

Town of Fowler December 8, 2025 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes 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, Deputy Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice, Councilperson Elect John Walsh, Deb Walsh, Paige Gore, and Richard Clement.

Supervisor Newwine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM then proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Newwine led a moment of silence to honor our military members, our healthcare workers, and for the families who have lost loved ones since our last meeting: Pierre Besaw, and Betty Hadfield.

Supervisor Newwine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2025 Town Board Meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Knight, seconded by Councilperson Bishop. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

2 - YEAR FUEL BID OPENING

Supervisor Newwine reported only 1 fuel bid had been received and handed the sealed bid to Councilperson Simmons to open and read aloud:

Bidder: Tripp Fuel, a Division of Glider Oil

Item #1 Low Sulfur Diesel : .15 cents above Rack

Item #2 Regular Grade Gasoline: .15 cents above Rack

Item #3 No.2 Heating Fuel Oil for the Town Barn: .15 cents above Rack

Item #4 Heating Propane for Town Barn: \$1.499 Lock In

Item #5 Heating Fuel Oil for Town Hall : .15 cents above Rack

Item #6 Propane for Generator Tanks for Town Hall: \$1.499 Lock In

After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Knight, seconded by Councilperson Bishop to award the 2 Year Fuel BID to Tripp Fuel, a Division of Glider Oil. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

¾ TON CREW CAB TRUCK BID OPENING

Supervisor Newwine reported that 2 bids had been received. Councilperson Knight and Supervisor Newwine read the sealed bids received aloud:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Blevins Ford	\$ 52,723.62
Davidson Ford	\$54,026.72

After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Bishop, seconded by Councilperson Knight to award the ¾ ton crew cab truck bid to Blevins Ford. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

YEAR END TRANSFER MEETING

Supervisor Newwine discussed the need to set a year- end transfer meeting date for budget amendments, budget transfers and to pay any bills received. After some discussion, the meeting was scheduled to be held on December 29, 2025 at 3:00PM.

DISCUSSION ON TENTATIVE MOU WITH UNION FOR THE ADDITION OF A NEW OVERTIME CALL-IN ROSTER

Supervisor Newwine discussed that some board members had an issue with the tentative MOU as written and would like to have Highway Superintendent Durham and a union representative in attendance for further discussion before the MOU is agreed to by the Town of Fowler. Deputy Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice answered board members' questions and described how he felt the new call-in roster would work.

Supervisor Newwine asked for a motion to table the discussion. A motion was made by Councilperson Bishop Seconded by Councilperson Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newwine reported he would check with Highway Superintendent Durham to see if he would be able to attend a special meeting on Friday to further discuss the tentative MOU.

DISCUSSION ON HEALTH OFFICER

Supervisor Newwine discussed the town's health officer's contract will end on December 31, 2025. He has been in touch with Eric Putman, current health officer for the Town of Fowler, who is agreeable either to having the County take over the position, or being re-appointed to the position either way. Supervisor Newwine reported he had called the County to discuss the matter and is awaiting a call back. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the board to re-address the health officer appointment at the December 29, 2025 transfer meeting.

TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Justice

Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported:

- The criminal justice class from BOCES Southwest Tech visited the court to watch court proceedings.
- Discussed, the court check this month is fairly small due to a change in the way the court receives its credit card payments, and the court clerk was not made aware of the change. He reported the check next month will likely have around \$1200.00 more added to it.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie:

Supervisor Newwine reported for Bookkeeper Finnie who was not in attendance.

- She is requesting that at the beginning of the year all employees of the Town of Fowler receive their paychecks by direct deposit only. The change is a preventative measure as fraudulent activity has occurred at another municipality.
- Supervisor Newwine discussed the change will begin on January 1, 2026.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Kathleen Besaw:

Supervisor Newwine reported for Assessor Chair Kathleen Besaw who was not in attendance:

- The assessors have made a request to have signs made for their vehicles, so people know who they are when they are performing assessing activities. It was the consensus of the board to approve the ordering of 3 sets of the discussed vehicle magnets.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- The Historian's office is quiet right now.

Animal Control

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

- On November 5th 2 dogs were picked up by animal control on the Island Branch Rd. The dogs went unclaimed by their owners and were put up for adoption but remained unadopted.
- She contacted Debbie Andrews, from Friends 4 Pound Paws, and with her assistance, and the help of Catherine Andrews, Amy Clark, and Clover Forsythe, the dogs were able to be placed in a no-kill shelter in Syracuse.

- Currently, there is a pitbull- mix breed dog in the kennel from another situation involving an eviction of the animal's owner. The animal was sickly when it was picked up and has since received care at Roput Veterinary Clinic. The animal is now doing well and is adoptable.
- It was discussed the dog will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press to see if it too can find a new home.

Beaver Control

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

- Moyers Wildlife Control had turned in an invoice for work on Popple Hill Rd.
- Beavers elsewhere are remaining quiet right now.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw:

Supervisor Newvine reported for Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw who was not in attendance.

- There is not much building going on right now.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- The gross DEC sales for the month were \$742.00 with the Towns commission being \$24.13. She had processed 7 death certificates, 1 marriage license, had licensed 12 dogs, handled 1 building permit, collected \$3.00 in miscellaneous dog fees, and had taken in .25 cents in photocopies.
- She had received a scrap metal check in the amount of \$345.40 from NorthStar Auto & Salvage for 6.9 tons of scrap metal and had received a 2nd scrap metal check in the amount of \$1,235.00 for 12.35 tons of scrap metal with the scrapping of Plow Truck 5.
- A new flag was ordered for the playground/pavilion.
- Asked about the status of making the 4th installment payment to Gouverneur Rescue. Supervisor Newvine reported he would check with the town attorney on the matter.

Maintenance

Maintenance Worker Byron Woodward reported:

- There are not many maintenance projects currently.
- Discussed the older furnace at the highway department. Supervisor Newvine stated he would contact Vern Fuller to see if he had any luck with finding a new switch.
- Brought in a back-up heater for the dog kennel, donated by his wife Michelle, to have in case one of the other heaters stopped working.

Highway Department

Deputy Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice reported for Highway Superintendent Randy Durham who was not in attendance:

- The loader is back after having been repaired.
- The plow trucks are having maintenance performed on them. One truck had a leak which required a new canister, and the rest of the trucks are in good shape for the season.
- The roads needed to be plowed this morning.
- The highway department will be starting shift work on Wednesday.

Councilperson Knight asked Deputy Highway Superintendent Bice if sand is spread on the roads continuously or if it is used on certain sections of road when they are plowing. Deputy Highway Superintendent Bice reported that the sand is spread the whole time during the plowing process. He discussed that on some of the back roads you can get away with plowing just one way, if there is not a lot

of snow. He reported that if it is snowing hard, they turn the sand controls down a little bit until the roads are almost cleared. Supervisor Newvine asked if the plow trucks were all set to distribute the same amount of sand. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice said they are all set pretty close, with most of the trucks being set at 2 ½ inches. Supervisor Newvine asked if he thought that setting was sufficient. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice stated that if they set the gauge for more, that they would be using much more sand than is needed. It was discussed there is a lot of sand to use. Councilperson Knight asked if they had started using the sand that is outside of the sand barn yet. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice stated they are waiting until the sand barn is half emptied and they will slowly start bringing the sand inside the barn. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice stated that when he first started working for the town, the sand barn was only filled with 3500 yards and now there is 5500 yards. Councilperson Simmons stated that at the start of this winter it didn't seem like much sand was being put down on Sylvia Lake Rd. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice stated that the chutes needed to be re-adjusted, and they determined that by checking the roads after they were plowed. Councilperson Simmons stated that she thought there had been an improvement in the amount of sand being put down on the roads. Councilperson Simmons reported she had noticed a purchase order being paid this evening to Spilman's and asked Hwy. Superintendent Bice if all the equipment has now been inspected. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice reported that all the equipment has been inspected.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Leo Knight: Had no further comments.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop: Had no further comments.

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- In the month of November, the HAP food pantry had a total of 24 visits in the 3 days that it was open. She thought that they may have seen an increase in visitors, due to the government shut down but they didn't seem to.
- Thanked the Fowler Baptist Church Mission Circle for their \$300.00 donation.
- Thanked Debbie Andrews for the donation of food items.
- Thanked Supervisor Newvine for his donations of hams for the December SOS care package deliveries.
- The next SOS delivery will be made on Friday, December 19th to 110 individuals who are signed up for the SOS Program.
- Reported that Ben Mashaw, volunteer at the Fullerville Cemetery, had cleaned 6-8 stones and had discovered hidden stones on the side of the cemetery that were not visible as they were located under overgrown brush and overgrown trees. Ben Mashaw's mother reported that they had enjoyed volunteering at the cemetery, working to clear the area, and that they would return to their work in the spring.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Read aloud a card from Rachel Hunter wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- Discussed, he had received a request from WPBS to attend a board meeting for a presentation to the Town of Fowler as their funding has been cut and they are in need of some assistance. They

will also be discussing that in the Town of Fowler 23.3% of people do not have broadband service. Supervisor Newvine suggested that they be placed on the December 29, 2025 meeting agenda and will call them to make them aware of the meeting date and time.

- Reported after hearing from the DEC that the repairs that were made to Country Club Rd and North Woods Rd in the aftermath of Hurricane Debby weren't considered to be permanent repairs, the Town of Fowler is going to drop those two sites from the FEMA program.

Public Comment

- Debra Walsh discussed that she had heard a State Police call on the scanner December 7th for the need to have the Town of Fowler plows out on CR 24. Deputy Hwy. Superintendent Bice reported that there was an ambulance stuck in a driveway not on the road, and the plows were out plowing when the call was made.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #454 to #503 with a total of \$72,158.82.

The Year- End Transfer Meeting will be held on Monday, December 29, 2025 at 3:00PM.

The January Organizational Town Board Meeting will be held on January 12th, 2025 at 6:00PM.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Bishop, seconded by Councilperson Simmons , the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk