

Town of Fowler Special Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM

A Special Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all Board members present. Also present were Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale, Vicky Cappellino, Jeff Andrews, Stephen Gale, Art Besaw, and Ed Siebels.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Planning Board to discuss the new proposed Solar Panel Project and to discuss appointing a Planning Board Chairperson. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Planning Board had not met in over a year.

Planning Board member Jeff Andrews stated that this was his second time on the Planning Board and that there unfortunately is not a lot of new business in the Town of Fowler to cause the Planning Board to have to meet.

Councilperson Newvine recommended that the Planning Board hold scheduled quarterly meetings in the future. After discussion, it was decided that the next quarterly Planning Board meeting would be held on November 29th, 2017 at 6 PM at the Fowler Town Hall.

Planning Board member Stephen Gale asked if the Code Enforcement Officer should be on the Planning Board. Councilperson Bishop stated that it might be a conflict of interest. Councilperson Simmons stated that it would be beneficial to have the Code Enforcement Officer on the Planning Board. Councilperson Newvine suggested that the Town check with the Association of Towns, to see if there would be any conflict of interest having the Code Enforcement Officer on the Planning Board.

Planning Board Member Jeff Andrews stated that he felt that all the Planning Board Members should have been notified to attend and participate in the Solar Panel Presentation discussion that took place during the July 6th, 2017 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting. Planning Board Member Jeff Andrews stated that Ed Siebels attended as the Planning Board Chair, and was the only member asked to attend the meeting.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Town Board usually leaves it up to the Planning Board to decide who will serve as the Chair position on the Planning Board. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Town Board can appoint the position. It was not his intention to do so, but that he needed to get in touch with a member of the Planning Board in a hurry regarding the Solar Power Presentation that took place at the Regular Scheduled Town Board meeting on July 6th, 2017.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Hydro Project wants a PILOT. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Town is interested in having them pay for some of the bridge repairs. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he was going to call the County and see about the bridge repairs and urge the County to put the bridge repairs on the top of the list.

Councilperson Bishop stated that he does not see where the Town of Fowler would benefit from the Solar Power Project. Councilperson Bishop stated that the lifespan for the Solar Panels are 30 years, and they would not have to pay taxes for the first 15 years. The assessment on the land being discussed is \$3,000.

Planning Board Member Art Besaw asked what is to stop them from pulling out in 15 years. Councilperson Simmons stated that the Solar Panel Project was not going to benefit the Town, and it is her

understanding that they are going to do it regardless, but are seeking the Towns approval. Councilperson Simmons stated that maybe the IDA could work with the Town. Planning Board Chair Ed Siebels stated that the Solar Panel Project could not start construction without approval from the County. Planning Board Chair Ed Siebels then asked the Board if they would be interested in the Solar Panel Project if the Town was going to get something out of it. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Solar Panels would generate 5 Megs of power, and that they are in a win/win situation receiving renewable energy credits from NYSERDA. Councilperson Newvine stated that the Town needed to come up with a Local Law that any Commercial Building Project needs to go to the Planning Board. He recommended asking Town attorney Henry Leader about putting a Commercial Building Plan Local Law in place. Councilperson Newvine stated that a law would allow the Planning Board to act. Councilperson Newvine stated that he would like the Planning Board Members to each receive a copy of the Land Use Policy. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that yes, they would be interested in the Solar Panels if the Town would benefit from it.

Vicky Cappellino asked if anyone had contacted the Planning Board before the installation of Solar Panels at Kilkarney Courts. The Planning Board members present stated that no one had contacted them. Planning Board Member Jeff Andrews stated that is the price the Town pays for no Zoning Laws. Councilperson Newvine stated that the Town of Fowler does have a Land Use Policy in place.

Councilperson Newvine asked if there was a building permit for the Kilkarney Courts Solar Panels. Councilperson Newvine asked Vicky Cappellino, Kilkarney Courts Board Member, who had made the decision to install the Solar Panels at Kilkarney Courts. Councilperson

Simmons stated that the Kilkarney Courts Board had voted yes on it, and that it had gone through Rural Development – United Helpers, and the 6 panels were installed.

Supervisor Cappellino reminded the Planning Board Members that they are required to attend 4 hours of schooling each year, and the next class is to be held in Potsdam in October.

Supervisor Cappellino asked if there was any other business to be discussed. Councilperson Simmons stated that Town Clerk Kelly Harmer would like a water cooler for the Town Hall. There are water coolers already in place at the Town Barn and the beach. Town Clerk Kelly Harmer has priced the water through W.B. Masons, and it can be delivered once a week at \$3.99 for 5 gallons and the cost to rent the cooler is \$2.99/ month. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to approve the water cooler for the Town Hall.

Councilperson Simmons stated that there was work being done at BOCES and wondered if a building permit is required for the work. Councilperson Newvine stated that schools are exempt, but that the question will be addressed to Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, who was not in attendance.

Supervisor Cappellino asked Councilperson Bishop how the paving was going. Councilperson Bishop stated that the paving was going well.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Court would like to look into obtaining access to having credit card payments. Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale asked if Town Clerk Kelly Harmer was also still interested in obtaining access to credit card payment options for receiving tax payments. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there was prior approval for the credit card payment option to be considered.

Supervisor Cappellino asked for a motion to close the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM. All in Favor.
MOTION CARRIED.

Tami Gale; Deputy Town Clerk