

Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2017 at 7 PM

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, Assessor Sherry Geer, Vicky Cappellino, Richard Clement, Rachel Hunter, Al Redmond, Lisa Durham, Debbie Tupper, Herbert Fuller, Mike Macaulay, Tami Gale, Stephen Gale, Lillith Griffith, and Wanda Fayette.

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 February 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to pass Resolution #5 of 2017 to allow the Town to participate in Shared Services with the New York State Department of Transportation. Cappellino- yes, Newvine- yes, Fayette- yes, Simmons- yes, Bishop- abstain. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Fayette and Councilperson Newvine to accept the resignation of Assessor Robert Fuller effective 2/28/17 and also Assessor Robert Andrews Jr. effective 3/31/17. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Councilperson Newvine stated that they both gave us a lot of years of service, and that they always had the best interest of the town at heart. The board agreed that they will be missed.

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham stated that the Highway crew returned \$107.30 in cans and bottles that were donated by Fowler residents for the Playground Fund. Mr. Durham stated that he received 19 tons of the patching material from Allied at \$85/ton. Councilperson Simmons asked if he got a better price for ordering a larger quantity. Mr. Durham said no that he would need to buy a much larger quantity for a better price. Mr. Durham stated that he had attended a meeting with Supervisor Cappellino and Kelley Moore, a

representative from the Gouverneur Bus Garage. He stated that there wasn't an issue with the first bus run in the morning, it was the second run. The roads were not getting done before the second run. He stated that if there are any other issues to please contact him. Mr. Durham presented the board with a quote from Kelly Sales Corp. for the seals that go around the garage doors in the Town Barn. He stated that there are a lot of air gaps in all the door seals. After much discussion, Mr. Durham was going to get more clarification on the pricing and poll the board members by phone. Mr. Durham stated that the locks on the doors also need changing so he is going to get some quotes for the next meeting. Councilperson Newvine thanked Mr. Durham for having the trees cut on the back side of the ball field. After discussion, Councilperson Newvine stated that he would get quotes to replace the back section of the fence at the ball field. Councilperson Bishop stated that Art Besaw had approached him about fixing his fence on his property on the River Road. Mr. Besaw had said that when they had done the ditching on that road, it ruined his fence. Superintendent Durham said that he would talk to Mr. Besaw about the fence.

Assessor Sherry Geer reported that she had been working on the Tax Roll and will have it to the County by April 1, 2017. She stated that it looks like the administering of the STAR program will be going back to the Town to do.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Dog Control Officer, Dan Moyer. She stated that Mr. Moyer had received a call about a dog being abused in Gouverneur so Mr. Moyer could not attend the meeting. She also stated that there is currently a dog in the pound that had been found at the end of the Gulf Road. Ms. Simmons stated that if the dog isn't claimed by anyone then Mr. Moyer knows of a family that will adopt the dog.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford is away in Lake Placid for training.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she issued \$75 in DEC licenses, licensed 27 dogs, and issued 6 death certificates. She reminded the Town that the Town Hall is still a collection site for food donations for the Kiwanis Backpack Club. Mr. Buddenhagen comes monthly to pick up the donations.

Councilperson Simmons stated that she had seen a few boys outback of the Town Barn on the dirt piles. She wondered if there was anything that could be done to keep them off of the pile before someone is hurt.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he had talked with a representative from DANC about possibly getting a grant for a new sewer system for the Town. DANC stated that they did not have any money for that at this time. They stated that the County could write grants for that but they are not very hopeful that it would happen. Mr. Newvine stated that there are some people from the County Planning Office that are willing to come to next month's meeting to discuss this. Mr. Newvine stated that the boat that had been parked up at the beach has been moved. Mr. Newvine apologized to Lyle Bishop for not mentioning him at the last board meeting. He stated that Mr. Bishop had been an employee for the Town of Fowler for 20+ years. He stated that he was a good employee and Mr. Newvine also wished him well. Superintendent Durham also apologized to Mr. Bishop and stated that he should not have found out that he was going to be terminated the way that he did. Mr. Newvine also stated that the Town did allow Mr. Bishop to continue to have health insurance for the whole year that he was off of work. Mr. Newvine also wanted to recognize Barry Gale for 50 years of service on the Gouverneur Fire Department. Mr. Newvine stated that he had not heard back from the NYSDOT about getting some help fixing River Drive. He gave the information to Superintendent Durham so Mr. Durham could contact Patty Ritchie's Office with the issue.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the first meeting to get ready for the Fowler Family Days was on February 23. He stated that the committee had discussed getting power across the field by the Town Hall and also maybe some water. The next meeting will be held on March 30, 2017 at 6 PM.

Councilperson Bishop asked Supervisor Cappellino what was going on with the Emeryville Bridge. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there had been a meeting set up but it had been cancelled and hadn't been rescheduled yet. Supervisor Cappellino will email the County this week to see about getting another meeting scheduled.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had received yearly Agreements from Leader's Office for the Hailesboro Cemetery Association and Gouverneur Reading Room. He is still waiting for the Agreement for the Gouverneur Recreation Center. He stated that he also received a Memorandum of Understanding for BOCES. He stated that this is necessary in order to exchange our salt and sand for the use of their Bulldozer. This understanding will work out great for both parties. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to sign all of the Agreements and also the Memorandum of Understanding with BOCES. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that members from the Board of Elections had visited the Town Hall earlier that day. They were going around accessing polling places. The Board of Election representatives stated that the lip on the handicap ramp needs to be built up even with the ramp. They also stated that the hand rails need to be lowered. Councilperson Simmons stated that it needs to be pressure washed. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he would take care of this.

Resident Mike Macaulay wanted to know why the Beach lawsuit is being discussed in Executive Session. Supervisor Cappellino replied that it is a lawsuit and the information cannot be made public yet. Mr. Macaulay also asked the Board if the new contract had been signed with the St. Lawrence County Housing Council yet and was everyone on the board involved. Supervisor Cappellino said that Attorney Leader had made the changes to the contract with the Housing Council and the Board had decided before that after the changes were made then the contract could be signed by Supervisor Cappellino. Mr. Macaulay asked if he was still a part of the Housing Council Committee. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he will make sure to call him the next time they meet. Mr. Macaulay then gave Supervisor Cappellino a written complaint that he wanted the Board to review in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to go into Executive Session at 8:21 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board returned from Executive Session and a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to close Executive Session at 9:30 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Supervisor Cappellino stated that they had discussed a personnel issue and the Beach lawsuit.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that we will put out an invitation to bid on the mowing for the Cemeteries and Town Properties this month and the bids will need to be in for the April 11, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to appoint Assessor Sherry Geer as the Chairperson for the Assessors. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that it was the consensus of the Board to keep Judge Phillips on until the end of the year. He stated that he will notify the applicants that they can run in the Fall election. He stated that the Board also agreed on keeping Carol Woodcock on as a Court Clerk. Town Clerk Kelly Harmer stated that Mrs. Woodcock will need to be reappointed as her Oath of Office is only good until the end of March.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #55 - #97, with a total of \$42,633.44.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on April 11, 2017 at 7 PM.

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

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk

