

## **Town of Fowler May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting at 6:00PM.**

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, Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice, Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward, Town Justice Timothy Knowlton, Paul Johnson Jr, Scott Cleveland, Jacob Cunningham, and Debbie Walsh.

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: the family of Tim Geer.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Knight. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Emergency board meeting held on April 24, 2026. A motion was made by Councilperson Bishop seconded by Councilperson Walsh. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### ***RESOLUTION #11 of 2026***

#### ***BOCES Shared Services Agreement***

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #11 of 2026 allowing him to sign the yearly shared services agreement between BOCES and the Town of Fowler. A motion was made by Councilperson Knight seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adopt Resolution #11 of 2026. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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

NAYS: 0

### **Town Department Reports**

#### **Justice Department**

Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported:

- Court Clerk Ashley had prepared multiple judgement letters that have been mailed.
- Court has been quiet.

Supervisor Newvine asked Justice Knowlton if the code enforcement cases are scheduled to be heard. It was discussed that two cases would be heard on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Bookkeeper**

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie was not in attendance.

- She had provided Town of Fowler Cash Balance and Budget Balance Reports for Month Ending March, 2026 to the board members in advance of the meeting for their review.
- The general fund was 16.63% spent, with 34.60% of revenue received and the highway fund was 13.67% spent with 59.62% of revenue received.

#### **Assessors**

Assessor Kathy Besaw was not in attendance.

Republican Committee chairperson for the Town of Fowler, Karen Simmons reported on the status of the unfilled assessor position that will be left upon assessor Robert Theriault's resignation from the assessor's office effective May 29, 2026.

- Chairperson Simmons discussed that no decision can be made until after the Primary Election that is being held on June 23, 2026.

- After the Primary is held, a decision can be made to appoint someone to the unfilled position until December 31, 2026 or the position can remain open until it is decided by the 2026 election, in which the candidate elected would begin serving the remainder of Robert Theriault's unexpired term of office.
  - Chairperson Simmons reported that Assessor Besaw had made her aware that she had spoken to Gina Orr, a Fowler resident, who is interested in the assessor position.
  - Chairperson Simmons reported that she and Debbie Walsh, also a member of the Republican Committee will meet with Ms. Orr and if she is still interested in the position, they would contact the Board of Elections, and she would be on the November, 2026 ballot.
  - Chairperson Simmons discussed that she wasn't aware of any interested Democratic candidates.
- Supervisor Newvine stated that the board will discuss the open assessor position and decide at the July board meeting as how to proceed.

## **Historian**

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- She is working on having new signs made by St. Lawrence County Highway Department for nine Town of Fowler cemeteries, with assistance from Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice.
- The estimated cost will be \$400.00.
- She has ordered the cornerstones for the cemetery lot that was sold in the Fullerville Cemetery.
- Reported Supervisor Newvine had found the D-2 cleaner that was requested by the Mashaw family who are volunteering to clean the headstones in the Fullerville Cemetery. After some further discussion, it was the consensus of the board to purchase the D-2 cleaner's for both the marble and the granite headstones.

## **Animal Control**

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

- There are four dogs in the dog kennel that are approximately 6 months old.
- As of today, the animals are ready to be adopted if anyone is interested.
- There are two males and two females.
- They were dropped off together and were all picked up at the end of the Whitford Road and State Highway 812.
- Mandated work on the kennel cannot be completed until the dogs are no longer in the kennel.
- Some of the work needed to be done on the kennel includes: the installation of a sink on the wall, installing an enclosed quarantine cage, and digging a trench for water dissipation.

Supervisor Newvine reported that the Town of Fowler has the option to hire Dan Moyer to take over the operation, at a cost of \$2,500 for the year. It was discussed members of the board would hate to lose the dog kennel, with the money that has already been spent on the mandates.

- She has reached out to Friends 4 Pound Paws to see if they can help with the placement of the animals.

## **Beaver Control**

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

- He had submitted a bill in this evening's purchase orders for beaver control at five locations for \$1,500.
- He reported he is not working on any active beaver sites at this time.

## **Code Enforcement**

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw was not in attendance.

Supervisor Newvine reported that he continues to do a really good job of getting properties cleaned up in the Town of Fowler.

## **Town Clerk**

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$160.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being \$8.84. She had issued 4 certified marriage transcripts, issued 1 marriage license, filled 1 genealogical services request, issued 1 death certificate, issued 1 certified transcript of birth, had licensed 26 dogs, handled 5 building permit applications, and had taken in \$2.00 in photocopies.
- Taxes are now 87.53% collected.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> notices were mailed on April 16th to 169 taxpayers who haven't paid any of their taxes.
- Tax collection will end on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A scrap metal check was received on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the amount of \$367.30.
- She continues to work on the beach and on family day.

