

Town of Fowler July 13, 2026 Minutes of Regular Scheduled Board Meeting 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, Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice, Assessor Chair Kathy Besaw, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Scott Cleveland, Paul Johnson Jr, Debbie Walsh, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Supervisor Newvine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM then proceeded with the pledge of allegiance and led a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, all healthcare workers, and for the families who have lost loved ones since our last meeting: Gary Mashaw, Mavis Cole, and Rick Tyler.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2026 regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Walsh, seconded by Councilperson Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #12 of 2026

Supporting NYS Senate Bill S.7298 and NYS Assembly Bill A.7439 to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law to increase the width and height of specifics for an All-Terrain Vehicle.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #12 of 2026 . A motion was made by Councilperson Knight seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adopt Resolution #12 of 2026. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, KNIGHT, WALSH

NAYS: 0

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported:

- Everything is caught up and running smoothly in the court.
- Discussed he will be holding his first jury trial and Court Clerk Ashley has been handling the set-up of the trial.
- He will be attending his mandatory annual 12-hour Magistrate training at Potsdam State this week.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie was not in attendance.

- No Cash Balance and Budget Balance reports were received.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Kathy Besaw:

- Reported that a copy of the final tax roll is on file in her office and on the website if anyone is interested in viewing it.
- Discussed that Gouverneur Talc has been sold and will remain on the tax roll.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons:

- It has been quiet in the Historian's Office.
- Reported she had received a request for information on the talc mine located in the Town of Fowler.

Animal Control

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

- The 2 dogs that have been in the kennel since May have been adopted out of our dog kennel and relocated to the Rossie-Gouverneur area dog pound.
- A new dog was picked up on July 6th at Sylvia Lake, with reports that the dog had been in the area for a week or so.
- The dog was seen by Roput Veterinary Clinic as it had been ill over the weekend and was diagnosed as having hook worms. The animal is ready for adoption but will remain in the kennel for hook worm treatment for now.
- On July 7th the dog control officer received a call from the New York State Trooper's concerning an animal running at large in Balmat. Unfortunately, before the animal could be captured by the dog control officer, the dog was struck and killed by a passing vehicle. The dog's owner was located and notified of the incident.

Dog Kennel Discussion

Councilperson Leo Knight asked fellow board members if they thought it would be a good idea to have Dan Moyer take over kennel services for the Town of Fowler and get rid of the Fowler dog kennel.

Supervisor Newvine reported that he had requested the figures and amount of money that has been spent on the new dog kennel mandates from Bookkeeper Finnie and reported that the board is going to have to look at the costs.

Supervisor Newvine discussed that Dan Moyer has offered to contract with the Town of Fowler for \$2,500 yearly, but he might not want to be in the dog pound business forever. Supervisor Newvine reported that he had reached out to Janet Collier of Agriculture and Markets and learned that if the Town of Fowler decides to get rid of the Fowler dog kennel, that they just needed to contact her and let her know of the decision. He had also learned that we could continue to use the kennel as a holding spot, for a period of 24 hours to hold an animal.

Supervisor Newvine stated it is premature at this time to make a decision about the kennel until the board can look at the amount of money that has been spent upgrading it and to see what the costs are. Maintenance worker Byron Woodward stated that he has the new mandated sink installed in the kennel but has not hooked water to it yet until a decision is made about the future of the kennel. Mr. Woodward recommended that the board find out how much money is spent on the cost to heat the building in the winter as the heat is all electric in the kennel.

Councilperson Bishop made it known that his wishes are to keep the Fowler dog kennel.

Councilperson Simmons reported that she feels that the town should contract with Dan Moyer yearly instead of continuing to run the dog kennel. Councilperson Simmons reported that running the dog kennel is a lot of work. She discussed that most of the dogs that come to the dog kennel were dropped off on the side of the road, many of them stay over a month, nobody wants them and we can't get rid of them.

After further discussion, Supervisor Newvine stated that the board needed to sit down with Dan Moyer after receiving the dog kennel expenditures from Bookkeeper Finnie to make a fair decision. Supervisor Newvine reported that he would set a meeting date with Dan Moyer.

Beaver Control

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

- He is working on beaver control on Fullerville Rd and Shantyville Rd.
- An invoice was turned in for payment for beaver control completed on Stone Rd and Chub Lake Rd.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Besaw reported:

- Code Enforcement is going well.
- Contractors have been calling him when they need their inspections completed, which is a great improvement.
- Discussed the issue on Little York Rd of a complaint that he received of possible sewage in a ditch. He discussed that he has had the DEC at the site and has called the Public Health Department. CEO Besaw reported that the water running through the ditch is clear.
- He discussed that he has dyed every septic system up Little York Rd and there is nothing coming out of any septic system and there is nothing coming down the ditch. He reported that there is a hand dug well and it also was checked and was found to be crystal clear.
- He discussed that he had found one issue with a septic system nearby that was corrected with an extended leach field and added drainage.
- It was discussed that no one can seem to find out where the residue that is floating on top of the water after it rains is coming from.
- After some further discussion, Supervisor Newvine asked CEO Besaw to have the water tested.
- Discussed he is going to Canton to receive training on the new Flood Maps.
- Asked the board's approval for the purchase of and training for a body camera. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$230.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being \$9.84. She had issued 2 certified marriage transcripts, issued 2 marriage licenses, collected \$561.78. in miscellaneous dog fees & kennel fees, issued 1 birth certificate, issued 4 death certificates, sold 1 cemetery lot, licensed 31 dogs, handled 8 building permit applications, and had collected .75 cents in photo copies.
- Pepsi Machine money in the amount of \$271.00 was received in cash and \$189.00 was received in coins.
- On Tuesday, July 28th Cyber Awareness Training will be held at 9:00 AM in the court room.
- On Wednesday, August 12th a second round of Workplace Violence & Harassment Discrimination Training will be held in the court room.

Maintenance Department

Maintenance Worker Bryon Woodward reported:

- His work is at a standstill at the dog kennel until the board decides if they are going to dump more money into the dog kennel or get rid of it.
- His work on the sidewalk for the pavilion is on hold until the use of the pavilion calms down.
- Asked if there was a problem with the pavilion bathroom door lock.

Councilperson Bishop stated he had a safety issue with the style door and lock on the pavilion bathroom in the event of an emergency and someone needing to gain entry. CEO Besaw reported that the bathroom door is New York State compliant and meets the code. After further discussion, it was the consensus of four board members: Newvine, Simmons, Walsh, and Knight to leave the pavilion door and lock as it is, and Councilperson Bishop was not in agreement with the decision.

- Asked about the status of the pit in the highway department.

Supervisor Newvine discussed that the board hadn't made a decision yet either to repair the pit or to fill it in, and asked Highway Superintendent Bice what his thoughts were on the matter. Hwy. Superintendent Bice

reported that the highway department uses the pit to change oil and hoses underneath the trucks, and it is a lot easier to do when using the pit. Hwy. Superintendent Bice discussed that highway workers do not wish to have the pit filled in. Supervisor Newvine reported the quote received to make the repairs to the pit came in at \$14,500. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the board to approve the repairs to the pit at the highway department.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice reported:

- Country Club Rd paving has been completed, to include shoulders and new lines painted.
- Battle Hill Road has had some work done on it for washouts, including the installation of new culverts, and is still in progress.
- The County is scheduled to put Top on Country Club Rd after the 29th of this month.
- The County will be closing County Route 22 on Monday for bridge repair.
- Almost 80% of the tree clean up from last week's storm has been done.
- Asked the board about their decision on purchasing a new bed liner for truck 23. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.
- Reported truck 14 will be taken off the road as soon as the license plates are received for truck 26, and truck 14 will be sold at auction.
- Discussion was held on the damage that has been done to the highway department building and new doors when drivers are backing trucks in. Supervisor Newvine directed Highway Superintendent Bice to document every time this occurs, to include the driver responsible for the damage, and to report all occurrences to the board.
- The highway department workers are doing shared services with the Towns of Russell and Edwards this week.
- Paperwork continues to be gathered for CHIPS funding.
- The new 2026 truck needs to have a towing switch installed.
- He received a recall on truck 23 that he is taking care of.
- A new tire was purchased for the tractor due to a blown tire while mowing the sides of the road. The tire that was punctured is able to be repaired and will be used as a spare.
- The Pepsi machine at the highway department is being replaced due to it not working properly.
- Asked the board to approve new signage for the bottle and can drop off location. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.
- Asked the board if they wanted Country Club Rd painted with new lines. It was the consensus of the board to approve the request.
- Asked the board to discuss hiring a new employee for the highway department so that the new highway employee would be trained before he retires in January of 2027, and due to the possibility of a second highway worker resigning. After further discussion, Supervisor Newvine asked Councilperson Knight, Walsh and Bishop to go over the applications on file and interview candidates.
- Asked the board to think about getting together to determine what roads they want to do next year, so he can get the roads prepared, and the culvert work done before he leaves.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Bice if the highway department workers would be available to help with family day preparations on Thursday, to include moving the port- a- potty.
- In the month of June, the HAP Program was visited 40 times.
- The HAP Program is closed for the month of July and will re-open on August 6th.
- She and Supervisor Newvine delivered 111 SOS packages to households on June 20th.
- There will be a bobcat to “stuff” with non-perishable food items at family day to benefit the HAP program.
- Thanked Town Clerk for her work with family day preparations.
- Reminded meeting attendees that Supervisor Newvine and this year’s family day entertainer Franny Knott will be on channel 7 news tomorrow morning to promote family day.

Councilperson Leo Knight Jr.:

- Let Highway Superintendent Bice know that the loader needed deep cleaning and asked him to make sure it was completed.
- Asked the board to take a tour of the highway department after the board meeting concludes to have a look around.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Reported that he would add the unclaimed broken bicycle that was left at the town hall to the metal bin after tonight’s meeting concluded.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Bice to replace the faded Fullerville Rd signage.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Bice why the pin-yard gate is never closed and locked.
- Brought the folded American flag from the Gulf Cemetery that he had picked up for re-hoisting, after a new pulley is installed by the maintenance department.

Councilperson Walsh:

- Had no further questions or commentary.

DISCUSSION ON PLACEMENT OF BRUSH ON TOWN LOT

Discussion was held regarding taxpayers being able to take their brush to the Town of Fowler lot. After further discussion, the board approved Fowler residents to contact Highway Superintendent Nelson Bice who will have discretion on their use of the lot.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Asked Highway Superintendent Bice if he has heard anything further regarding the testing at the old landfill. It was discussed there was nothing new.
- Read aloud a card received from Senator Mark Walczyk returning his family day raffle ticket payment with regret that he would be unable to attend due to it being his Army Reserve drill weekend and thanking the Town of Fowler for honoring past Highway Superintendent Randy Durham at the event.
- Discussed the program planning and interest survey that local resident Franny Knott, who is our entertainment for children at Family Day, had provided the board concerning a grant opportunity for local artists coloring everywhere (LACE), which she is interested in applying for. Supervisor

Newvine reported that he will be in touch with Franny to ascertain if she is going to continue with the application.

- Reported he had signed the invoice at Aubuchon Hardware for the purchase of brushes, for the volunteers to clean our cemetery stones.
- Discussed that music night at the pavilion had gone well and he is getting a list of names of other entertainers who perform in Oxbow to see if they have interest in performing in Fowler. Supervisor Newvine thanked Glen Besaw for his work setting up music nights in the town.

Public Comment

- Byron Woodward reported that the electrical outlet was installed for the freezer and asked if the freezer was here yet. Councilperson Simmons reported that she was waiting until after family day to get it.
- Scott Cleveland asked if a decision was made on the basketball court. Supervisor Newvine discussed that the contention of the board was that the proposal of \$12,000 was too expensive, with the town being responsible for tearing out the old stuff and putting in the new base. Supervisor Newvine stated now he thought the consensus was that we are looking to just put a cap over it and level it. After much discussion, it was decided that the old base would be taken out by the highway department and a new proposal would be obtained for the basketball court and not include the parking area that was included in the original \$12,000 proposal.
- Debbie Walsh asked why the contractor isn't going to be responsible for tearing out the old base instead of putting the job on the highway department workers. It was discussed the highway department tearing it out would save with the cost of the project and we have a crew that we already pay that can do it.
- Byron Woodward stated that there is \$30,000 in the pavilion fund sitting in the bank and it doesn't do one thing but sit in the bank. He stated he thought the board should spend it and get it done, as this project has been over 2 years now.

Supervisor Newvine reported that the board is preparing to spend the money, but it needed to be spent judiciously. Supervisor Newvine reported that is what they are doing right now, they will get the area ready and then we will get the best price.

- Paul Johnson Jr asked if Dan Moyer was to contract with the Town of Fowler, if he was State regulated. Supervisor Newvine reported that yes, Dan Moyer is regulated by the State and contracts with many townships.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #226 to #273, with a total of \$315,767,40.

Supervisor Newvine invited the public to attend Family Day, this Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 9AM to 3:00PM.

Supervisor Newvine invited the public to attend Music Night at the Pavilion on Wednesday, July 22nd 6:30 PM -8:30 PM Featuring the Marble City River Band singing 70's & 80's Classic Rock and Country Dance Music.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on August 10, 2026 at 6:00PM.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Bishop , seconded by Councilperson Knight, the July 13, 2026, Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk