

Town of Fowler April 13th, 2026, Minutes of Regular Scheduled Board Meeting at 6PM.

The Town of Fowler Regular scheduled Town Board meeting was held on the above date with all board members present. Also present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Town Justice Tim Knowlton, Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Assessor Chair Kathy Besaw, Ethics Committee Member Vivian Goodman, Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward, Laurina Greenhill, Deb Walsh, Scott Cleveland, Ryan Gollinger, Paul Johnson Jr, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Supervisor Newvine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM then proceeded with the pledge of allegiance and led a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, all healthcare workers, and to remember those who have been lost since the last board meeting: Richard Aldridge.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2026 regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Knight, seconded by Councilperson Bishop . All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 10 of 2026

TOWN OF FOWLER & NYSDEC UNDERTAKING

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Knight to adopt a resolution allowing the Town of Fowler access and operation upon State right-of-way. The Undertaking shall have a term of (20) years and shall be kept on file to facilitate the issuance of future permits to which it will apply. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, KNIGHT, WALSH

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

APPOINTMENT

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to appoint Ricky Woodrow to the Planning Board. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Bishop. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Simmons asked if this appointment now made the Planning Board complete. Town Clerk Tami Gale reported that the Planning Board was now complete with (5) members.

2026 MOWING CONTRACT

Supervisor Newvine reported that Tina & Dan Fifield were awarded the mowing contract for the 2025 mowing season in the amount of \$13,250, with no increase from the previous year's 2024 contract. It was discussed that both contracts were paid in five monthly installments of \$2,650 commencing in May and ending in September. Supervisor Newvine stated he had spoken to Dan, and he had asked for an increase in the 2026 mowing contract having factored in the rising gasoline prices. Supervisor Newvine reported that the mowing contract amount asked for in 2026 is \$14,500 total, making the monthly installments \$2,900. Supervisor Newvine asked the board for their thoughts on awarding the contract for the 2026 season. After some further discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Bishop and seconded by Councilperson Walsh to award the mowing contract for the 2026 mowing season this evening to Tina & Dan Fifield in the amount of \$14,500. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported:

- He cancelled court on March 7th due to the weather and is anticipating a very large number of individuals to be attending court on April 21st.
- He attended a Magistrate's meeting in March and received updated information from the DEC on paperwork and procedures.
- All is going well .

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie was not in attendance.

- She had provided Town of Fowler Cash Balance Reports and Budget Balances for Month Ending January 2026 to the board members for their review.
- Reports show the general fund was 5.15% spent, with 1.37% of revenue received and the highway fund was 3.61% spent with .19% of revenue received.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Kathleen Besaw reported:

- She had turned in the dates for viewing of the tax roll and for filing grievances on tax assessments to the town clerk and the legal notices will be advertised with the information.
- The tax roll will be here by the end of the week for anyone wishing to view it.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- She is working on genealogy requests for the Johnson and Fowler families.
- Discussed that the beautiful quilt on display this evening was donated to the Town of Fowler by Nort Taylor. It was his wish that after his passing, the quilt would be returned to the Town of Fowler, as he had won the quilt in a raffle years ago. The quilt was made by many members of the Fowler Baptist Church.
- Discussed that the quilt was originally made and raffled off with its proceeds to benefit HOSPICE of St. Lawrence Valley.
- Reported that she had made inquiries with several members of the Fowler Baptist Church to seek their thoughts and approval for the Town of Fowler to again use the quilt to benefit HOSPICE of St. Lawrence Valley, by having it be placed in the silent auction at this years Family Day with all proceeds from the quilt being once again donated to benefit HOSPICE of St. Lawrence Valley.

Animal Control

Councilperson Simmons reported for Dan Moyer who was not in attendance:

- He had received a complaint from a resident on the Emeryville Rd concerning a dog running at large belonging to a resident on the Chub Lake Rd. He met with the owner of the dog and as of meeting time there were no further issues reported.

Beaver Control

Councilperson Simmons reported for Moyer's Wildlife Control who was not in attendance:

- He is working on beaver control on Fullerville Rd, Swiss Hill Rd, Upper Stone Rd, Popple Hill Rd, Glasby Rd, California Rd, and Shantyville Rd.
- He has reported removing beaver from three of the sites as of meeting time.

Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice reported that he had received a phone call today from a resident on the Popple Hill Rd reporting that a beaver was inside the culvert.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Besaw reported:

- Building Permit applications have been coming in very slowly this year, possibly due to the rising costs.
- He received three complaints. One complaint was regarding a septic system which he has been working with the DEC to resolve and reported he will now take the lead. One complaint was on State Highway 58 and resulted in a residence being posted and can no longer be occupied. The third complaint was a noise, garbage and vehicle complaint in Hailesboro that he is taking care of.
- He completed his Code Enforcement Officer training last week.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$50.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being \$2.76. She licensed 15 dogs, issued 1 Marriage Transcript, and issued 11 Death Certificates.
- Her 2026 Tax-Collectors Warrant had been renewed by the County, as is done yearly.
- Taxes are now 85.46% collected, last year at the same time they were 85.23% collected.
- 2nd Notices will be mailed this week to taxpayers who haven't paid anything at all. There are 165 2nd notices that will be mailed.
- A bottle & can check was received on 3/31/2026 in the amount of \$162.70.
- Received a save the date for the Local Government Conference held at SUNY Potsdam for October 13, 2026.

Maintenance

Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward reported:

- Discussed he had to spray the town hall for insects two times due to significant numbers of insects being found in the cellar and in some offices.
- Reported he will be working on the foundation at the beach.
- He will be adding boards to the outside stairs leading to the courtroom to keep blowing sand from entering the generator.
- He has replaced outside lighting units at the town hall and the highway department multiple times and is unsure why they need replacement so frequently.
- The outside stairs and the ramp will be re-stained this year, and the Town Hall will be pressure washed before Family Day.
- Asked when he should turn the water on at the pavilion. Supervisor Newwine stated that it usually is turned on by May 1st.

Supervisor Newwine asked if the sidewalk will be installed at the pavilion prior to Family Day.

Maintenance Worker Woodward reported that he would like to have it completed by then.

- Discussed the speeding traffic on Little York Rd and his concerns for the kids using the playground. After some discussion, Supervisor Newvine asked Highway Superintendent Bice to have some play ground signs made to caution drivers to slow down.
- Asked if the basketball court at the pavilion could be torn out and replaced to make it level. Supervisor Newvine discussed that there are funds in the playground account for this project. Scott Cleveland reported that he would contact the person who was going to do the work last year to discuss the project.
- Asked about a camera that is on the Farm to Market Rd. It was discussed the camera has been there for quite some time and that it is thought to have been placed there by the County. After some discussion, Supervisor Newvine stated that he would look into it.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice reported:

- The loader has been repaired.
- Many new signs have been installed at the intersection in Hailesboro to slow vehicles down. He also has contacted the State Troopers to see if they were able to sit in the area a few times a week to try to slow people down.

Supervisor Newvine discussed that a resident had suggested that the word “stop” also be painted on the road, and he felt that was a good idea depending on the cost. Highway Superintendent Bice will check with the County on the cost of having this done.

- Discussed Chub Lake and Country Club Rd are scheduled to be paved this year, and the County will be completing the work.
- The highway department has been hauling sand into the salt barn.
- Reported that he is only putting 4,000 yards in this year as to not over load the salt barn. He reported that next year if the new Highway Superintendent needs more sand, it will be available from Chad Soper who puts up extra yards of it yearly.
- Discussed the California Rd and the damage that has been done to parts of the road from logging trucks. After some discussion, it was decided that the board members will drive to California Rd at the conclusion of tonight’s board meeting to view the damage.
- The highway department continues to maintain the trucks in between hauling.
- Two large culverts were changed on Jones Rd.
- Reported that things are going well in the highway department.
- Asked the board what their plans were for the black top at the old skating rink by the salt barn and if the highway department could remove it. After some discussion it was the consensus of the board to approve the removal of the old blacktop.
- The highway department will start cutting shoulders on Doane Rd, Hull Rd, and Smith Rd as soon as their culvert work is completed.
- Asked the board if they wanted to re-hire Jackie McEathron back as summer help. It was discussed that the board would like to bring Jackie back and will determine her wage.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Walsh: Had no further questions or comments.

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Reported that the HAP Program had 26 visits in the month of March.
- Thanked Stepping Stone Ministries for their donations of eggs and groceries, Mickael White for her weekly donation of 8 dozen eggs, and Robert Saidel for a 50lb bag of potatoes to the HAP Program.

- Thanked the Elks Club for their monetary donation of \$450.00, the Fowler Mission Circle for their monetary donation of \$300.00 and Robert & Diane Jennings for their monetary donation of \$100.00 for the food programs.
- Thanked Pastor Howie Maxson of the Fowler Baptist church for the delivery of groceries that were donated from the Tucker family.
- The next SOS care package delivery will be made in June.
- Reported that Brittany and Ben Mashaw are going to continue to clean the Fullerville Cemetery this year and have asked if the Town of Fowler could supply them with D/2 Masonry solvent to clean the headstones. It was discussed the solvent costs around \$50.00 a bottle. After some discussion, the board will look further into the solution and its effects on the older head stones before approving the request.
- Reported that Fowler Family Day is being held on July 18th this year. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on April 23rd, and vendor spots are \$15.00 for a 10x10 space.
- Introduced Ryan Gollinger and Paul Johnson Jr who were in attendance to other meeting attendees as candidates who will be on the ballot for the June primary and are running for the office of Highway Superintendent.
- Reported that Jacob Cunningham, who was not in attendance this evening, will also be on the June primary ballot and is running for the office of Highway Superintendent.
- Reported that whoever wins the primary in June will go on the ballot for the November election.

Councilperson Leo Knight Jr.:

- Reported he had received a complaint concerning the sweeping of the roads and the lack of using a loader to pick up the material. He reported that one gentleman had just paid to have his yard clean-up done and when the roads were swept it filled the area all back in. Highway Superintendent Bice discussed they didn't pick it up this year and they pick up the material every 3 to 4 years.
- Asked Highway Superintendent Bice if the highway department has always had water in the pit. Highway Superintendent Bice discussed that the water has always accumulated there, and they need a new sump pump to drain it. It was discussed that there were between 6 to 8 inches in the pit at present time.
- Asked Highway Superintendent Bice where the new lifeguard chair was stored. It was discussed it was stored in the building with the dock.
- Asked Code Enforcement Officer Besaw how the issue on the Doane Rd is proceeding. Code Enforcement Officer Besaw reported the property owner was mailed his last notice and he is waiting for the deadline to come before taking action.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked Highway Superintendent Bice about the gap between one of the highway barn doors and the floor and if the work was going to be scheduled to address the problem. Supervisor Newwine reported that the work had been addressed previously and they would just need to schedule it with the vendor.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newwine:

- Discussed he had learned that if the pigs running in the roadway and in the path of vehicles on the Doane Rd are found to be running at large in the roadway again that we will need to contact the Sherriff's Office to resolve the issue.
- Discussed he is waiting for a quote for a new set of stairs for the beach.
- Read aloud a thank you card from Sally and Charlie Hughto for their SOS package.
- Reported there was an anonymous request by a taxpayer for the Town of Fowler to prohibit logging in the Springtime. Supervisor Newwine discussed the damage to California Rd that was discussed earlier in the meeting, and stated that we can't prohibit it, but we can make them pay for the road damage.
- He received a letter from Advocate Drum that our dues were paid for the year.
- He had received and signed a permit from New York State DOT for our gateway signs.

Public Comment

Glen Besaw:

- Reported that RVs don't require building permits, but once they are hooked up to electricity and water that they can be assessed as a residence. He stated that he could see that this may cause some issues with neighbors as there is nothing in the land use law that regulates lot line set backs or distance from the roadway. Mr. Besaw asked if RVs should be included in the town's land use law, stating that once they have a sticker saying that they are labeled as a Park RV, they are pretty much exempt from code.
- Suggested that we may want to make an addition to our land use law stating that if an RV gets hooked up to sewer and electricity that they would be considered a mobile home.
- Supervisor Newwine asked if RVs were regulated in any other nearby townships. Mr. Besaw stated that he didn't think that they were.

Supervisor Newwine stated that he would call around to see how other towns are handling RVs.

MUSIC NIGHT AT THE PAVILION

Glen Besaw:

- Gave an update that music at the pavilion is tentatively scheduled to start on Wednesday, June 10th with the Marble City River Band. It was discussed they would play from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for \$600.00
- Asked the board how the band would be paid and if it would come out of the playground fund. It was discussed that other places that have music night "pass the hat" to collect money to pay the entertainment and hold fundraisers to build up a fund to pay the bands.
- Reported that he would like to donate \$100.00 towards the cost of the band.

Supervisor Newwine asked the board their thoughts on spending some of the playground fund for music nights. After some discussion it was decided that for the first music night, we would pay from the tip/donation jar and whatever is lacking the playground fund would cover to pay for the band. Supervisor Newwine stated that we can try it once and see what happens and change things as we go.

- Glen discussed the possibility of having food trucks come to music night. Supervisor Newvine stated that if there are several food trucks in the Town of Fowler, they should all be offered the chance to come on different nights.
- Glen asked if coolers with alcohol would be allowed. Supervisor Newvine stated that he didn't have a problem with responsible adults.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to audit the bills. A motion was made by Councilperson Bishop seconded by Councilperson Walsh to audit the bills. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 97 to #139, with a total of \$81,353.69.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be held on May 11th, 2026, at 6:00PM.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Knight, the April 13, 2026 Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk