

Minutes - May 8, 2014 - 7:00 PM

The Regular meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all members present except Councilperson Lynn Bishop. Also present were Town Clerk Sherrie Williams, Justice Paul Lamson, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Highway Superintendent Gary Williams, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Kathy Moses, Lauren French, Carol LaSala, Tom Graves, Paul Cappellino of the Beaver Patrol, Lillith Griffith, Jeff Hill, James Hadfield, Dan Fifield, Sid Harmer II, Wanda Fayette, Dustin Fayette, Debbie Tupper, Nathan Sweeney, Vicky Cappellino, Mike Macaulay, Randy Durham & Herb Fuller.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order then proceeded with the opening prayer & the pledge of allegiance.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to approve the April 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes & seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

James Hadfield from the Gouverneur Fire Department reported that he will be attending the Fowler board meetings every quarter with reports for the board. He thanked the board for signing the fire contract.

Lauren French from Gouverneur Central School reported on the proposed school budget that will be coming up for the public to vote on May 20th. The overall proposed budget has an increase of 3 1/2%. The increase will cover transportation costs, a capital project, weatherization to include replacing doors and windows, new warming shelter & increased safety in the buildings. She

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reported that 4 people are running for a position on the school board.

The public will be voting on the budget & the school board members. Councilperson Rick Newvine asked how much money in this budget goes toward the maintenance of the Fowler school. Mrs. French reported that \$28,000.00 a year is spent to maintain the Fowler School. The Fowler school building has been shown 3 times & is still being marketed to be sold. If sold, the money goes into a special reserve to pay off the debt on the building. The appraised value of the Fowler school is \$278,000. The Board of Education has the final decision concerning the Fowler school sale. The school board is also working on a early morning school program where children can come to school when their parents go to work earlier than usual school hours. Councilperson Natalie Spilman stated the early morning program is very important and beneficial for everyone. Paul Lamson suggested that the middle/highschool be moved to an area with more land so there is room for expansion. Mrs. French will share that point with the board. The enrollment at school is stable at this time.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that there are 2 mowing bids received as follows: Daniel Fifield - \$13,500 for mowing & \$1,025.00 for cleanup - If trucked away \$1,300. Sid Harmer II - \$13,085 for mowing & cleanup. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to approve the low bid of \$13,085 from Sid Harmer II for the mowing & cleanup & seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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Supervisor Cappellino reported that 1 sand bid has been received from Cooke Sand & Gravel. Sand FOB supplier's pit - \$4.65 cu. Yd. Delivery charge to the Town Highway Salt Shed Stockpile - \$2.70 cu. Yd. - for a total of \$7.35 cu. Yd. total. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman to approve the Cooke Sand & Gravel bid including transportation & seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that there was 1 Grader bid from Nortrax which stated that they did not have a grader at this time.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Dog Warden Neil Hooley that 6 complaints have been addressed, 2 warnings & 1 ticket issued. Three dogs were in the kennel over night. The heat in the kennel has been turned off.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford reported that he has issued 9 permits for the month including 4 grant permits. He has completed 1 grant permit inspection. The contractors performing the grant work are not contacting him for inspections. He reported that the Planning Board is short 1 member & Jeff Andrews is interested in the position. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to appoint Jeff Andrews as a Planning Board member & seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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Town Clerk & Tax Collector Sherrie Williams reported that taxes are 79.58% collected.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported that Historian Connie Bishop is back in the Historian Office.

Paul Cappellino of the Beaver Patrol reported that the beavers activity has picked up & he has taken 4 beavers in the last month.

Highway Report - Superintendent Williams reported that the Highway Department has been working on brush, hauling fine crush gravel, seasonal roads are leveled off, plows are off the trucks. He called Safety Joe concerning the safety program for the Highway Department. Councilperson Rick Newvine reported that he & Gary met with Dave from Barrett Paving. Councilperson Newvine learned that on a paving job Barrett's does the signing & the County does not do signing for road paving. Councilperson Natalie Spilman stated that the Highway Department did a good job during the flooding this spring.

Councilperson Natalie Spilman reported that she would like to have a work session with the assessors.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported that the Town will be having a free rabies clinic on May 15, 2014 at the Town Barn from 6 - 8 PM for cats, dog, & ferrets. Also, the Spay/Neuter Program would like to have a spay/neuter clinic in Fowler on May 25th.

Justice Lamson reported that there is still a burning ban on until May 15th & using slow moving signs to mark your driveway & mailboxes is illegal.

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Bookkeeper Gary Higgins reported that he has just received a copy of the IDA sawmill pilot contract & this years contract has not been received yet. Supervisor Cappellino will look into the issue.

Randy Durham asked about the progress of the Fowler veterans exemption. Supervisor Cappellino reported that there will be a Public Hearing concerning the veterans exemption at the June 3rd board meeting.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that there will also be a Public Hearing in the June 3rd board meeting revising the dog law.

Paul Lamson stated that Fowler has a lot of dams & is wondering if there is a plan in place in case there is a problem.

The next regular meeting will be on June 3, 2014 at 7 PM at the Fowler Town Hall.

The bills audited for the General Fund were #84 - #103 - \$5,787.97 & the Highway Fund #58 - #73 - \$13,487.12.

A motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM & seconded by Councilperson Rick Newvine. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor Sherrie Williams; Town Clerk