

Town of Fowler Directory 2020

Assessment Review Board

Chair: Donna Brown315-287-2949
Candace Brown315-287-2144
To Be Determined.....

Assessors

Chair: Sherry Geer315-286-0298
Phyllis Shaw.....315-955-5853
Kathy Besaw.....315-276-5987
Assessors Office..... .315-287-9792

Code Enforcement

Glen Besaw.....315-323-0761
Code Enforcement Office.. 315-287-9792

Custodian

Rosalee Thornton..... 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
Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753
Phyllis Shaw.....315-955-5853

Health Officer

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

Highway Superintendent

Randy Durham..... 315-286-8664
.....315-222-6797
Highway Dept Office.....315-287-2907

Historian

Karen Simmons315-287-4753

Justice Department

Justice Ryan Young.....315-287-9996

Fax #315-535-4300

Court Clerk: Irma Ashley.....315-287-9996

Town Supervisor

Ricky W. Newvine.....315-287-4098
315-771-2194

Town Board Members

Seat Vacated by Councilperson Ricky Newvine

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

Lynn Bishop.....315-955-2929

Jeff Andrews.....315-287-0587

Town Bookkeeper

Barbara Finnie.....315-486-1075

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

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

Town Facilities

Use of Town Hall.....315-287-4753

Public Beach/Sylvia Lake..... 315-287-4098

Hailesboro Field.....315-287-4098

Town Planning Board

Chair Stephen Gale.....315-287-1408

Art Besaw..... 315-250-3353

Roger Refici.....315-323-5994

Larry Streeter.....315-323-7266

Dan Kingsley.....315-816-7531

Town of Fowler Newsletter

Assessment Review Board

There are three seats on the Board of Assessment Review. Currently, the Chairman 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

Fowler Town Court is held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6 PM upstairs in the Town Hall. Fines may be paid at that time or sent in the mail. Individuals who wish to make payments to Fowler Town Court using credit and debit cards may do so through GovPayNet. Go to www.GovPayNow.com and use the Pay Location Code (PLC a0026f). The Court does not accept checks. The Court Clerk is at the Town Hall on Mon. Tues. and Wed. to answer questions and collect fines. If you need to contact the court any other time, please call (315) 287-9996 and leave a message or fax us at (315)535-4300.

Town Board

In the year of 2020, the town board meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm except for the month of November. Special meetings will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press and/or the Watertown Daily Times newspapers and on the town's website. www.fowlerny.com

The 2020 Town Board will see one change. Ricky W. Newvine will take over as Supervisor of the Town. The year 2020 will be the first year in 31 years that Michael Cappellino will not be on the board in some capacity. The current Town Board consists of Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine, Deputy Supervisor and Councilperson Karen M. Simmons, Councilpersons Lynn Bishop, and Jeff Andrews. The 4th council seat will remain vacant until the November 2020 election.

Ricky W. Newvine, new Supervisor for 2020 and the entire board would like to thank retiring Supervisor Michael Cappellino for 31 years of service to the Town of Fowler as Councilperson and Supervisor. Job Well Done!

Ms. Barbara Finnie will continue to oversee the duties as bookkeeper in 2020.

Tami Gale has been elected to the position of Town Clerk for 4 years having previously served as the appointed Town Clerk for the last year.

The town board would like to invite all town residents and visitors to attend our monthly meetings and visit our website (www.fowlerny.com) 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.

A new dock is in place for 2020 and the entire board would like to thank Northland Associates and especially owner Jim Tyler for their work at our beach. New doors, windows, soffits, and fascia work was done to the beach changing room building at no charge to the taxpayers. The entire facility looks great and we encourage all town residents to visit your newly revitalized beach.

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.

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. If you are researching ancestors and/or working on your family genealogy, contact my office as I have some records on hand that may assist you in your search.

I am presently working on the names of veterans who served in the Korean Conflict that resided in the Town of Fowler. If you know of anyone or have any information that would pertain to the Korean Conflict please contact me at the Historian Office.

The late Byron Gale donated the mining book "Collector's Guide to the Balmat Mining District" to the Historian's Office, which was co-authored by Fowler's own William de Lorraine.

Connie Bishop, retired Town of Fowler historian suggested that the Town purchase a sign to distinguish the Tri-County marker which is where St. Lawrence, Lewis, and Jefferson Counties meet. The Town board approved the purchase and a sign was designed. It is expected to be installed in the spring with a small ceremony to mark the occasion.

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 2019 construction season. We have been steadily working on my goal of upgrading the Town roads and equipment.

This year we received a new loader paid for by a New York State SAM Grant and a new Mack Tandem Plow Truck that was partially paid for by a USDA Grant and a USDA low interest loan. I will continue looking for these grants to further my goal of safe roads and good equipment.

In 2020 we are planning on rebuilding and resurfacing more town roads. We will be finishing the River Road, rebuilding .2 miles of Kilkarney Road, and moving to the Byrns Road.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Jeff Hill who has worked for the Town over 15 years and will be retiring in March. He will be missed. Last year after the newsletter had gone to print we hired David Travis, he is now a fully certified operator for the Town.

Please check out my Town of Fowler Highway Department Facebook Page to get current road conditions for our area and updates on what your Highway Department is doing for you.

In a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for your support this year. It was your support that made our team so successful.

Best wishes for a happy and safe new year in 2020 from the Highway Crew: Randy Durham, Nelson Bice, Francis Cole, Jeffery Hill, Larry Allen, John Walsh, and David (Dennis) Travis.

Dog Control

In 2019, Dan Moyer, Dog Control Officer, picked up 8 dogs that were roaming freely in the Town of Fowler. Of the 8 dogs 4 were claimed by their owners, 3 were adopted by Gracious Friends Sanctuary animal rescue, and 1 was adopted by an individual. Mr. Moyer would like to remind the residents of Fowler there are laws in the Town of Fowler governing your dogs. If you see a dog on your property or wandering freely call the dog warden at (315) 528-7988 or (315) 771-8103. DO NOT try to handle the dog on your own, no one knows if the dog has had a rabies shot.

Watch for our free rabies clinic in August 2020.

If you have any questions contact Dan Moyer at (315)528-7988 or (315)771-8103 or the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045.

Use of Town Facilities

The Town Hall is available free of charge for use by Town of Fowler residents for all occasions. 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, (315)771-2194 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.

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. Vicky Cappellino was reappointed to another 4 year term in January 2019. 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. There were no complaints in 2019.

From the Assessors

We welcome newly elected assessor Kathleen Besaw to serve with re-elected assessor Phyllis Shaw and Sherry Geer.

VETERANS:

If you are a **Veteran or surviving spouse** of a Veteran with an **honorable discharge** you may be eligible for one of the following exemptions:

Alternative Veterans Exemption (form RP-458-a) available only on residential property of a veteran who has served during a designated time of war or received an expeditionary medal.

Cold War Exemption (form RP-458-b) available only on residential property of a veteran who served during the Cold War period.

You must apply by March 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 Assessment Roll. Please call our office at 315-287-9792 or Sherry at 315-286-0298 and we will mail you the necessary application to complete and return with necessary documents. For more information you can reference the following link: <https://veterans.ny.gov/content/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>

STAR EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

If you are currently receiving the basic or enhanced star exemptions NYS Tax department will be doing the yearly qualification for these exemptions. If more information is needed you will receive an information request in the mail directly from the NYS Tax Department office. If you have questions or need assistance please feel free to call our office and we will try to help you all we can.

If you currently have the **BASIC Star Exemption** and **at least one** of the homeowners **turns 65 before December 31, 2020** you can still apply for the Enhanced Star Exemption with your **local assessor**. You will need to complete the required application and submit proof of age and income. **Income limit for 2020-2021 Enhanced star exemption is \$88,050 or less.** If you qualify you would be able to continue to receive the **exemption** on your school tax bill. **Please contact our office 315-287-9792 or call Sherry at 315-286-0298 if you believe you may qualify for this exemption.** We will mail you the required application to complete and return to local assessor office. This will need to be done by **March 1, 2020 for the 2020-2021 Assessment Roll.**

NEW HOMEOWNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE BASIC OR ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION.
NEW HOMEOWNERS MUST APPLY FOR STAR CREDIT WITH NYS TAX DEPARTMENT. WITH THE STAR CREDIT YOU RECEIVE A CHECK FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT TO APPLY TO YOUR SCHOOL TAXES.

You can apply for **Star Credit** by calling 518-457-2036 8:30am to 4:30pm or online 24 hours a day, & days a week at www.tax.ny.gov/star

Senior Exemption is eligible for seniors 65 or older upon age, ownership & income qualification. You must earn below \$17,699 per year to qualify for this. **If you believe you qualify please contact your local assessor at 315-287-9792 or call Sherry at 315-286-0298** and we will mail you the necessary application for this exemption.

Our office is currently working on updating property record cards for the Town of Fowler as mandated by NYS Office of Real Property. Data Collection is needed to value each parcel of property located within a specific assessing jurisdiction. It is very important that the data be recorded as accurately and consistently as possible as it will serve as the basis of all future appraisal activity in revaluation programs and ORPS market survey process. Not only will this information provide the specific elements needed to value each parcel of property, it will also become a valuable record of information for future use by the assessor's office. If the data collector comes to your property and no one is home a notice will be left so you know we were there. If you could please call the phone number left on the notice that would be greatly appreciated. We might be able to confirm any information needed over the phone and or can set up a time when it would be best to return to your property. This is a work in progress and your help would be greatly appreciated!!!!

Town Planning Board

The Planning Board is made up of five Fowler residents. The members are Chairman Stephen Gale, James Besaw, Dan Kingsley, Larry Streeter, and Roger Refici. The planning board in collaboration with the code enforcement officer, the Town Attorney and Town board updated and revised the Towns Land Use Law in 2019. Local Law #1 of 2019 was adopted by the Town of Fowler and filed with the Department of State on August 12th, 2019. There are no zoning laws in the Town of Fowler. The Planning Board makes its decisions and submits them to the Town Board according to the Town's Land Use Law. You may obtain a hard copy of the Land Use Law at the Town Clerk's Office. Or you may view or print the policy from our website: www.fowlerny.com . Planning Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month as needed or when necessary at 7 PM in the Fowler Town Hall. Meetings are advertised in the local newspaper and on the Town of Fowler website.

Code Enforcement Officer

Building permits are required for demolition of buildings, renovations, structural changes on your home or buildings, roof replacement, pools, and buildings over 144 sq. ft, and septic systems.

Building and use permits are still required for any construction to enlarge, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of any building or structure as well as changing or installing any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

Building Permit applications can be viewed and downloaded from the Town website: www.fowlerny.com . It is the responsibility of the **homeowner** to fill out the building permit and call the Code Enforcement Officer **Glen Besaw, at 315-323-0761** with any and all questions pertaining to a building permit before it is turned in to the Town Clerk office with payment.

The New York State Department of State will be adopting a new code enforcement book for the year 2020. There may be some significant changes to building regulations. If residents or contractors have any questions' they need to call **Glen Besaw, Town of Fowler Code Enforcement Officer at 315-323-0761**. Glen will make every effort to get any requested information as quickly as possible, which will prevent the possibility of any work stoppage or delay.

There were changes to the Building Code effective October 2017. If you have any questions about code regulations or concerns about unsafe or unsanitary conditions within the Town, please call Glen Besaw (Code Enforcement Officer) at (315)323-0761.

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Starting January 7th, 2020 evening hours on one day a week will be added for the convenience of the public. Our office is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM and Tuesdays from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to **6:00PM**. This office issues dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses and disabled parking permits. Voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and building permit applications, are available at this office. Both Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper and Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reed are returning to their appointed office in 2020.

Town Clerk Tami Gale is a Notary Public.

I will start collecting land taxes on January 2, 2020. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045.

2020 Town Board Meeting Dates

Meetings are at 7PM at the Town Hall.

January 7, 2020
February 4, 2020
March 3, 2020
April 7, 2020
May 5, 2020
June 4, 2020

July 7, 2020
August 4, 2020
September 1, 2020
October 6, 2020
November (TBD)
December 1, 2020

Town of Fowler Online

A local Fowler business, Rainbowtech Designs, created and manages the Town of Fowler's website. You can find minutes of meetings, a business directory, and other information about Fowler. Everything on the site is searchable. www.fowler.com.

Fowler Family Day

In 2019 the Town of Fowler received a very generous donation from a resident of the Town of Fowler for a pavilion to be built next to the playground. 2019 was very profitable and we were able to purchase a couple of benches and a handicapped picnic table for the playground. The 5th annual Fowler Family Day will be held on Saturday July 11, 2020. There will be a chicken BBQ, lots of activities for the children, vendors and displays, something for everyone. Come out and join the fun.

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