

**Official – Town of Montezuma
Public Hearing Minutes on
Junk yard Laws & Zoning Ordinance Laws,
And the Regular Monthly Board Meeting
To follow.**

**November 18th, 2025
At 5:30pm**

Supervisor David Corey opened the Public Hearing / 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 (ABSENT)
Town Clerk: Marie Cronin
Deputy 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 & Speakers: Joseph Awald (NYS Thruway Authority), Thomas Coleman & Daryl Zimmerman, Legislator Ben Vitale.

Public Hearing Junkyard & Zoning Ordinance Laws: Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. at 5:30pm, second by David Corey to open the Public Hearing, no questions or concerns on the changes made. Motion carried 4/0.
Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. at 5:55pm, second by Christopher Howard to end the Public Hearing. Motion carried 4/0.

Vote on Local Laws / Junkyard & Zoning Ordinance: Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by David Corey to Adopt the Junkyard Laws (Local Law #2 of 2025) as presented. Motion carried 4/0.
Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by Christopher Howard to Adopt the Zoning Ordinance Laws (Local Law #3 of 2025) as presented. Motion carried 4/0. Town Clerk Marie Cronin to make sure all the Book's pages numbered and complete with all the changes. Also Marie will send Local Laws to the State.

Open Regular Town Board Meeting: Motion made by David Corey at 6:03pm, second by Christopher Howard to open regular Town Board Meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

Code Enforcement Officer Report: John Greer: No permits issued for October 2025. John states that he has an issue with Pipekeepers, they are requesting to possibly install fuel pumps. John explained to them that it wasn't that simple, they need the Town and County to approve a site plan, DEC contacted & aware of this and they would also need Federal approval. John said there isn't enough space on property and is very close to the River. State Troopers raided the Pipekeepers recently and also can't do anything with the cigarette sales and cannabis sales because 200yrs ago it was considered reservation land. New laws are coming out per John Greer January 1st, 2026, revision in this is stating that all new houses need to be all electric & have a charging station for you EV. Manufactured homes, Commercial & Restaurants are exempt from this. There will be no way that they can supply a 400amp service to some of the back roads in Town, or any other place. They are getting flack from this so it is on hold for now. John has spoken to Town Lawyer Kevin Cox on the fuel station, Kevin is doing research on this. John also spoke with Evan Williamson, gave him the new office of the State called (Office of Indigenous Affairs) John will contact them to see what they have to say on this.

Joseph Awald from the Colliers Engineering, here to speak to the Board on the water line for the NYS Thruway Service area. Joseph said, picking up the project from 2024, to extend a new service line NYS Thruway rest area, 8" line through the access road off of Rt. 31 into the rest stop for a water supply. Joseph Awald wants to make sure the agreement they had in August 2024 is still in place and what they need to do to make this go forward. Joseph gave the Board an updated version of the Project Plans to review from a year ago. Joseph said it would probably go to bid in the winter and construction would start in spring of 2026 hoping. Construction would be coordinated with the Town of Montezuma. Usage of water, average probably 4,300 gallons per day consumption. With less bathrooms it makes a difference, (Thomas Fitzsimmons said in 2019 Water & Sewer Authority, it was quite a bit more). Joseph will leave his card incase any questions he needs to answer for the Town of Montezuma.

Ben Vitale Cayuga County Legislator: David Corey asking about the raising of the Towns Taxes 12 ½ %. Per Ben, yes I do have a lot to say about it. Ben said he doesn't support all this stuff. Oct. 2025 the County tried to pass a Resolution to exceed the Tax Cap and it was tabled as they did not tell us what kind of increase they were talking about. They convinced most of the Legislator's to pass without knowing. There were only 2 of them that voted no to raising the Tax Cap, not knowing what the increase would be. After the fact is when they came out with the 12 ½ % increase. The Town of Montezuma has the highest tax rate in Town. Then they tried to fees it by saying there is only a 1.98% increase. They take all of the Counties and dividing it to get the

Tax Rate. But with the equalization rate the Town of Montezuma gets hit the hardest. Ben Vitale stated that he will be trying to get the Tax Rate down (5% or 6%) which he doesn't think he'll be able to do. Legislators don't think we can take anymore money out of Fund Balance. The County doesn't want to discuss the Budget so Ben have voted everything down that was brought up for vote. They think that they have no other choices but to do this, per Ben, they do have other choices. Ben will propose to use at least 3 ½ million of Fund Balance, which will be difficult for the County. But if we have the right leadership we can adjust the Budget as we go. The problem is that there are some of them that think they should spend every dime of the Budget. Ben upset that the Town of Montezuma get hit the hardest with taxes and water. County Office Building, nobody wants to do anything with it. Everyone's personnel property is still in the building. Campus to give a review on the building. They read everyone else's previous reports and gave the same answer. It was a horrible report by them, they gave the same information. If we start pouring money into the County Office Building we won't get anything out of it. Maybe try to sell to someone else to purchase it and we would not have to worry about it. We also have no Economic Development going for us in Cayuga County. This is how we reduce taxes.

Historian Report: Cheryl Longyear: Cheryl met with a London documentary film company in Montezuma Heritage Park to film at the Richmond Aqueduct. They are doing a 6 – part series on the American Revolution to be released in July 2026. This part of the series was about how the country expanded after the Revolution with the building of the Erie Canal. Cheryl is also still working on the Canal Corp. Tourism Infrastructure & Amenities Grant due November 21st, 2025 not an easy report to do. (OMHC) Open 1-3pm or by appointment. Samuel Center on November 8th, 2025 Bernie Corcoran gave a talk on the local Military Tract formed after the American Revolution. It was well attended. It was video taped and will be uploaded to the OMHC YouTube channel. November newsletter was posted. Cheryl attended Training on Oct. 28th, 2025. They are making plans for next years (2026) commemoration of the American Revolution.

Highway Superintendent Report: Kenneth Cook: Nothing to report on the 2021 10 wheel dump truck, CAT EXCAVATOR or the John Deere 5065. 2016 Ford F-250 inspection, brakes, tie rods and rear calipers done at Conquest Auto. 2015 Ford F350, truck all set with plows & sander. With the weight limit restriction at the Route 90 Thruway Bridge, we'll have to use this truck to plow. 2025 Ford F550: MDI installed the Jag Wing and it seems to be working well. 2012 6 wheel dump truck, the new truck is having the rear axle moved back to meet the specks Kenneth gave them for the build. Kenneth will also be going to Tenco to go over the set up on all controls & locations of sander controls and plow levers. Tyler O'Brien is leaving the highway position, he has a job closer to home and pays more money. Tiffini Sharp helped Kenneth put an ad on indeed for the position. Road Work: Kenneth will be handing in the Agreement for Expenditure of Highway Moneys for 2026. Mowers will be repaired over winter, for next season. Kenneth would like to get new front tires next year for the loader. Mike Jauch (Syracuse Division Bridge Engineer), by end of this month they will be putting up the signs for the weight limit on the bridge. CHIPS; should have the check in December for this.

Approval of the Bills: Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4/0. David Corey spoke to NYSEG klw hours should be credited on next months bills (\$80) and will check back farther to see if they owe us more. The last payment was made on the dump truck also.

Supervisors Report: NYCLASS interest earned is \$2,937. Sales tax money was \$91,842.38 and we have one more coming in Dec. Marie Cronin to call and have the Board of Elections send the invoice so we can pay this in Decembers bills. David Corey asking Ben Vitale if we raised the 1.1% on the sales tax. Per Ben we would have to reapply for it. Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by Christopher Howard to approve the Supervisors report as presented. Motion carried 4/0. Kenneth Cook to get quotes to see how much it would cost to pave the Highway parking lot and the Town Hall parking lot. To do the Town Hall it will need to be graded away from the building, because of drainage that has no place to go right now.

Approval of Minutes from Oct. 21st, 2025, Oct. 23rd, 2025 & Nov. 6th, 2025. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Christopher Howard to approve the Oct. 21st, 2025 minutes as amended. Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by Christopher Howard second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to approve the Oct. 23rd, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried 4/0. Motion made by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. second by Thomas Fitzsimmons to approve the Nov. 6th, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion carried 4/0.

Tiffini Sharp spoke to the Town Board: Tiffini let the Town Board know that there was a repair that had to be done at 7939 Fuller rd (Donald Swartout), damage done with lawnmower, in the amount of \$145.00. Payment will be due on December 1st, 2025. Board approval of letter Tiffini Sharp drew up for this bill. Motion made by David Corey second by Thomas Fitzsimmon to let Tiffini Sharp send the letter to the Resident. David Corey asking about the water station to be done at the Highway Garage. Per David Ware, yes probably in the spring put it in. Water line up graded, the water station, most of the fittings and piping which is around \$15,000 to \$16,000 dollars. Rough quote for now. Should be under the \$25,000. Water meeting minutes given to the Board. Up coming events papers and Disney on Ice bill given also to the Board. David Ware said that they ordered 2 nodes for the water dept. so we have them on hand. Thomas Fitzsimmons we should meet with Patrick Mulkern to discuss the water line under the bridge Rt. 90. David Corey to try and call him. No shut offs in the winter from November 1st, 2026 to April 18th, 2025 per New York regulations. Shut offs would be in May of 2026. We have less than 10 residents behind. Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. for no shut offs in winter. Motion carried 4/0. Tiffini Sharp can offer payment agreements for residents if they want one. But most do not call her for this. Thomas Hitchcock Jr. asking if we can change the water cycle payments. We cannot change dates. If they still don't pay it can be put on their taxes.

Public Comments & Concerns: There is a home schooling group, would like to do arts and crafts at the Town Hall in Montezuma every other Monday. Wants to know if the Town Board is okay with this. They also have to make sure they clean up the Hall. Town Board are okay with this.

Adjourn Meeting: Motion made by Thomas Fitzsimmons second by Thomas Hitchcock Jr. to adjourn meeting. Motion carried 4/0.

Minutes submitted by Town of Montezuma Clerk:

Marie L. Cronin

