

Town of Fowler Special Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2020 at 3:00 PM

A Special Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date, at the Town Hall with all board members in attendance except Councilperson Bishop who attended via teleconference. Also present were Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie, Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw.

Supervisor Newvine called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM, then proceeded with the pledge of allegiance and led a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, and the healthcare workers who are keeping us safe.

Nuisance property on County Route 22

Supervisor Newvine gave the floor to Code Enforcement Officer Besaw to update the board concerning the nuisance property on CR 22.

Code Enforcement Officer Besaw reported:

The tenant responsible for the conditions of the nuisance property on CR 22 had been prosecuted through the Town of Fowler court and he would now like to go ahead with the clean-up of the property. He named Brady Fuller to be the 1 bidder with an estimate of \$1850.00, received by the Town, to perform the clean-up. He reported he had spoken to Town Attorney Henry Leader and learned the Town could bill the owner of the nuisance property for the cost of the clean-up and secure a judgement against them until the cost is recovered.

Councilperson Simmons asked what exactly is going to be cleaned up on the property. CEO Besaw stated that the clean-up would entail everything that the law would allow to include anything to abate pests and physical dangers. By Law, they are not allowed to enter areas that are closed off or partitioned off, which would exclude the house and part of the garage from being cleaned up.

Supervisor Newvine and all Councilpersons agreed that while the property needs to be cleaned-up, it isn't going to solve the problem if only parts of it are able to be cleaned-up. CEO Besaw stated that it would help in protecting neighboring properties. CEO Besaw stated he is going to condemn it which means that no one can move in there. CEO Besaw stated now that the tenant has been prosecuted, he can go after the homeowner to have the property cleaned-up.

After more discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have CEO Besaw issue the homeowner an Order to Remedy ticket under State Law and proceed from there. The Town does not want to set a precedent of paying to clean up properties at the expense of taxpayers. CEO Besaw reported the neighbors of the property want it cleaned up and reported on the number of calls he personally has received regarding the nuisance property and asked what he should tell the neighbors when they continue calling him about the issue. Supervisor Newvine suggested that CEO Besaw could refer any calls concerning the nuisance property to him.

- He had received correspondence from an Electrical Inspector in Mayfield, NY who would like permission to be an Electrical Inspector in the Town of Fowler. After some discussion, the board agreed that CEO Besaw could notify the requestor that the Town is not interested in his service.

Highway Superintendent Durham reported:

- The Town's paving roller is worn- out and the Town is borrowing the Village of Gouverneur's paving roller for the remainder of the year.

- The highway department had purchased bales of hay and had placed them on the Island Branch Road to try to help with the water issue discussed at the October 5th Town board meeting. CEO Besaw reported the bales were a liability being placed so close to the road. Highway Superintendent Durham reported he had moved the bales back from the road after receiving a complaint by tax-payer Wanda Fayette. Supervisor Newvine asked if installing a French drain would remedy the water issue. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported it will fill with sand. Supervisor Newvine asked if shot rock would be a solution to the water issue. After some discussion, Supervisor Newvine directed CEO Besaw and Hwy. Superintendent Durham to go speak to the landowner and make them aware of the water issue on the Island Branch Road stemming from the condition of the landowners' property.

Town Clerk Gale reported:

- She had submitted receipts totaling \$933.35 for the Town of Fowler Court requesting consideration of reimbursement for Court related expenses stemming from COVID-19 to the 2020-21 JCAP grant cycle and PPE reimbursement opportunity.
- She has been keeping track of expenses for the Town to submit for reimbursement under the FEMA 4480-DRNY declaration. She reported that the stop date for reimbursable expenses for Municipalities was September 15, and COVID related expenses up to and including that date can be submitted. She reported a total of \$1,424.11 in receipts broken down by each department excluding the court, but the minimum expense required to submit for reimbursement from FEMA is \$3,300 according to the 112 pages in the FEMA Handbook. After some discussion, Town Clerk Gale stated she would contact FEMA Rep Marty Hassett to verify the \$3,300 minimum requirement.

Supervisor Newvine reported:

- He had received a complaint from a taxpayer about the condition of the Town of Fowler parking area concerning weeds growing through the pavement and the handicap parking spots needing to be re-painted. Supervisor Newvine reported Councilperson Lynn Bishop and Hwy. Superintendent Durham will re-paint the handicap parking spots next week and thanked them for working together on the job where Councilperson Bishop could share his experience to complete the project.
- A volunteer has offered to paint the railings on the entrance to the front of the Town Hall.
- Jim Bowhall is donating metal from the old Gouverneur Bowl as scrap metal for the playground fund.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if he had researched the cost of a crack sealer for the roads.

Meeting Date Change & Public Hearing for Budget Set

- In speaking with Town Clerk Gale concerning the Public Hearing on the budget that is scheduled to be held at the November 9th Town Board Meeting, Bookkeeper Finnie stated that the Public Hearing on the 2021 budget needed to be held by the Thursday after the election which is November 5th, and the board meeting / Public Hearing would need to be changed to November 5th. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have Town Clerk Gale advertise the Meeting date change as well as the Public Hearing for November 5th at 6:00PM.

At 3:34 PM a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to adjourn the Special Meeting and start the scheduled budget work session. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk

