

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all Board Members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Assessor Sherry Geer, Assessor Bob Andrews, Assessor Robert Fuller, Justice Paul Lamson, Bookkeeper Barb Finnie, Herbert Fuller, Mike Macaulay, Vicky Cappellino, Alex MacKinnon, Lisa Durham, Wanda Fayette, Debra Tupper, Lillith Griffith, Phyllis Shaw, Don Fowler, Tami Gale, Laurina Greenhill, Kathy Moses and Brad Charlton from the St. Lawrence County Housing Council.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7 PM then proceeded with the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes from February 2, 2016 meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

There were two bids for the Beaver Patrol Position, one was from Don Fowler Jr. and the other from Daniel Moyer. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to accept the low bid of \$250 per site submitted by Dan Moyer. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre was unable to attend the meeting but wanted to report that the County was awarded the bridge in Emeryville. The County will not appeal the decision anymore. He also stated that the finances for the County do not look good so we will have to wait and see what they are going to do with the bridge. Mike Macaulay asked if we were going to

be reimbursed for any of the legal fees that were spent on the Emeryville Bridge lawsuit. The last he checked, which was a year ago, we had spent over \$9,000 in legal fees. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would like to sit down and try to negotiate with the County to try to keep the bridge open.

Brad Charlton, from the St. Lawrence County Housing Council, reported that they had 17 different projects lined up to do in the Town of Fowler. He stated that they have a new finance director. The grant subcommittee will meet with the Housing Council and some people from Albany to discuss the conflicts of interests in the town. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there should not be an issue with the applicants that have the conflicts of interest.

The Assessors and the Board discussed having a waiver for an increase in assessments for the awardees of the Housing grant. After much discussion, it was decided that would not be fair for the other tax payers in the town who did not receive a grant. It was decided that it should be put in the grant application and agreement with the Housing Council that their assessments could increase in the future.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had received 67.47% of the tax warrant. She issued 30 dog licenses, 2 marriage transcripts, a birth certificate, and a few fishing licenses.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer stated that the kennel was good during the recently cold weather. There was a dog hit and killed on State Highway 58. The owner was found and the dog was taken to the Transfer Station for disposal.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that she had talked to Bill Farr about getting some of his late mother's (Marjorie Farr) scrapbooks. The Gouverneur Museum got a lot of them but he was going to make sure that we would get some other things that she had left. Mr. Farr will let Historian Simmons know when the items are ready to be picked up. Historian Simmons stated that some of the scrapbooks were from the 1800's.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford was unable to attend the meeting because he was away at his yearly Code Enforcement training.

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham wanted to let the Fowler residents know that the highway department has a Facebook site set up. He stated that the day they closed the Byrns Road, there were 98 people that saw that post so the word got around fast. He reported that the 2014 Pick-Up broke down about a week ago but it was still under warranty. He reported that the Highway employees had been doing before and after maintenance on all the trucks. On February 5, he had the guys out cutting shoulders on the California Road. Highway Superintendent Durham received 5- 50 # bags of cold patch, to sample in the pot holes, from Allied Builders in Syracuse, NY. He stated that he really liked the product and would like to order 20-30 bags more. The cost of the product is \$13.35/ bag plus a \$35 delivery fee no matter how many bags you order. The consensus of the board was to order 20 more bags. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he would like to hire one more man in the highway department. He would like a full time person with mechanical abilities and can run heavy equipment. Councilperson Fayette stated that there is one guy out now and summer is when a lot of the guys want to take their vacation so he feels that we should hire one also. He stated that with the cost of asphalt

down we should go overboard on paving roads which would justify hiring a full time person. The board took a vote on hiring a full time person. The results were Newvine- NO, Simmons- NO, Cappellino- NO, Bishop- YES, and Fayette- YES. After much discussion, the decision of the board was to hire a temporary highway employee. They would work from April 1- October 1, 2016 for \$15/ hour with no benefits. Highway Superintendent Durham asked the board what they thought about getting an articulating bucket on the backhoe. Councilperson Fayette stated that the bid included the bucket so we should be getting it. Assessor Robert Andrews stated that there were 3 culvert pipes on the Hull Road that are collapsing. They are in really bad shape. Highway Superintendent Durham will take a look at them. Councilperson Bishop stated that they should think about taking the grader out when it warms up to cut some of the ice that's built up on the sides of the road. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that they can do that on the county roads but not on the town roads.

Councilperson Simmons stated that the light on the back of the town hall is currently not working. Supervisor Cappellino stated that when it was lying on the ground during the town hall renovations he had loosened the eye and it is probably not in it. Councilperson Simmons stated that she had talked to Derek VanHouse, from Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, VanHouse, & Co., about the audit. She talked to him about the lack of records for 2015 in the Highway Department. He stated that without those records it would be pointless to do an audit. He suggested that we get some kind of information on record and call him about doing an audit. Councilperson Simmons suggested that herself, Highway Superintendent Durham, and Deputy Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice try to get some records on to the computer for 2015.

Councilperson Simmons stated that there were two new members on the Board of Ethics, Alex MacKinnon and Phyllis Shaw.

Councilperson Newvine stated that there has been an issue with the residents who live on Main St Hailesboro Road not receiving their packages and issues with 911 calls. He thought maybe we should rename the road again. After much discussion, Councilperson Newvine will contact the county to see what we can do with the issues with the 911 calls to make sure that when they receive a call from the residents on that street that the rescue squad or fire department will not go to Gouverneur. Councilperson Newvine reported back about the Gouverneur Area Development Corporation meeting that he had attended. Also, he reported about the Inter-Municipal Infrastructure Committee meeting that he had attended. Councilperson Newvine asked if the renovations to the Town buildings were completed. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there were a few minor things to finish along with replacing the vent on the front of the building.

Councilperson Bishop asked Highway Superintendent Durham how much sand was left. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that it was about half full. Supervisor Cappellino asked Councilperson Bishop if he had a chance to look into the solar panels yet. He stated that he had not.

Councilperson Fayette asked if the locks on the building had all been changed. Councilperson Fayette had asked about the locks because Judge Lamson had an issue with not having access into the Town Clerk's office for purpose of using the fax machine. After discussion, a consensus was made by the board to install a new fax line for the Judge upstairs in his office.

Supervisor Cappellino discussed the agreement with Zachary Risk Management (Safety Joe) whether we pay him monthly or yearly. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to accept the contract and pay monthly. All in Favor MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that we will advertise for mowing bids to be brought in for the April 5, 2016 meeting. Supervisor Cappellino read a letter from Fred Easton and the Greater Gouverneur Recreation Association. It was asking the town for a donation. After discussion, it was decided that it wasn't in the budget this year and we will look at it again next year. Supervisor Cappellino read thank you notes from the family of Jim and Bonnie Fuller and also a thank you card from Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley for the donation in memory of Marjorie Farr.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Assessors Robert Fuller and Robert Andrews needed to take their Oath of Office again on this date because they did not do it within 30 days of taking office after the past election. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to appoint Assessors Fuller and Andrews retroactive to February 1, 2016. They will need to run again in November for a 3-year term. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to appoint Alex MacKinnon and Phyllis Shaw to the Board of Ethics. The Oaths of Office were given for Assessor's Robert Andrews and Robert Fuller, Ethics Board Members Vicky Cappellino, Phyllis Shaw, Alex MacKinnon, and Lillith Griffith, and Mike Macaulay from the Board of Appeals.

Lillith Griffith, Chairperson for the Board of Ethics, stated that the Ethics Board had talked about making some changes to Local Law No.2 of

2013. The changes consisted of appointing staggering four year terms for each member of the board so everyone's term would not be up at the same time. The board will consist of 5 members, a majority of whom shall not be officers or employees of the town but at least one will be a town employee. Chairperson Griffith asked the town board to pass a resolution to hold a public hearing prior to the April 5 meeting to consider these changes. Past Ethics Board member Laurina Greenhill stated that when she looked into this Local Law that it had never been filed with the state. Supervisor Cappellino was going to check with Attorney Leader to see if this is in fact the case. If it is not a Local Law we will only have to pass a resolution for these changes.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had contacted Jenkin's Heating and Cooling to have them give a quote on an annual cleaning and point of use hot water heater but he had not heard back from them. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board to purchase a point of use hot water heater from M & M Heating at a price of \$260.00 plus materials and labor and to have M & M Heating clean and service all 3 furnaces for a total of \$ 465.00. Councilperson Newvine abstained from the vote due to the owner being his brother-in-law.

Judge Paul Lamson told the board they should consider doing work to the basement. It is in very rough shape and there is water all over the floor. The board stated that it might be a possibility to put it out for bid this summer.

Kathy Moses, from the Kiwanis Backpack Program, thanked everyone for the amazing amount of food donations for the Kiwanis Program.

There was discussion on where we were at with the beach lawsuit. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there was no change.

The Justice books and the Bookkeeper books were audited by the board.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #48-#83 with a total of \$25,525.65.

A motion was made by Councilperson Fayette and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to close the meeting at 9:40 pm. All in Favor.
MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Dustin Fayette; Councilperson

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk