

Town of Fowler Special Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2019 at 3:30PM

A Special Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all Board members present. Also present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, and Deputy Town Clerk Debbie Tupper.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 3:30PM. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the meeting was scheduled for the board to discuss highway road maintenance, and related issues that were brought to the boards attention at the January 8, 2019 Organizational, and Regular Scheduled board meeting. He stated that the board would like to discuss how the maintenance of Town of Fowler roads was going with Highway Superintendent Randy Durham. Highway Superintendent Durham was absent from the January 8, 2018 meeting.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the highway department trucks were out on the roads at 2:30AM Monday 1/07/2019. He reported that he had checked the road conditions at 1:30AM. He stated that he had been on the roads earlier in the evening at 9:30PM and at that time the conditions were fine. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the highway department had prepared the trucks prior to the anticipated weather and the trucks were loaded and readied to go. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the Town of Fowler trucks were out on the road before any of our surrounding towns were for that storm and were $\frac{1}{2}$ way through the runs before the freezing rain started.

Highway Superintendent Durham reported that he had spoken to tax-payer Luke Perrigo regarding the concerns he had brought to the Town board at the Town of Fowler January 8, 2019 board meeting. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that in the event of icy weather, Mr. Perrigo would like to have the plow route get to his road first. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that the plow truck is presently arriving to plow Mr. Perrigo's road approximately 2 hours into the established plow run. Councilperson Jeff Andrews asked Highway Superintendent Durham to elaborate on the route that the plow run takes. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the plow run plows County Route 22 first, all of County Route 22, up and back, then plows the Hull Rd to Route 58, next the Doane Rd to the Smith Rd.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that it is necessary to run a mix of 10% salt to sand. He reported the Town has been running more like 20% to 25% salt to sand. Highway Superintendent Durham stated his phone number to be **315-222-6797**. He encourages anyone to call him with a concern at any time.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that there had been two storms and two trucks in the ditch. He stated that the rain had started at 10:30PM on the evening of 1/7/2019. Councilperson

Bishop stated that Tim Prashaw was 45 minutes getting to his place of work in freezing conditions. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there are a lot of variables that go into ice storms, and that it was impossible to have complete control of the roads 24/7. Supervisor Cappellino stated that complaints have been few and far between but they are legitimate.

Councilperson Jeff Andrews stated that in his opinion, he felt that Highway Superintendent Durham should have been out a little earlier. He stated that when ice gets ahead of you... you can't catch up. Councilperson Jeff Andrews asked Highway Superintendent Durham if the highway workers carried chains in their plow trucks. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that yes they did carry chains in the plow trucks.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop asked if the road that Mr. Perrigo lives on, the Smith Rd. was $\frac{1}{2}$ way thru the plow run. Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that he had been told by Mr. Perrigo that he himself had used 2 yards of sand on the Smith Rd. on 1/07/2019 to make the road safe and able to drive on. Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that he had safety concerns for the taxpayers, the highway department workers, and the Town of Fowler residents' lives.

Councilperson Karen Simmons asked Highway Superintendent Durham if he had received any calls of complaints or callers wanting to know where the plows are. Highway Superintendent replied that he had not received many.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he knows that there have been complaints, but there have been compliments too.

Councilperson Rick Newvine asked if the plow route could be changed any to get around earlier. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that if he went out any earlier, and it was still storming, then it presents problems for roads being cleaned out for the school buses.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that he thought the Town should put the 5th plow truck out on the plow runs. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the Town currently runs 4 trucks for plowing and uses the 5th truck as a reserve, or back-up for a disabled plow truck. Councilperson Jeff Andrews asked Highway Superintendent Durham if the 4 plow trucks break down every time there is a storm. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that there are usually some issues with one or another, mostly minor issues each time. Councilperson Lynn Bishop asked how fast a plow run could get done if they used a 5th plow truck. Supervisor Cappellino asked Highway Superintendent Durham if the Town should do as Councilperson Lynn Bishop suggested and use the 5th plow truck on the road regularly. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that he likes to keep the 5th truck as backup in case one of the 4 plow trucks breaks down.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that with 5 trucks on a beat, using a 5 man team, that it is hard to make sure the men are rested, and not wrecking equipment. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that next year, when the new truck arrives, we will have 2 spare trucks on reserve. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he has been looking at the road counts. He stated that the Country Club Rd at midnight had a road count of 0.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had been on the Town of Fowler Board for 30 plus years and stated that Randy Durham was the best Highway Superintendent that the Town has ever had. Supervisor Cappellino stated that Highway Superintendent Durham had applied for and received grants totaling over \$150,000, and had accomplished a great amount of paving of the Town of Fowler roads.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that Dale McKinney was a great Highway Superintendent for the Town of Fowler.

Highway Superintendent Durham asked Councilperson Lynn Bishop if he would like to take over his job of Town of Fowler Highway Superintendent. Councilperson Bishop stated to Highway Superintendent Durham that he wouldn't have it as easy running against him as he did running against Sweeney, as he had much more experience than Sweeney had. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he would love to run against Councilperson Lynn Bishop for the Highway Superintendent job. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that Councilperson Lynn Bishop could not stay off the alcohol long enough to run for Highway Superintendent. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that Councilperson Lynn Bishop did not like the work of the old Town of Fowler Highway Superintendent either.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop asked Supervisor Cappellino if he was going to allow the Highway Superintendent to slander him in this way at a meeting that is open to the public.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop reminded Supervisor Cappellino and the Town Board of a similar occurrence that happened years ago concerning his father. Supervisor Cappellino asked both Highway Superintendent Durham and Councilperson Bishop to apologize to each other and to the board members for their angry outbursts. Highway Superintendent Durham did apologize. Councilperson Bishop did not. Councilperson Rick Newvine stated that he respects Councilperson Lynn Bishop's expertise level regarding the maintenance of the roads, and road conditions. Councilperson Rick Newvine would like to see both parties work on getting along and get thru this. Councilperson Rick Newvine stated that he credits the Board, Councilperson Lynn Bishop included, as well as the Highway Superintendent with the progress and decisions made regarding the Town roads and the purchases of new equipment.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the secret to his job is to have a plan. He stated that he likes his job, the planning that is involved in it, and he plans years in advance. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that if the Town Board wanted to help him, they would call him with any concerns that they have. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he welcomes constructive criticism.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that he had called Highway Superintendent about a concern he had on the River Rd, out of respect, as someone was injured. Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that he has called Highway Superintendent Durham concerning the fire department leaking water onto a Town road. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that he had sent a truck to the scene, but he did not go as to not be in the fire departments way. Councilperson Lynn Bishop stated that he does not call Highway Superintendent Durham because he does not go.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had spoken to the State Police regarding accidents on the Country Club and Smith roads. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he was told that the accidents were caused by speed, distracted driving, and impaired driving.

Councilperson Rick Newvine stated that besides black topping, plowing, and the yearly Town newsletter, that the taxpayers don't get much else from the Town of Fowler.

At 4:12 PM a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Andrews to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 4:49 PM a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Jeff Andrews to end the Executive Session. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 4:50 PM a motion was made by Councilperson Karen Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop to adjourn the Special Meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk