the bill was high as the ink was also charged to the Historian Contractual. The up charge is for the new Rugby 9’ stainless dump body for the new f-550 Truck from MDI.

Approval of Supervisor Report: Thomas Fitzsimmons asking, on the front page General fund under increases, where did the \$101,627.38 come from (NY Class- checking). David Corey will ask bookkeeper Patricia Craine about this. Thomas also said it’s the same in the Highway fund (increases, \$100,365.46). David Corey said you can see what the bookkeeper Patricia did on both of the accounts. A1620.44 computer rep. and will stay the same as 2025 at \$2000.00. Thomas Fitzsimmons asking DA5142.1 (snow removal-personal services), why \$2,242.00. per Kenneth Cook he had spoken to bookkeeper Patricia Craine and explained it was supposed to come out of DA5110.1 (General repairs-Personal services) David Corey to have Patricia fix this. Thomas Hitchcock Jr. asking on A1651.4 Veterans services contractual, what was the payment for. Per David Corey it was for the Veterans Flags. New ones that are bigger have been ordered. The old ones we can give to the family members as we will not have any use for them. Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the Supervisors report as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

Approval of August 19th, 2025 Minutes: Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by David Corey to approve the August 19th, 2025 minutes as amended. Motion carried 5/0.

Executive Session: Motion made at 7:12pm by David Corey second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to go into Executive Session for a personnel matter. Motion carried 5/0. Kenneth Cook was asked to go into Executive Session at 7:26pm. Kenneth exited the Executive Session at 7:41pm. Motion made at 7:48pm by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to end the Executive Session (no decision made). Motion carried 5/0. Motion made by Marvin King at 7:48pm second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to open Board Meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

Public Comments & Concerns: Kenneth Zimmerman, would like to talk about School Taxes, go see Port Byron School for this or speak with Jeff Lowe our assessor about this. Tiffini Sharp put together a letter and would like Board approval to send it out (about a damaged water meter) at 8665 Dwyer Rd.Ext. and will send with the October 1st, 2025 bills. Motion made by David Corey second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to allow Tiffini Sharp to send the letter with the water bill on Oct. 1st, 2025. Motion carried 5/0. Tiffini also let the Board know about the Trunk of Treat Oct. 17th, 2025 at 5:30pm at Giardina park 8102 Dock St. Montezuma, NY 13117 if anyone would like to participate with this. Tiffini also sent in a Grant (to Cayuga County) for the Youth Programs for 2026 year. First Budget meeting per David Corey Thursday October 16th, 2025 6pm and Tentative second Budget meeting on Thursday October 23rd, 2025 at 6pm, the Board is okay with these dates. Board agrees with dates. A copy of the Preliminary Budget and she will let you know. David Corey will be gone from September 29th, 2025 to October 13th, 2025.

Adjourn Meeting: Motion made by David Corey second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 5/0.

Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin