

TOWN OF FOWLER NEWSLETTER 2012

PRESENT TOWN OFFICIALS

JUSTICE Paul Lamson 287-9996 Mike Macaulay 287-4287 Robert
Buddenhagen 287-1652

ASSESSORS

PRESENT HIGHWAY CREW

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

There are three members on this Board, Frank Langevin, Grant Mitchell & Chair George Erdman, Jr. This Board meets once a year on the fourth Tuesday of May in the Fowler Town Hall from 4 PM til 8 PM. This year the board will be meeting on May 22, 2012. At this time Fowler residents who wish to grieve their tax assessments may appear before the Board and express their view. After hearing all grievances, the Board reviews and makes their decisions to either lower the griever's assessment or to let it stand. Residents who have appeared are notified of the outcome by mail.

TOWN CLERK & TAX COLLECTOR OFFICE

The Town Clerk & Tax Collector Office has been combined into one & is open from 9 AM to 12 PM & 1 PM to 4 PM Monday through Friday. The upstairs in the Town Hall is available for use by Fowler residents & arrangements to use the Hall may be made by calling Lisa Bishop at 287-1913. My office issues dog licenses, hunting licenses, disabled permits, has voter's registration forms, absentee ballots, building permit applications & Star Program Forms available for the public along with notarizing paperwork for everyone. On January 2, 2012 I will start collecting taxes for the first time. During the summer Sylvia Lake Beach is open 7 days a week & hours are advertised. Groups interested in using the Hailesboro ball field during the summer may contact Councilman Rick Newvine. If I can be of any help, feel free to contact me at 287-0045 which is also the fax number. Thank you, Sherrie Williams.

FOWLER BOARD OF APPEALS

Five Fowler residents volunteer their time for this board - Chairperson Nellie Dimon, Michael Macaulay, Bob Buddenhagen, & Tony Woodward. There is one open position on this board. The function of this board is to receive & consider Building Permits which the Code Enforcement Officer has denied when some aspect of the construction does not comply with the Local Building Codes. After examination of the site & review of the submitted plans, the Board considers, discusses, & then either grants or denies the Building Permit. The board meets only when necessary at 7 PM in the Fowler Town Hall. Meetings are advertised & all interested persons are invited to attend.

mSTICE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Fowler Justice Court, The Hon. Paul M. Lamson Town Justice, holds court every Wednesday at 6 PM. Court is held in the upstairs room. The court office is open on Tuesday through

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CONT.

Thursday at 3 PM for payment of fines, filing of papers, & to conduct other business as necessary. If you need to contact the court during off times, please call 287-9996 & leave a message.

Donations this year consisted of an old record from Michael Cappellino given to him from Bruce Simmons, a old 1957 hunting tag donated by Karen Simmons, a mill stone mover donated by Tom Gates, & book of Willard Glazier donated by Mary Alice Salisbury. Karen Simmons has been helping with the Civil War Plaques for Fowler. They are hanging in the downstairs lobby at the Town Hall. Karen has been a great help. We are starting on other wars. The Historian's office is open on Thursdays from 1 - 4 PM or anytime by appointment by calling Connie Bishop at **315/287 -2728**. Thank you.

In the township of Fowler 56.43 miles of roads are maintained. During the winter months 73.92 miles are maintained which includes 17.49 miles of County Roads. During the year of 2011 we have replaced several culvert pipes, removed trees, cut & chipped brush & cut shoulders. Also, the Highway Dept. did work in the cemeteries around the township. From the California & Sylvia Lake Rd. intersection going 1.2 miles toward State Route 812, The Sylvia Lake Road was paved to be finished in 2012. Item purchased this year was a 7600 Tandem 2012 chassis for plowing to replace the 1991 tandem. From all the men & myself, we appreciate your patience during the construction and winter maintenance of the roads.

Have a Great Year in 2012. Lyle,

Nelson, Fran, Jeff, Larry, John W, Cheyenne, Jon K., Robbie, Gary. '

FOWLER PLANNING BOARD

This Planning Board is made up of 5 Fowler residents. The

FOWLER PLANNING BOARD CONT.

Members are Chairman Matthew Stoffel, Sandy Baker, Max Tessmer, James (Art) Besaw, & Ed Siebels. The purpose of the Planning Board is to look ahead, find, & submit to the Town Board recommendations of land use that will be to the betterment of the Town. They also review Building Permits & do special projects that the Town Board assigns them. The Planning Board meets the last Tuesday of the month as needed, as well as other times when necessary at 7:00 PM in the Fowler Town Hall. Meetings are advertised in the local paper. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

If you have bought or built a new home in the Town of Fowler in the past few years & do not have a Star Exemption on the home, you may be eligible for the Star Exemption. To determine if you are eligible, procure a Star Application Form from one of your Assessors or at the Town Clerk's Office. If you need help filling out the form, call an Assessor for help. The Star Exemption is the fairest of the exemptions. The new sawmill on Rt. 58 is still not operating. It's a modern, well designed mill that should be able to put out a considerable amount of board feet a day. Hopefully, it will do just that if the price of lumber rises so it is able to do so. If you need help or have questions, call or see Robert Fuller 287- 0118, Robert Andrews 287-4189, Tim Geer 286-4050.

In the year of 2012 the town board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. Special meetings will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press and/or the Watertown Daily Times newspapers. In 2012 the town board will welcome two new board members: Karen Simmons and another board member to be named, due to a tie in the elections. We will also say goodbye to four town employees: Max Tessmer (Tax Assessor),

TOWN BOARD (CONT.)

Betty Shrewsberry (Code Enforcement Officer), Gene Bishop Councilman), and Clare Cole (Tax Collector). Retiring prior to years end were William Lutz (Supervisor) and Donald Seaman (Building Maintenance). In 2012 we will move forward with our data collection process to ensure a fair and equitable system of taxes. The new dog pound is becoming more organized and with the help of the Friends 4 Pound Paws group, we hope to find good homes for all our four-legged friends. The town will have its new web site up and running in the new year to help our residents and interested neighbors stay informed on the town's business. The web site is TOWNOFFOWLER.ORG. The town board would like to invite all residents and visitors to attend our monthly meetings.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE

Fowler has had another busy & growing year with 89 Building Permits. Code Enforcement Officer Betty Shrewsberry would like to thank everyone for their cooperation & patience. Building permits are required for any structure 120 sq. ft. and over & any structural changes on your home or buildings and for all roofing.

If anyone has any questions, call Rick Whitford or Town Clerk's Office at 287-0045. Fowler is also trying to address the Maintenance & Junk Laws for the safety & health of our residents. We would like to ask your help in maintaining your property free of trash & junk cars. Just a note to remind everyone to check batteries in their smoke detectors. Another tidbit of information is that the Property Maintenance Code *of NYS/Sec. 303 (F)* requires premises identification & that buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible & visible from the street or road fronting the property. The numbers should be 4 inches high. We are hoping for another uneventful & smooth running year for Fowler & its residents with Rick Whitford, newly appointed Code Enforcement Officer. I am retiring as of Dec. 31,

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE CONT.

2011. I would like to thank everyone for their patience & cooperation for the last 28 years that I have been serving Fowler and its residents. Again, thank you. Betty Shrewsberry