## **Maintenance**

**Maintenance Worker Bryon Woodward reported:**

- He will continue to work on the mandated upgrades to the dog kennel when the dogs are relocated.
- He built a wall to prevent sand from blowing into the generator and will be starting several staining projects at the town hall.
- Suggested getting an estimate for paving a small portion behind the pavilion for parking spaces, to include a couple of handicapped parking spaces maybe big enough for 4 cars, to be included in the basketball court paving estimate.

Supervisor Newvine asked Scott Cleveland if he had received the paving estimate for the basketball court. It was discussed that the measurements have been taken, but no estimate has been received. Supervisor Newvine asked Mr. Cleveland to see if he could get an estimate to include the addition of the parking spaces.

- Reported the pit in the highway department bay is in very poor condition with deteriorating cement and is retaining water.
- Suggested the work be contracted out to repair the problem.

After some discussion, Supervisor Newvine reported that he would contact Continental Construction to discuss the issues in the pit.

## **Highway Superintendent**

Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice reported:

- The highway department has been hauling stone for the paving of Country Club Rd and have been stockpiling it at the Hailesboro ballpark.
- They are working on replacing culverts and performing ditching.
- He has been teaching some of the highway department workers how to use the grader.

Supervisor Newvine asked Highway Superintendent Bice if he had taken care of the findings that were listed in the recent audit report from the County. Highway Superintendent Bice reported that he had.

## **Councilmembers**

**Councilperson Lynn Bishop:**

- Asked Highway Superintendent Bice if the garage doors have been looked at yet. Highway Superintendent Bice reported that they are all repaired.
- Asked Highway Superintendent Bice if the sand was all in and if the dozer was back. Highway Superintendent Bice reported that the sand was in and the dozer is back.
- Suggested the new playground sign by Cindy Fuller's house be moved back a little further.

**Councilperson John Walsh:**

- Had no further commentary.

**Councilperson Leo Knight Jr:**

- Had no further commentary.

**Councilperson Karen Simmons:**

- In the month of April, the HAP Program was visited 37 times.
- Thanked Mickael White of Peaceful Meadows Homestead, for her weekly donation of 8 dozen eggs to the HAP Program.
- Thanked Reverend Maxson for donating and bringing two truckloads of food from the Tucker family residence for the HAP Program.
- Thanked Rob Saidel for the donation of 50 pounds of potatoes to the HAP Program.
- Thanked Scott and Marcia Cleveland for the large quantity of groceries they have donated to the HAP and SOS Programs.
- Thanked Joan Eaker of Stepping Stone Church for her food donations to the HAP Program.
- The next SOS care package delivery will be in June.
- Thanked Debbie Andrews for helping with the SOS deliveries.
- Reported Fowler Family Day planning is coming along.
- Introduced Jacob Cunningham, a candidate for the office of Highway Superintendent to the meeting attendees.

**Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:**

- Gave an update on the progress of FEMA 4825-DR-NY disaster relief for Hurricane Debby, stating that the Town of Fowler received a notice to complete the mandated FFATA Report for Federal Funding awarded by New York State, and how much help our FEMA Program Delivery Manager Zoja Misut has been through the entire process.
- Reported our head lifeguard Sabrina Jones is now a certified lifeguard and CPR instructor, and the Town of Fowler has entered into an agreement with the American Red Cross for Sabrina to be able to train our lifeguards.
- Discussed that there is a fee the Town of Fowler will be billed by the American Red Cross as well as a fee for each of the new guards to take the training with Sabrina, and he asked the board their thoughts of the Town of Fowler paying these fees for lifeguard training, which will help us get the necessary lifeguards and keep them. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request. Supervisor Newvine discussed that he would let the board know for sure what the cost will be.
- Reported he had attended Lobby Day in Albany last week and had learned about some of the new bills being sponsored that would be beneficial to many municipalities. He discussed that they are concentrating on increasing the limits of public contracts from \$20,000 and \$35,000 to \$70,000 and \$120,000; are proposing a new sewer and water program known as SWAB, that would have a fund similar to the CHIPS program; are proposing allowing municipalities to advertise meetings on their websites instead of in newspapers to alleviate delays, costs, and to reach those who don't read newspapers anymore; they are proposing a bill to let townships be involved with the IDA when a PILOT project is awarded; and are proposing to increase the amount of money that a retired person can make from \$35,000 to \$65,000 to help retired workers get back into the workforce if they choose to do so.
- Discussed the terrible condition of the railroad tracks in the Town of Fowler.
- Reported he would try to contact Conrail to discuss their condition.

**Public Comment**

- Debbie Walsh asked when the next Family Day Meeting was going to be held. It was discussed the next meeting will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #140 to #173, with a total of \$54,104.66.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be held on June 8, 2026 at 6:00PM.

The Town Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Bishop, seconded by Councilperson Simmons, the May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Tami Gale; Town Clerk