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

The Town of Fowler regularly scheduled Town Board meeting was held on the above date with all board members present. Also, present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Paul Johnson Jr, Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward, David Travis, and Scott Cleveland.

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 give our sympathies to the families of those who have been lost: Mary Palmer.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2026 regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Bishop , seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2% TAX-CAP

Supervisor Newvine discussed we needed a motion not to exceed the 2% tax-cap. A motion was made by Councilperson Knight seconded by Councilperson Bishop not to exceed the 2% tax-cap. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to set Thursday, November 5, 2026 as the date to hold a public hearing on the proposed 2027 preliminary budget. It was discussed the meeting will take place at 4:00PM. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Walsh to approve the date and time of the public hearing. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

PRESENTATION OF PRELIMINARY/TENTATIVE BUDGET

A copy of the preliminary/tentative budget for fiscal year 2027, was filed with the Town Supervisor and in the office of the Town Clerk on October 5th, 2026 and presented to board members in advance of the meeting with extra copies made available for public inspection.

DISCUSSION ON ADVANCED BUSINESS SYSTEM QUOTE FOR GATEWAY/FIREWALL PROTECTION

Supervisor Newvine discussed the Advanced Business System quote for new gateway/firewall protection was needed as our current protection is soon to end. Supervisor Newvine discussed the quote is $325.00 which includes installation and configuration of the new gateway. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Walsh to approve the quote. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON THE FOWLER DOG KENNEL

Supervisor Newvine discussed entering into an Agreement for Dog Shelter Services with Moyer Municipal Shelter at a cost of $3,500 for a calendar year and at a prorated cost of $583.34 beginning November 1st 2026 until December 31, 2026 for the remainder of this year if the board decides to contract with him for dog shelter services this year.

Supervisor Newvine asked the board their thoughts. All Councilpersons in attendance agreed they would like to contract with Moyer Municipal Shelter. Councilperson Simmons had a few questions before a motion was made. Councilperson Simmons asked Dan Moyer to verify that the cost was going to be $3,500 per year for all dogs picked up in the Town of Fowler to be housed at Moyer Municipal Shelter.

Councilperson Simmons asked if he was still going to come to Fowler if someone called with a dog complaint in the Town of Fowler. Mr. Moyer discussed that he would continue to come for dog complaints and any pound fees and licenses will continue to be paid to the Town Clerk. Councilperson Simmons told Dan Moyer that she still wants to be made aware when he picks up any dogs in the Town of Fowler. It was discussed that the procedures would remain the same.

Supervisor Newvine made a special note that Dan Moyer has spent a lot of time recently at the dog kennel with the unclaimed dogs and volunteer Scott Cleveland has spent a tremendous amount of time at the Fowler dog kennel caring for the unclaimed dogs and thanked both men for their great work.

After further discussion, Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to close the Fowler Dog Kennel. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Knight. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

It was further discussed that Councilperson Simmons would call Janet Collier, Animal Health Inspector, of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and inform her the Fowler dog kennel will officially be closed as of November 1st, 2026.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #13 of 2026
Dog Shelter Services Agreement

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #13 of 2026, a service agreement with Moyer Municipal Shelter to provide dog shelter services for seized dogs from the Town of Fowler with an effective date of November 1st, 2026. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Knight to adopt Resolution #13 of 2026. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 *NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, KNIGHT, WALSH*
NAYS: 0

Bookkeeper Finnie discussed that she would set up Moyer Municipal Shelter as a new vendor and that shelter pay will be deducted from .4 dog control budget line and dog control officer pay will continue to be deducted from .1 dog control budget line.

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Tim Knowlton:

- Discussed he had arraigned the suspect who was arrested for the shooting that took place in the Town of Fowler.
- Reported that our civil court mediator, Diane Dufresne, had sadly passed away, and he is hoping that her son Stefan will be able to provide mediation services for the Town of Fowler in the future. Justice Knowlton discussed Diane was a tremendous person, held above a 96% success rate, and she will be greatly missed.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie reported:

- Provided Cash Balance Reports for Month ending August, 2026 and Budget Balances for Month ending August, 2026 to the board for their review.
- The report showed the general fund was 62.57% spent and had received 90.70% in revenue and the highway fund was 68.88% spent and had received 74.61% in revenue.

- Reported the budget balances should be about 67% spent and only the lighting district is over that due to the costs going up.
- Reported that we are doing well with revenue.

Assessors
Assessor Chair Kathy Besaw was not in attendance.
Historian
Historian Karen Simmons reported:
- The dedication ceremony for the Pomeroy sign was held at the Fowler Baptist Church Cemetery on Saturday, October 3rd.
- Thanked Supervisor Newvine, Councilperson Knight, and Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward for decorating and setting up for the ceremony.
- Thanked Brandon Griffin for singing the National Anthem.
- Thanked the ladies of the Fowler Baptist Church for providing the refreshments after the dedication, and asked fellow board members if she could make a $50.00 donation to the church as a thank you. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.

Supervisor Newvine stated the TAPS portion of the ceremony was nice.
Animal Control
Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer reported:
- Thankfully it has been quiet.
- There have been reports of a few missing dogs who found their way back home.

Beaver Control
Dan Moyer of Moyer's Wildlife Control reported:
- He is currently monitoring beaver activity on Byrns Rd.

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 $3,736.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being $206.03. She had licensed 22 dogs, issued 1 Marriage License, issued 1 Certified Marriage Transcript, worked on 1 Genealogical Services request, issued 1 death certificate, sold 2 cemetery lots, had handled12 building permit applications, and had taken in $2.00 in photo copies.
- Bottle & Can money was received in the amount of $163.65.
- Scrap Metal check was received in the amount of $331.10 for 3.79 tons.
- A shelter donation was received in the amount of $50.00.
- Pepsi-Machine money was received in the amount of $$290.00.
- The 2027 newsletter is starting to be worked on and will require responses for individual sections from department heads.
- Asked the board about a check that is being held for inadequate repair of highway equipment since August 10th. It was the consensus of the board to continue to hold the check.
- Asked the board where they would like to have the shelter donation sent. It was the consensus of the board to send the shelter donation to Friends 4 Pound Paws.

Maintenance
Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward:
- Reported he would drain the water at the dog kennel and shut it down as soon as the dogs are re-homed.

- Discussed a new furnace for the town hall and asked if he needed to request money in this year's budget.
- Discussed the flooring condition in the town hall and the need to investigate replacing it.
- Reported the water is shut off in the pavilion for the season.
- Discussed they need to further investigate the smell coming from the septic tank at the pavilion.
- Asked who was responsible for taking the garbage from the playground/pavilion area. It was discussed that the garbage had been tipped over and it appeared like it had been quite a while since it had been emptied. Councilperson Simmons stated that Councilperson Bishop has changed it every time that there had been a pavilion rental. After further discussion, Councilperson Bishop stated that he would take care of the garbage and put the garbage cans away for the winter, so we are not tending to other households' garbage all winter.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Paul Johnson Jr. reported:

- Provided Vehicle Activity Reports and CHIPS Description Reports to the board for their review.
- Paving for Country Club Rd has been finished with shoulder work completed. The road striping will be completed next year.
- Provided quotes for dumpster service with different collection cycles to the board for their approval. It was discussed Hwy Superintendent Johnson needed to learn more about the fuel recovery fee that was listed on the quote before further discussion could be entertained.

Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward asked if there was going to be a fence around the dumpster if the board approved the quote in the future. Further discussion was held that the dumpster would be kept locked, and it would be monitored to see if further measures needed to be taken to keep people from getting into it.

- Provided quotes for a new gate for the pin yard. It was discussed that the gate could be installed by the end of October if it was approved. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Bishop seconded by Councilperson Knight to approve the ordering of the new gate from Taylor Fence Company at a cost of $5,400. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- Provided a Project Proposal for the board's consideration for the construction of a 600 sq. ft. break room addition to the Town Highway Garage. After much discussion, Supervisor Newvine reported that board members would take a look at the State DOT break room, as suggested by Councilperson Bishop to see their break room.

SEASONAL ROAD DISCUSSION

Reported the Town of Fowler needs to declare its seasonal roads, as is done every year. A motion was made by Councilperson Knight seconded by Councilperson Walsh to declare the following roads as seasonal roads from December 1, 2026, to April 1, 2027. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

SEASONAL ROADS DECLARED

Stone Road, from the bus turn around to Orebed Road.
Sibley Road, from the bus turn around to State Land.
Fire Falls Road, from Luke Gates home to Town of Fowler Line.
Lamb Road, from Country Club Road to Town of Fowler Line.
Shantyville Road, from the Besaw Farm to the plow turn around on Byrns Road end. (Corral)

Councilmembers

Councilperson John Walsh: Had no further questions or commentary.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Johnson if he was all set with carbides and if he was all set for the winter season.
- Asked if any of the highway workers knew how to calibrate the sanders. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent David Travis stated they are set up to run all of the time. He reported that the sanders are all set to have a good sand pattern on the road. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent David Travis stated the sanders are all set to manual and are not calibrated.

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- The month of September had 31 visitors to the HAP Program. She thanked Marcia & Scott Cleveland, Mike and Missy Tersmette, and Vivian Goodman for donations of food to the program last month.
- In September there were 107 SOS Care Packages delivered to senior citizens in the Town of Fowler.
- Thanked the Presbyterian Church for the donation of food items for the SOS Program delivery.
- The next SOS care package delivery will be made in December.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Johnson to place the garbage barrel back along the driveway at the Fullerville Cemetery instead of in the middle of the field.

Councilperson Leo Knight Jr: Had no further questions or commentary.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Reported some members of the board had taken a road trip with Hwy. Superintendent Johnson to determine what roads would be worked on in 2027. It was decided that Northwoods Rd and California Rd would be worked on.
- Reported that County Rout 22 is expected to be done by mid-November.
- Discussed, he has learned that the Town of Fowler may have an opportunity to purchase the property next door, and he is waiting for more information before moving forward with the next steps for the purchase.
- Discussed he had learned today that New York's **All-Electric Buildings Act,** a statewide mandate to build all-electric buildings, was upheld by the court, now anyone who builds a new home, must follow the mandate.
- Reported he had received a proclamation from Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush at the Pomeroy sign dedication service.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Cleveland:

- Reported he had just received a text from Clover Forsythe, Friends 4 Pound Paws, stating she will be here in the morning to pick up the 3 dogs from the Town of Fowler kennel. He further discussed our Dog Control Officer would need to be here for the transfer, and Councilperson Simmons would notify him after the meeting.

Supervisor Newvine thanked Scott for all of his assistance with the dogs in the kennel.

David Travis:

- Reported the highway department had a ceiling fan burn up and asked if this was something that would be addressed by our maintenance department. Supervisor Newvine reported that Link Electric had installed the fans, which are all connected, and recommended the highway department call them for the repair.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #372 to #419 , with a total of $215,893.69.

Supervisor Newvine reminded all to remember to vote in the General Election on November 3, 2026.

Reminder the Town Clerk and Court Clerk Office will be closed on Tuesday, November 3rd.

The Public Hearing for the 2027 Preliminary Budget will be held on Thursday, November 5th at 4:00PM.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Monday, November 9th, 2026, at 6:00PM.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Bishop , seconded by Councilperson Walsh, the October 13th, 2026 Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 6:57PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk