

Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2016 at 7PM

The Regular Meeting and a Public Hearing for the Town of Fowler were held on the above date with all Board Members present except for Councilperson Fayette. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, CEO Rick Whitford, Bookkeeper Barb Finnie, Judge Paul Lamson, Assessor Sherry Geer, St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre, Animal Control Officer Dan Moyer, Vicky Cappellino, Debbie Tupper, Richard Clement, Herbert Fuller, Rachel Hunter, Robert Ordway, Bob Buddenhagen, Joanne Murdie, John Murdie, John Dickey, David Spilman, Albert Wallace, Bill and Joanne DeLorraine, Jessica Bice, and Gouverneur Fire Department Representative Jason Scott.

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

Councilperson Newvine stated that there was an error in the minutes from last meeting. It should have read that it was Councilperson Bishop suggesting possibly pulling up the guard rails to cut down the weeds not Supervisor Cappellino. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to accept the meeting minutes of September 6, 2016 after the changes were made. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons at 7:03 PM to open the Public Hearing to discuss Proposed Local Law No. 2 to override the .68% tax cap. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre stated that the County's 2017 Budget was \$1 under the tax cap. He stated that they are staying on budget even with the decrease in sales tax and the increase in health insurance costs. He stated that the Fund Balance is going in the right direction and that the County is borrowing \$9.5 million this year.

Legislator LaPierre stated that the Emeryville Bridge was red flagged by the State and that Don Chambers, from the County Highway Department, had brought it to the Legislator's meeting. The Legislator's had no choice but to close the bridge because the state had already deemed it unsafe. Legislator LaPierre stated that the bridge is beyond repair. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would like to sit down with Legislator LaPierre and County Highway Superintendent Don Chambers to discuss the possibilities of replacing the bridge. Councilperson Newvine voiced his concern that no one was notified about the closing, they had to either read it in the paper or drive up to the bridge. Legislator LaPierre apologized for not notifying anyone about the closing. Superintendent Durham stated that there is a program called BridgeNY that helps replace defective bridges in the state. Legislator LaPierre said that there is no money left in that program for this year. Supervisor Cappellino stated that we will continue to work on it and will not put this issue to bed. Legislator LaPierre agreed that he did not want this subject to die.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the St. Lawrence County Housing Council grant. There have been 4 projects completed, 5 projects that are under contract, one project that is out for bid and 1 project with a completed lead assessment.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer stated that she had sold \$6,985 in hunting and fishing licenses. The town gets to keep around \$380 of that amount, and the rest will go to the state. She issued 1 marriage license, 44 dog licenses, and 6 death certificates.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer stated that there was an issue at a residence on the Country Club Road with some dogs. He was going to check to see if all the dogs were licensed. There was a dog found on the Emeryville Road that was put in the kennel for a night but the owner had been found the next day. Supervisor Cappellino stated that we will be having to turn the heaters on in the Dog Pound soon so the water doesn't freeze.

Beaver Control Officer Dan Moyer reported that he had just finished up on the Country Club Road and that he is working on the beaver on the Fullerville Road now.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that it has been pretty quiet in the Historian's Office but she has been working on some projects to try to organize things.

CEO Rick Whitford issued 10 permits for the month of September. He stated that he had gone to training in Syracuse for the new codes. He stated that he has to go to Albany for more classes and also has to go to FEMA training in Canton later this month.

Assessor Sherry Geer reported that some residents did not get the full refund back from STAR that they were supposed to get so she has been helping people with that.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he had been getting the trucks ready for inspections. They have been working on the Island

Branch Road and the Bay Road. He stated that the CHIPS money is in. He got an estimate to repave River Drive. It has been fixed three or four times recently but with all the traffic it is not holding up very well. He is working with the state to get help fixing it.

Councilperson Bishop suggested that the Highway Department put the signs further back from where they are working on the Bay Road. He stated that they should alert traffic further back for safety purposes. Councilperson Bishop asked Superintendent Durham when they would be changing back to 8 hour shifts. Superintendent Durham stated that they should be changing back to winter hours in another week.

Councilperson Bishop told Superintendent Durham that he should order better road signs.

Councilperson Simmons passed out slips to all the department heads to make changes for the 2017 Newsletter. She would like to have these back by November 1.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to close the Public Hearing at 7:04 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to pass Local Law No. 2 of 2016 to override the .68% tax cap. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he will be keeping in touch with our Website Administrator monthly to put new information on the banner on our Town's website. Councilperson Newvine stated that Town Clerk Kelly Harmer should have control over the cameras in and around the Town Hall property. Justice Lamson stated that he bought that

equipment with a court grant. He offered to have the monitors put in the Town Clerk's Office but said the controls will stay in his office.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he thinks that the fence at the ballpark needs to be replaced. It is a safety issue. He also stated that the trees should be cut to prevent further damage. Councilperson Newvine stated that Kevin Gamble was going to give the town an estimate on replacing the fence. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he received an estimate from Mr. Gamble but we should get a few other estimates.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had met with Continental Construction about fixing the light on the back of the town hall that keeps flickering at night and one of the new windows is leaking. He stated that they should be here to fix the problems. Supervisor Cappellino asked CEO Rick Whitford if he had talked to Dave Blevins about designing something to fix the issues in the basement. CEO Rick Whitford stated that he was going to set up a meeting with Dave Blevins.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to accept Resolution No. 7 of 2016 to amend the Highway Fund Budget. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had spoken with Derek VanHouse of PMHV and Company about conducting an audit on the Justice Department. Mr. VanHouse stated that it would cost about \$1,600-\$1,900, it would take 1-3 days and it would be done no later than the end of November.

John Dickey, a member of the Fowler Baptist Church, asked the board if it was possible to utilize a plot behind the parsonage, which belongs to the Town of Fowler, to put a garden in. The food from the garden would be used for their election night dinners. The consensus of the board was to allow the church to utilize a plot on the Town property behind the parsonage. Supervisor Cappellino will speak to Henry Leader to draft something up allowing this.

Jason Scott, from the Gouverneur Fire Department, reported that the Department had 224 calls so far this year, 26 of them have been in the Town of Fowler. He stated that the Department would like to obtain another 3- year contract with the Town. The proposal would be 2017- \$41,554, 2018- \$42,000, 2019- \$42,000.

Bob Ordway and Bob Buddenhagen from the Hailesboro Cemetery Association stated that they were requesting \$3,000 this year from the town. Last year the town gave them \$2,000. They stated that the money would go toward a new water pump, and tree cutting. They thanked Superintendent Durham and the Highway Department for their help this year. They stated that BOCES was a great help this past year as well and that they (BOCES) agreed to help them next year.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #332-#364 with a total of \$41,640.21.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to go into executive session at 8:52 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to close the executive session at 9:11 PM. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Board went

into Executive Session to discuss another audit. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

There will be a Budget Workshop on October 14, 2016 at 5 PM. The next regular town board meeting will be held on November 1, 2016 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to close the meeting at 9:12 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk