

Town of Fowler January 8, 2019 Organizational Meeting and Regular Scheduled Town Board Meeting Minutes

The Organizational and Regular scheduled Town Board meeting was held on the above date with all Board members present. Also present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Deputy Town Clerk Debbie Tupper, Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie, Assessor Chair Sherry Geer, Assessor Phyllis Shaw, Assessor Andy Miller, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Mark Deavers of the Gouverneur Rescue Squad, Dan Kingsley Planning Board Member, Alex Mackinnon Board of Ethics Member, Lillith Griffith Board of Ethics Member, Vicky Cappellino Board of Ethics Member, Legislator Bill Sheridan, Richard Clement, and Luke Perrigo. Absent were Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, and Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7PM then proceeded with the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2018 meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2018 Transfer meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino administered the Oath of Office to the appointed persons who were in attendance. Taking their oaths were Michael Cappellino as Budget Director, Ricky Newvine as Deputy Town Supervisor, Debra Tupper as Deputy Town Clerk, Deputy Registrar, and Deputy Tax Collector, Tami Gale as Registrar, Tax Collector, Karen Simmons as Town Historian, Dan Moyer as Dog Control Officer, and Barbara Finnie as Bookkeeper.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Bishop to approve the 2019 Salary Schedule. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Supervisor Cappellino reported that the Salary schedule was available to review in the Town Clerk's office. Town Clerk Tami Gale reported that the 2019 Salary Schedule would be advertised in the Triune Press.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the 2019 Town Board Meeting Schedule. All Town board meetings in 2019 will be held on the first Tuesday of the month except for November. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to approve the Meeting dates as listed. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the list of Appointments for 2019. He stated that he would be contacting Dr. Twining to verify that he was still able to be the Health Officer for the Town.

Supervisor Cappellino asked the Board if there were any questions or concerns about the appointments. Councilperson Simmons asked if Donna Brown was going to stay on as Court Clerk in 2019. Town Clerk Tami Gale will call Donna Brown to verify her staying in the Court Clerk position. It was the consensus of the board to keep the mileage the same at .54 cents per mile in 2019. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Simmons to accept the appointments as listed. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that the board needed to decide the positions of councilmembers on the 2019 Town Board Committees & Departments. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Bishop, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to approve the positions of the Councilpersons heading the committees and departments. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. The positions were filled as follows:

2019 Town Board Committees & Departments

Councilperson Newvine - Head of Sylvia Lake Beach

 - Head of the Hailesboro BallPark

Councilperson Andrews - Head of the Highway Department

Councilperson Bishop - Head of Cemeteries (Mowing)

Councilperson Simmons - Head of Animal Control Issues

 - Head of Town Hall Use by Fowler Residents

Supervisor Cappellino - Head of Solar Panel Research

AUDIT COMMITTEE - Supervisor Cappellino, Councilperson Bishop, Councilperson Newvine

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Resolution #1 of 2019 to authorize the payment in advance of audit of claims of public utility services, postage, freight, express charges, and health insurance premiums, needed to be addressed by the board. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to adopt Resolution #1 of 2019. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Resolution #2 of 2019 to adopt a Procurement Policy for the Town of Fowler, needed to be addressed by the board. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Simmons to adopt Resolution # 2 of 2019, a Procurement Policy for itself, its officers, agents and employees. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Resolution #3 of 2019, Town of Fowler 2018 Budget Transfers January 8, 2019 needed to be addressed by the board. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that the transfers involved accounting for payroll. Supervisor Cappellino asked the board if they had any questions. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilmember Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adopt Resolution #3 of 2019.

Mark Deavers of the Gouverneur Rescue Squad presented Supervisor Cappellino and the Town board information pertaining to the Town of Fowler for the year 2018. He stated that out of 1691 rescue calls to the Squad, 47 calls were within the Town of Fowler. He stated that there was no increase in calls from the previous year, as well as no increase in the amount of the contract for 2019. He delivered the 2019 yearly contract that is paid in 4 quarterly payments of \$5375.00, for a contract total of \$21,500.00 to Supervisor Cappellino. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to sign the 2019 Gouverneur Rescue Squad contract with the Town of Fowler. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Department Reports

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported on the summary of money handled by the Town Clerk for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Paid to DEC in Albany for Conservation Licenses - \$11,341.67, paid to NYS Health Department for marriage licenses - \$157.50, paid to Supervisor for total Town revenues - \$7263.83, paid to registrar for certifications - \$404.00, paid to the Department of Ag & Markets for spay and neuter programs - \$674.00. Town Clerk Gale reported for informational purposes that the Town of Fowler recorded 74 building permits, 0 births, 7 deaths, and 7 marriages for the year of 2018.

Town Clerk Tami Gale thanked Mr. Richard Clement, who was in attendance, for his recent donation of bottles and cans to the playground fund. She stated that the Playground Fund had a balance of \$11,871.48. Town Clerk Tami Gale reported for January 2019 that she has issued 36 dog licenses and sold \$50.00 in fishing licenses, and has begun collecting the 2019 Town and County Taxes.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Sherry Geer reported that the State is starting to send out denial letters to those individuals who made too much money to qualify for the star exemptions. She stated that there is no list of who the State has sent the denial letters to. Assessor Chair Geer provided a phone number of 518-457-2036 to the Department of Tax & Finance for star related

questions, and reminded everyone that they are always welcome to call the Town of Fowler Assessors Office at 315-287-9792. Assessor Chair Geer stated that Data Collection continues in the Town of Fowler, and if you find a door knocker on your door, to please respond.

Historian

Town of Fowler Historian Karen Simmons reported that it has been quiet in the historian office right now. She reminded everyone that she holds office hours every Thursday from 1PM to 4PM and by appointments. Historian Simmons welcomes inquiries and visitors.

Dog Control

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer reported that he had 1 dog in the Town's dog pound at meeting time. He stated that the dog had been picked up on Route 58. He stated that the dog had no collar, no chip, no license tag, and that he has had no luck finding the owner. The dog appears to be well groomed and well taken care of. He has posted photos on social media and has had no calls concerning the dog. Councilperson Bishop asked Dog Control Officer Moyer if the dog in the pound was friendly, and how long the dog would be kept in the pound. Dog Control Officer Moyer stated that the dogs are kept between 5 – 7 days in the pound. Dog Control Officer Moyer stated that the dog could be adopted out by Tuesday and that Friends 4 Pound Paws were interested in the dog.

Dog Control Officer Moyer reported that he had issued 3 tickets for unlicensed dogs, and 2 tickets for dogs running at large.

Beaver Control

Dan Moyer Reported for Moyers Wildlife Control that it has been quiet. He stated that he was not aware of the beaver on the Stone Rd, until reading last month's meeting minutes at this evenings Town board meeting. He stated he would go check the grates on the Stone Road and take it from there.

Councilpersons

Councilperson Newvine reported that he had looked over the Spectrum bill and it is in line with others it was compared to. Councilperson Newvine asked if the alarms had been installed on the doors at the Town Hall yet.

Councilperson Andrews asked if the Town was still in need of someone to fill a vacant position on the Planning Board of Appeals. He stated that he knew of a resident who may be

interested. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Town still needed 1 member on the planning board and 3 members to fill the planning board of appeal positions that are vacant.

Councilperson Simmons asked Supervisor Cappellino if the Town was still waiting to get Ed Siebel's resignation from the Chair of the Planning Board positon. She stated that she had a few names of interested residents.

Councilperson Simmons asked if someone would be coming to give training to the highway department employees on operating the new 2019 Case Loader.

Councilperson Bishop asked Supervisor Cappellino if he had heard anything new from Code Enforcement Officer Besaw on the Davis property located across from the Town Hall.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that the board needed to make a motion to approve the signing of the NCC Systems contract that was discussed at the December Board meeting.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the work needed to be coordinated with Tom Manley. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Bishop to sign the NCC Systems contract. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment

Andrew Miller asked the Town board if they had ever considered changing the gas pumps to a card swipe system. He stated if each person had their own card that the Town could see who was using what.

Councilperson Newvine stated that Highway Superintendent Durham could get a price on a card swipe system. Councilperson Bishop stated that maybe Highway Superintendent Durham could get a grant for one as he is good at applying for and securing grants. Supervisor Cappellino stated that Highway Superintendent Durham should also look into a price on a GPS system. Councilperson Bishop agreed that you can get a lot of information from the GPS system.

Sherry Geer stated that the roads were slippery on Sunday January 6th, when she and Phyllis Shaw were out in the Town of Fowler doing field work for the assessor's office. Sherry Geer stated that the doors to both entrances to the Town Hall need to have closures installed on them. She has witnessed the doors being left wide open when residents enter the building to conduct business.

Luke Perrigo stated that he came to the board meeting in hopes that Highway Superintendent Durham would be here. He stated that 2 of his trucks had gone off the road this winter. He stated that the Town had a bad ice storm and that he had used 2 loads of sand during this ice

storm to personally sand his road. He stated that his trucks are getting wrecked. He stated that if the parking lots that his business takes care of looked like the Town of Fowler roads then he would be out of business. He stated that he did not see a plow truck during the ice storm until 6am. Mr. Perrigo stated that he felt that the trucks were very late getting out for this storm. He stated that the roads not being taken care of besides being a safety concern is also affecting his livelihood.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had spoken to the State Troopers in regards to the Town of Fowler roads, and they stated that drivers need to slow down. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would talk with Highway Superintendent Durham to see what time the roads were plowed during this particular storm. Supervisor Cappellino stated to Mr. Perrigo that he felt that Highway Superintendent Durham would have liked to have been here to discuss the roads and their conditions during the ice storm with him. Mr. Perrigo stated that there were no chains on the trucks tires on the day of the ice storm. Councilperson Bishop stated that the trucks' driver makes their own decision to use or not use the chains. Councilperson Newvine stated that in fairness to Highway Superintendent Durham, the roads in Gouverneur were in similar condition on the day of the ice storm.

Mr. Perrigo stated that he was not trying to bad mouth Highway Superintendent Durham, but he feels that more needs to be done regarding the roads. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he was going to talk with Highway Superintendent Durham regarding Mr. Perrigo's concerns. Mr. Perrigo stated it was a good thing to have discussion and improve on it.

Alex Mackinnon reported that the Town of Fowler Board of Ethics meets once a year if there are no issues to act upon.

St. Lawrence County Legislature Bill Sheridan entered the board meeting at 8PM. He introduced himself to those in attendance. Legislature Sheridan listened to concerns that meeting attendees shared with him concerning the Emeryville Rd. bridge. Legislature Sheridan stated that he would aggressively try to work on the Emeryville bridge concerns. He stated that bridges with lots of traffic get fixed first. Legislature Sheridan explained that the bridges in the county are prioritized. There is not an easy answer.

Councilperson Bishop left the meeting at 8:23PM, having been called into work.

At 8:24PM a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews, seconded by Councilperson Newvine to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 8:45PM a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to end the Executive Session. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 502 - # 504, with a total of \$1,503.15 and #1 - #11, with a total of \$30,835.28, for a final total of \$32,338.43. .

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews, seconded by Councilperson Newvine to adjourn the meeting at 8:48PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk