

Town of Fowler October 3rd, 2022, 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, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Town Justice Timothy Knowlton, Assessor Timothy Thomas, Planning Board Members Stephen Gale and Leo Knight, Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward, Ethics Committee Member Vivian Goodman, Richard Clement, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press. There were no attendees by phone.

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 for the family of Carolyn Pistolesi and for the families of all Fowler residents who have passed.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2022, regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Cleveland. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2% TAX-CAP

Supervisor Newvine discussed the option to over-ride the 2% tax-cap or stay within the 2% tax-cap. Bookkeeper Finnie reported to over-ride the 2% tax-cap the Town would need to hold a Public Hearing, adopt the 2% tax-cap over-ride by Local Law, and if the Town stays within the tax-cap, the Town will then need to rescind the Local Law that was adopted. Bookkeeper Finnie reported that she felt the Town was safe to stay within the 2% tax-cap. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Bishop to not exceed the 2% tax-cap. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

SET 3RD BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR PREPARATION OF THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Newvine reported a third budget workshop is necessary in preparation of the 2023 preliminary budget. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to set the workshop to be held on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, at 3:00 PM.

MEETING DATE CHANGE

Supervisor Newvine reported the regular scheduled November 14th board meeting needed to be changed. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to change the November town board meeting to November 7th. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

DATE SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to make November 7th the date to hold a public hearing on the preliminary budget. A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Bishop. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON TABLED FURNACE BID FROM SEPTEMBER 12, 2022

Supervisor Newvine asked the board what they wanted to do with the tabled furnace bid from the September 12, 2022, board meeting. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Bishop seconded by Councilperson Simmons to rebid the work to advertise for new duct work and air conditioning only with no furnace replacement. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION # 17 of 2022

2022 Justice Court Assistance Program (JCAP) Grant

A motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland seconded by Councilperson Simmons to adopt a resolution to authorize Town Justice Timothy Knowlton to apply for a Court Assistance Program Grant in the 2022-2023 grant cycle up to \$22,940.86. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, ANDREWS, CLEVELAND

NAYS: 0

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported:

- Court has been slow.
- The court is still waiting to receive new hard drives for court computers.
- He will be submitting the grant application that was approved this evening before the October 14 deadline.
- He had presided over an arraignment the night before.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie:

- Provided Town of Fowler Cash Balance Reports for Month Ending September 30, 2022, to the board for their review.

Assessors

Assessor Timothy Thomas reported for Chair Kathleen Besaw who was not in attendance:

- It has been business as usual.

Supervisor Newvine asked if they had been working on data collection. Assessor Thomas reported he has been working on data cards and tracking building permits.

Supervisor Newvine asked assessor Thomas if he physically goes to the sites during data collection, or if he uses websites to gather needed information. Assessor Thomas reported he visits the property he is doing data collection on.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- She has been working on gathering information for a FOIL request.
- She has also been working on a few genealogies.

Animal Control

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

- The dog that was in the kennel has been adopted by Robert Theriault.
- He had received a complaint of a dog on the Farm to Market Road not having proper food and shelter. He had visited the site and it was determined the dog did have food and shelter, however the owner was going to try to make a better shelter for the dog.
- There was one summons that was postponed for an unlicensed dog.

Beaver Control

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

- He has traps set at three sites, the Country Club Road, Stone Road, and Swiss Hill Road.
- He is also working on the Chub Lake and River Roads.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw was not in attendance.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$5,309.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being \$279.49. She had issued 2 certified marriage transcripts, licensed 36 dogs, taken in \$20.00 for a rabies shot for a dog in the kennel, handled 4 building permit applications with a total of \$232.00, issued 3 death certificates, and had taken in \$10.25 for photo copies.
- She had received a new shipment of COVID-19 tests from the County and thanked Jacey for having them delivered.
- Bottle & Can money collected for the month was \$139.35.
- Pepsi Machine money collected was \$163.00
- The town hall will be closed in observation of Columbus Day on Monday, October 10th.
- She had a gentleman request that the Town of Fowler create a cemetery plot sale policy. She shared the information with Councilperson Simmons, who oversees the town cemeteries, to handle.
- Discussed the newsletter starts being worked on in October and asked the board if they planned on continuing the annual newsletter. Supervisor Newvine mentioned prior to the meeting, he had received correspondence from Coughlin, a printing company who is able to provide the printing service that had previously been provided by Ferguson Printing.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham:

PROPOSAL FOR EMERGENCY BACK UP GENERATOR

- Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he had obtained a proposal from Link Electric, LLC for a 26kw Generac standby propane generator for emergency services at a cost of \$12, 200, and copies of the proposal had been given to all board members.

Supervisor Newvine asked the board their thoughts on the proposal. After some discussion a motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland seconded by Councilperson Bishop to approve the purchase and installation of the generator, and to set a cap not to exceed \$1,000 for the plumbing and hook up of the generator, by the gas company performing the work, using the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

- CHIPS money has been received in the amount of \$299,000.
- He hasn't heard anything on the USDA application for the 2024 Mack Plow Truck.
- SAM grant is now updated for anyone looking for a grant.
- The highway department will go back to working five eight-hour days on October 12th.

Maintenance

Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward reported:

- He has ordered 32 sheets of 3/4 plywood for the pavilion.
- He had removed the window air conditioning units from the town hall.
- He had shut the windows in the dog kennel and turned the heat on in it.
- He had removed the flies from the ceiling light fixtures.

Planning Board

Planning Board Chair Stephen Gale reported:

- He is waiting on some information from code enforcement officer Besaw, to schedule a planning board meeting to discuss a variance for a property on the Manison Grounds Road.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Reported there were 40 people in the month of September who used the HAP Program on Thursdays. She stated of the 40 a lot of them are weekly repeat visitors.
- 25 boxes of the monthly school food boxes had been picked up by Fowler residents.
- Thanked Dave Spilman Jr. for the donation of a van full of products for the HAP Program.
- Reported the next delivery for SOS Program will be made the week of November 14th.
- Reminded everyone to vote on November 8th.
- Thanked Councilperson Bishop for donating food, the Andrews family for donating money and Mr. Byrns for the donation of squash and onions to the HAP Program.

Councilperson Cleveland:

- Reported he hasn't had much luck in trying to order new playground equipment. He has had several un-returned phone calls. He reported he is unable to order directly from the catalog, he needs to order through a third party, and is continuing his effort.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if he had obtained any prices for new brooms for the trucks. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he has taken Councilperson Bishop's suggestion into consideration and is still working on it.
- Asked if the cemeteries had been mowed. It was reported they had been mowed.

EXTENDED MOWING DISCUSSION

Supervisor Newvine reported the mowing contract is now over for the year. He stated Town Clerk Gale had looked up what was paid last year for mowing that was performed after the contract had ended, and it was $\frac{3}{4}$ of the original wage paid. Supervisor Newvine reported the contractor has agreed to continue mowing for $\frac{3}{4}$ of the original wage again this year which is \$1,650. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland seconded by Councilperson Bishop to approve the amount of \$1,650 to be paid monthly for additional mowing as needed. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Jeff Andrews:

- Had no further questions or concerns.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- He had handled the easement request from a Fowler resident that was discussed at the September 12 board meeting before he had heard back from the town attorney, and it is now settled.
- Complimented Councilperson Cleveland on the appearance and conditions of the playground and thanked him for his work overseeing the playground.
- He had attended a supervisor's meeting with National Grid where he received a map indicating where all 3-phase power is located. He reported he will forward the map to code enforcement officer Besaw and the members of the planning board for their review. He reported the meeting was very informative.
- Reported there is a committee of 3 supervisors who have met with the County to discuss the cost of plowing and he will have more information to share after the next supervisor's meeting.

Public Comment

- Tami Gale asked when the cemetery signs that were donated by BOCES were going to be installed in the town cemeteries. After some discussion, it was decided Hwy. Superintendent Durham would get prices on the posts and be in charge of obtaining the dig permission for the sites, and Councilperson Bishop would decide the placement and have 2 highway workers install the cemetery signs.
- Vivian Goodman reported the road patches that were done on County Route 24 are all coming out. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he would notify the County.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 367 to # 399, with a total of \$31,112.00.

There will be a budget workshop held on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, at 3:00PM.

The next regular scheduled board meeting and Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 budget will be held on November 7th, 2022, at 6:00PM.

Supervisor Newvine reminded all to exercise their right to vote on November 8th.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Andrews, seconded by Councilperson Simmons, the October 3rd, 2022, Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 6:37PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk