



# Town of Fowler NEW YORK *On the Oswegatchie*

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017

Page 1

## Town of Fowler Directory

### Assessment Review Board

Chair: Donna Brown ..... 315-287-2949  
George Erdman, Jr. ..... 315-287-3451  
Candace Brown ..... 315-287-2144

### Assessors

Chair: Robert Fuller ..... 315-287-0118  
Robert Andrews Jr. ..... 315-287-4189  
Sherry Geer ..... 315-286-0298  
Assessors Office ..... 315-287-9792

### Board of Appeals

Randy Durham ..... 315-222-6797  
Jeff Andrews ..... 315-287-0587  
Dustin Fayette ..... 315-523-0171  
Tony Woodward ..... 315-287-4656  
Mike Macaulay ..... 315-286-5305

### Code Enforcement

Glen Besaw ..... 315-286-2360  
Code Enforcement Office ..... 315-287-9792

### Custodian

Tami Gale ..... 315-287-0045

### Dog Warden

Dan Moyer ..... 315-528-7988

### Ethics Board

Chair: Lillith Griffith ..... 315-287-4542  
Vicky Cappellino ..... 315-287-3503  
Alex Mackinnon ..... 315-778-1287  
Phyllis Shaw ..... 315-287-0405  
Karen Simmons ..... 315-287-4753

### Health Officer

Dr. William Twining ..... 315-287-2192

### Highway Superintendent

Randy Durham ..... 315-286-8664 (C) 222-6797 (H)  
Highway Department Office ..... 315-287-2907

### Historian

Karen Simmons ..... 315-287-4753

### Justice Department

Paul Lamson ..... 315-287-9996  
Fax # ..... 315-535-4300

### Town Supervisor

Michael Cappellino ..... 315-323-7987

### Town Board Members

Karen Simmons ..... 315-287-4753  
Rick Newvine ..... 315-287-2708  
Lynn Bishop ..... 315-955-2929  
Dustin Fayette ..... 315-523-0171

### Town Bookkeeper

Barbara Finnie ..... 315-287-0045

### Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Kelly Harmer ..... 315-287-0045  
Fax # ..... 315-535-4094

### Town Facilities

Town Hall ..... 315-287-4753  
Public Beach on Sylvia Lake ..... 315-287-4098  
Hailesboro Field ..... 315-287-4098

### Town Planning Board

Chair: Rick Whitford ..... 315-286-2360  
Jeff Andrews ..... 315-287-0587  
Ed Siebels ..... 315-767-2202  
Art Besaw ..... 315-250-3353  
Stephen Gale ..... 315-287-1408  
Andrew Miller ..... 315-323-4250



# Town of Fowler NEW YORK *On the Oswegatchie*

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017

Page 2

## Assessment Review Board

There are three seats on the Board of Assessment Review. Currently, the Chair is Donna Brown. Other members are George Erdman Jr., and Candy Brown. The Board of Assessment Review holds Grievance Day on the fourth Tuesday of May from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Fowler Town Hall.

Residents who disagree with their assessment are urged to meet with the Town Assessors to discuss their assessments PRIOR to presenting their grievance to the Board of Assessment Review. To make arrangements to meet with an assessor at the Town Hall, please call the Assessors at the phone number listed on page 1 or call the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045.

If residents wish to grieve their assessments, they may do so at the date and time previously outlined. The Board will review grievances and then make a decision to either lower the property owner's assessment or leave the assessment the same. Residents who have filed a grievance are notified of the outcome by U.S. mail.

## Justice Department

The Town of Fowler Justice Court, the Hon. Paul M. Lamson, Town Justice, holds court every Wednesday at 6:00 PM.

Court is held upstairs in the town hall building.

If you need to contact the court during off times, please call (315) 287-9996 and leave a message or fax us at (315) 535-4300.

## Newsletter Contents

<i>Town of Fowler Directory</i> .....	1
<i>Assessment Review Board</i> .....	2
<i>Justice Department</i> .....	2
<i>Board of Appeals</i> .....	2
<i>Town Board</i> .....	3
<i>Sylvia Lake Beach</i> .....	3
<i>Highway Department</i> .....	4
<i>Use of Town Facilities</i> .....	4
<i>Town Clerk/Tax Collector</i> .....	4
<i>Ethics Board</i> .....	5
<i>Dog Control</i> .....	5
<i>From the Assessors</i> .....	5
<i>Town Planning Board</i> .....	5
<i>Historian's Office</i> .....	6
<i>Code Enforcement Office</i> .....	6
<i>Town of Fowler Website</i> .....	6
<i>2017 Town Board Meetings</i> .....	6

## Board of Appeals

Five Fowler residents volunteer their time for this board: Randy Durham, Jeff Andrews, Dustin Fayette, Tony Woodward, and Mike Macaulay.

The function of this board is to receive and 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 and review of the submitted plans, the Board considers, discusses, and 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 and all interested persons are invited to attend.



# Town of Fowler NEW YORK *On the Oswegatchie*

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017

Page 3

## Town Board

In the year of 2017, the town's board meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm except for the July meeting which will be determined at a later date. Special meetings will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press and/or the Watertown Daily Times newspapers and also on the town's website. [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com)

The current Town Board consists of four incumbents, Deputy Supervisor and Councilman Ricky W. Newvine, councilpersons Karen Simmons, Lynn Bishop, Dustin Fayette and Supervisor Michael Cappellino. Ms. Barbara Finnie will continue to oversee the duties as bookkeeper in 2017.

The town has worked closely in 2016 with the St. Lawrence Co. Housing Authority. The grant monies from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will complete the rehabilitation of more homes in Fowler in the upcoming year 2017.

The town is currently looking for applicants for a third grant application for another round of funding to be started in 2017. Residents can contact Kelly Harmer in the Town Clerk's office for an application or you can get it on the Town's website [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com).

On July 23, 2016, the Town had a Family Fun day. It consisted of crafters, chicken barbecue, displays, children's games and raffles. All proceeds went toward the Fowler Playground Fund. There was such a great turn out that the Town hopes to make the Fowler Family Day a yearly event.

We applied for and received a grant for \$50,000 to be used for a playground. Council members Karen Simmons, Rick Newvine and Town Clerk, Kelly Harmer are the Fowler Playground Committee.

The town board would like to invite all town residents and visitors to attend our monthly meetings and visit our website to view and download newsletters and minutes from the meetings.

## **Sylvia Lake Public Beach - 29 Old Beach Road, Gouverneur NY 13642**

The Public Beach is owned and operated by the Town of Fowler. The beach is open seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August.

Certified lifeguards are on duty during the posted hours of operations. (10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

Handicapped and public parking is located near the beach entrance. The beach has a picnic area with tables and charcoal grills for public use. Changing rooms and rest rooms are also available.

If you have special needs, or are planning for a large group to visit, please contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098 or the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045.



## **Highway Department**

The Town of Fowler maintains 56.25 Miles of Town Roads. In the winter months the town plows 73.75 miles of roads which includes County Route 22 and 24. We appreciate everyone's patience this past year during our busy 2016 construction season. During this period, we resurfaced 6.5 miles of Town Roads. These roads consisted of the Gulf Road and Mill Street, and parts of the California Road, Doane Road, Country Club Road, and Hull Road.

In 2017, we are planning on resurfacing up to another 5 miles of town roads and have prepped the Island Branch, Hull, and Bay Roads. We also will be preparing the roads that are selected to be repaved in 2018. The number of road miles resurfaced will depend solely upon the price of asphalt at that time.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone that has made my transition to this position as smooth as possible. Please check out my Town of Fowler Facebook Page to get road conditions and updates on what your Town of Fowler Highway Department is doing for you. Link to the page from our website. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Sid Harmer II and Steven Fuller who stepped into help us out during the construction period to replace two permanent employees who were off work on Compensation and Disability.

Best wishes for a happy and safe 2017 from the Highway Crew: Randy Durham, Lyle Bishop, Nelson Bice, Francis Cole, Jeffery Hill, Larry Allen, John Walsh and Sid Harmer II.

## **Use of Town Facilities**

The Town Hall is available for use by Fowler residents. Arrangements to use the Hall may be made by calling Karen Simmons at (315) 287-4753.

The Sylvia Lake Beach is open to the public seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August. For groups, parties or for more information call Rick Newvine at (315) 287-4098 or the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045.

Groups interested in using the Hailesboro ball field during the summer should also contact Rick Newvine at (315) 287-4098.

## **Town Clerk and Tax Collector**

Our office is open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday. This office issues dog licenses, hunting licenses, marriage licenses, disabled parking permits, has voter registration forms, absentee ballots, building permit applications, and Star Program forms available for the public.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer and Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale are now Notary Publics.

The Tax Collector will start collecting taxes on January 3, 2017. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045.

*NOTE: There is a Drop box located by the back entrance to the Town Hall that is checked twice a day on business days.*



# Town of Fowler NEW YORK *On the Oswegatchie*

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017

Page 5

## Ethics Board

The Fowler Board of Ethics Committee consists of five members: Lillith Griffith- Chairperson, Vicky Cappellino, Karen Simmons, Alex Mackinnon and Phyllis Shaw. Each member serves a four -year term. Any person may file a concern or complaint in writing to the chairperson who in turn will set up a meeting with the other committee members to address the issue. The committee may request an interview with the party or parties involved to discuss the situation further to reach a decision or solution. After the discussion, the committee notifies the party or parties of their decision in writing.

## Dog Control

This year we received several complaints of dogs running at large. There is a leash law in the Town of Fowler, so it is very important that you keep your dogs on your own property. Also, any dog 4 months of age or older must have a rabies shot and be licensed in the town where they live. Dan Moyer, Dog Control Officer, can be reached at (315) 528-7988 or (315) 771-8103.

We had a very successful Rabies Clinic in August. Watch for our free rabies clinic in August 2017.

## From the Assessors

Basic STAR is for owners and owner's spouses who reside at the property and their total income does not exceed \$500,000. You should register for Basic STAR credit if you bought your home after the 2015 STAR deadline or never applied for the STAR benefit on your primary residence. New Basic STAR applicants can apply online at [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star) or by calling (518) 457-2036. Qualified applicants will receive a credit in the form of a check directly from New York State instead of receiving a school property tax exemption.

Enhanced STAR is for owners who reside at the property and one of the owners is at least 65 years old. To apply for the Enhanced STAR or if you have any questions please call the Assessor's Office at (315) 287-9792.

## Town Planning Board

The Planning Board is made up of six Fowler residents. The members are Chairman, Rick Whitford, Jeff Andrews, James Besaw, Ed Siebels, Andrew Miller and Stephen Gale.

The purpose of the Planning Board is to recommend appropriate land use that will be to the betterment of the Town and submit their recommendations to the Town Board. They also review Building Permits and do special projects that the Town Board assigns. (Continued on p. 6)



## **Historian's Office**

The Historian's Office is located upstairs in the Fowler Town Hall. Historian Karen Simmons is in the office on Thursdays from 1-4PM or any time by appointment by calling (315) 287-4753 or the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045.

The family of the late Marjorie Farr donated several of her scrapbooks to us this past year. It was a great addition to our scrapbook collection. Other people adding to the History of Fowler this past year were Mrs. Elaine Boney and Mrs. Darlene Cole.

## **Code Enforcement Office**

For 2016, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford issued 88 building permits as of November 1. Building permits are required for any structure 144 sq. ft. and over, any structural changes on your home or buildings, swimming pools and for all roofing projects.

Fowler is also trying to address the Maintenance and Junk Laws for the safety and health of our residents. We would like to ask your help in maintaining your property free of trash and junk cars.

As of October 3, 2016, there are new rules and regulations pertaining to building codes.

If anyone has any questions, call Rick Whitford at (315) 286-2360 or call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045.

The building permit application can be picked up at the Town Hall or on our website [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com) .

## **Town Planning Board (continued from p.5)**

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 and on the Town of Fowler website. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

The Town Board adopted the "Town of Fowler Land Use Site Plan Review and Subdivision Local Law" (December 6, 2014.) You may obtain a hard copy of the Land Use document by calling the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045. You may also view/print the document from the website: [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com)

## **Our Website**

A local Fowler business, Rainbowtech Designs, created and manages the Town of Fowler's website. The site is regularly updated with meeting information and announcements. You can find minutes of meetings, a business directory and other information about Fowler. Everything on the site is searchable.

**[www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com)**

## **2017 Town Board Meeting Dates**

*Meetings are at 7:00PM at the Town Hall.*

<b>January 3, 2017</b>	<b>July {TBD}</b>
<b>February 7, 2017</b>	<b>August 1, 2017</b>
<b>March 7, 2017</b>	<b>Septmber 5, 2017</b>
<b>April 4, 2017</b>	<b>October 3, 2017</b>
<b>May 2, 2017</b>	<b>November 7, 2017</b>
<b>June 6, 2017</b>	<b>December 5, 2017</b>