

## **Town of Fowler Transfer Meeting Minutes for December 29, 2021, at 3:00PM (DRAFT)**

The Transfer Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with four board members present, and Councilperson Bishop attending the meeting by phone. Also present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reed, Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, newly elected Assessor Michael Bates, Town Justice Tim Knowlton, Town Custodian Rosalee Thornton, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Supervisor Newvine called the meeting to order at 3:00PM 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 family of Wilson Bickford who had recently passed.

### **RECOMMENDED APPOINTMENTS FOR 2022**

Supervisor Newvine read aloud the list of Recommended Appointments for 2022. Supervisor Newvine asked the Board if there were any questions or concerns about the appointments. With no questions voiced, Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the recommended appointments for 2022.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to accept the appointments as listed. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Justice Tim Knowlton administered the Oath of Office to the appointed & elected persons who were in attendance. Taking their oaths were: Scott A Cleveland as Councilperson, Ricky W. Newvine as Budget Director, Karen Simmons as Deputy Town Supervisor & Town Historian, Tami Gale as Registrar of Vital Statistics & Tax Collector, Dan Moyer as Dog Control Officer, Barbara Finnie as Bookkeeper, Glen Besaw as Code Enforcement Officer, Michael Bates as Tax Assessor, Kimberly Reed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Town Clerk & Tax Collector, and Rosalee Thornton, as custodian/ cleaner. Town Clerk Tami Gale administered the oath of office, in advance of the Transfer meeting to Lynn Bishop as Councilperson, Nelson Bice as Deputy Highway Superintendent, Irma Ashley as Court Clerk, Debra Tupper as 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Deputy Registrar. All others needing to take their oaths will be done post meeting within the 30- day time allotment. Supervisor Newvine welcomed Michael Bates as a newly elected official.

### **BOARD MEETING DATES & TIME**

Supervisor Newvine reported on the 2022 Town Board Meeting Schedule. All Town board meetings in 2022 will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00PM except for the month of October, which needs to be changed due to the meeting falling on the Columbus Day holiday and asked the board members their suggestions for a new meeting date. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to hold the regular scheduled board meeting on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6PM.

### **MILEAGE RATE**

Supervisor Newvine reported the mileage reimbursement in 2022 will follow the reimbursement amount that is set by the State, which is .56 cents per mile currently, and may either be lower or higher for 2022. Supervisor Newvine asked the board for a motion to approve the mileage rate as is set by the State for 2022. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

## **COUNCILMEMBERS**

### **Councilperson Bishop:**

- Stated he wished the roads had been taken care of earlier than they were on Christmas Day. Supervisor Newvine added that he had received a couple of complaints about the roads on Christmas, and asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if he had guessed wrong. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported the freezing rain didn't start until 3:00 in the afternoon. He reported the plows had been out at 1:30AM on Christmas morning. Councilperson Simmons reported the plow had gone by her home at 2:19AM on Christmas morning. She reported she was told some plow trucks were out on the roads when she became stuck on the California Road at 5:45PM and called Hwy. Superintendent Durham for help, and some plow drivers were putting chains on their truck tires. Supervisor Newvine asked what time Hwy. Superintendent Durham had called the plow truck drivers back in. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported it was about 4:30PM and it is always a hard call. He reported it takes 4 hours to sand the Town roads.
- Councilperson Bishop stated it started freezing rain at his place at 3:00PM, the trucks weren't out sanding the roads until 6:30, due to having to put the chains on, and in his opinion that was too late.
- Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham what he usually does in this kind of weather. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied he makes the best call that he can make.
- Councilperson Simmons stated its done, and over with, everyone is safe, and she felt they should just move forward, stating it's not like it isn't going to happen again.
- Councilperson Andrews asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham how long it usually takes the plow drivers to arrive when they are called. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported it takes them about 15 minutes, and putting the chains on slows them down, reporting he made the call to put the chains on.
- Councilperson Simmons stated it was a good call.
- Councilperson Bishop stated in his opinion, Hwy. Superintendent Durham had waited too long to send the trucks out. There was no further discussion on the matter.

### **Councilperson Cleveland:**

- Had no questions or comment

### **Councilperson Andrews:**

- Had no questions or comments.

### **Councilperson Simmons**

- Reported Hwy. Superintendent Durham had done a good job on Christmas for her. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated a lot of people appreciate the job he does and there are others who don't, and he just tries to do the best he can.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

### **Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported:**

- He had obtained 2 additional quotes for a skid steer as the Town board had asked him to do at the December 13, 2021, board meeting.

#### **(2) NEW SKID STEER QUOTES**

		<u>QUOTE</u>	<u>TRADE IN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
John Deere	320G Skid Steer	\$50,050.28	(\$5,000)	\$45,050.28
Monroe Tractor	Case SV280B-Series	\$46,995.00	(0.00)	\$46,995.00

#### **DECEMBER 13, 2021 BOBCAT SKID STEER QUOTES**

		<u>QUOTE</u>	<u>TRADE IN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bobcat of Watertown	S66 T4 bobcat Skid Steer Loader	\$47,719.78	(\$2,500.00)	\$45,219.78

<b>Leberge &amp; Curtis</b>	<b>S66 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader</b>	<b>\$52,952.54</b>	<b>(\$10,000.00)</b>	<b>\$42,952.54</b>
<b>(Leberge &amp; Curtis quote includes Dealer PDI &amp; Freight fees</b>				

- Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he wanted to discuss the purchase today as the prices are expected to go up on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

Supervisor Newvine asked if they will guarantee the prices if we say we want it, and what is needed to be done to guarantee the price. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he just needs a memo from the Town Clerk saying it was approved, to order it.

Supervisor Newvine asked if he had checked with Bookkeeper Finnie to be sure we have the funds to pay for it. Highway Superintendent Durham reported the budget for new equipment for 2022 is \$350,000. He reported a big part will be used to pay for the new 2022 Mack Plow Truck at a cost of \$216,739.00.

Supervisor Newvine asked what other new equipment he planned on purchasing in 2022. Hwy.

Superintendent Durham reported he didn't expect to purchase any other equipment unless the USDA came through with a grant.

Councilperson Cleveland stated he thought the highway department wanted to purchase an excavator. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported they do, but the bobcat is the priority because it is broke.

Councilperson Andrews asked what the cost of the crack sealer they had discussed purchasing would be. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated it was \$62,562.00. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported they would have to hold off on buying it for a year and maybe the USDA would be available. Supervisor Newvine stated we will know in the spring how the crack sealing that was done this year held up, and we could always hire it out to be done again.

Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported the roads that were paved with having been ground up are really holding up well and not cracking. Councilperson Bishop agreed that every new road that had been ground, does wear a lot better than just putting top on them, and he can agree with Hwy. Superintendent Durham on that.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to approve the purchase of the Leberge & Curtis S66 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader for \$42,952.54. All in Favor.  
MOTION CARRIED.

## **BOOKKEEPER**

### **Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie:**

- Presented cash balance month ending November 30, 2021, reports, and budget balance reports, to the board for their review.
- Reported the cash balances are good and will enable us to put some money into the fund balance at the years end. The General Fund is at 94.68% spent and has received 28% more revenue than what was budgeted.
- Reported the Highway Fund is at 93.46% spent and has received 17% more revenue than what was budgeted.

## **BUDGET TRANSFERS**

### **RESOLUTION #26 OF 2021**

### **DECEMBER 29, BUDGET TRANSFERS**

Supervisor Newvine submitted Resolution #26 of 2021 to the board for adoption. The Town of Fowler December 29, 2021, Budget Transfers were described by Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie as transfers to get accounts out of the

hole and make accounts even. The Budget Transfers from the General Fund totaled \$7,307.12 and went to balance 6 accounts. The Budget Transfers from the Highway Fund totaled \$40,130.00 and went to balance 8 accounts.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to adopt Resolution #26 of 2021, Town of Fowler December 29, 2021, Budget Transfers. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 4 *NEUVINE, SIMMONS, ANDREWS, BISHOP, CLEVELAND*

NAYS: 0

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reed thanked the board and Councilperson Cleveland, who oversees the playground, for the purchase and installation of the new infant swing at the playground. She stated she has spoken to Councilperson Cleveland about the possibility of purchasing more equipment for the younger age children who visit the playground to use. She reported she is very appreciative of the playground and that her request was considered.
- Supervisor Newvine welcomed newly elected assessor Michael Bates and asked if he had looked into the required assessor training yet. Assessor Bates reported he had searched the training online some. Supervisor Newvine reported he could contact assessor Kathy Besaw and she could assist him with what he needs for training.
- Councilperson Andrews asked Supervisor Newvine if Phyllis Shaw was going to consider staying on to advise the assessor office for 6 months. Supervisor Newvine reported Phyllis inquired what the proposed pay would be if she took on the advisory role. Supervisor Newvine reported he had not heard back from attorney Henry Leader on the matter and would contact him the next day.
- Code Enforcement Officer Besaw asked for permission to take his Code Enforcement training in Syracuse. He reported he will also be completing some training online as well. Supervisor Newvine okayed the training.
- Supervisor Newvine asked Justice Knowlton if the Court had received its laptop. Justice Knowlton reported he had received it, and court Clerk Ashley has been in touch with Advanced Business Systems to discuss transferring court programs onto it. Justice Knowlton reported everything to be going very well in the court.
- Town Clerk Gale reported she is missing sexual harassment training certification from a few people.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 479 to # 508 with a total of \$25,093.26.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be the Organizational Meeting held on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 6PM.

Supervisor Newvine wished everyone a Happy New Year.

At 3:38PM, a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Tami Gale, Town Clerk