

## **Town of Fowler Emergency Meeting minutes for March 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM**

The Town of Fowler held an Emergency Meeting on the above date. In attendance were: Supervisor Newvine, Councilperson Andrews, Highway Superintendent Durham, Assessor Chair Sherry Geer, Town Clerk Tami Gale and attending by phone Councilperson Simmons. Absent from the meeting was Councilperson Bishop. The meeting was advertised on the Town of Fowler website [www.fowlerny.com](http://www.fowlerny.com), and on both entrances to the Town Hall, attempts at contacting the media were unsuccessful. The advertisement of the meeting was to let the taxpayers know that the Town was holding a meeting considering the fact that the Town Hall is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance was limited to 10 individuals, and the CDC social distancing recommendation was observed.

Supervisor Newvine opened the meeting at 10:00AM. He announced the meeting was called to discuss the Town of Fowler's 65 years of age and older population and their potential needs arising from the COVID -19 pandemic.

### **Supervisor Newvine reported:**

- He had requested a list of the Town's senior citizens through Assessor Chair Sherry Geer which was distributed to the meeting attendees.
- That his intention was to obtain phone numbers for the individuals and for the Town to make contact to determine if they had a need for any assistance.
- He had spoken to Dave Spilman Jr. and had received information concerning food being provided to the senior population through the Office of the Aging that would consist of 1 hot meal and 5 frozen meals a week beginning on Monday March 23, 2020.
- He wanted Town officials to try and make sure that any Fowler resident that might want to receive this could by having their names placed on a list.
- That the Town had the option of declaring a state of emergency and this would allow the Town to hold Emergency meetings as needed. It was the consensus of the Town board members in attendance to have Supervisor Newvine begin the process with the Town Attorney.
- That he will be using the Town of Fowler website more frequently to keep the townspeople updated during the crisis.
- That he will have Highway Superintendent Durham place the Town Officials contact information on the Highway Face Book account.
- That he will contact bookkeeper Barbara Finnie to determine if any of the Town of Fowler Reserve Funds could be used for assissting the Towns residents during the pandemic.

- That the board will meet weekly and as needed during the pandemic to further assist the tax-payers.
- That a copy of the Town's seniors will be dropped off to Councilperson Simmons who will work over the weekend on locating phone numbers to the residents on the list for future contact.
- That he was going to contact Town of Edwards Supervisor Jan Lennox to discuss any ways that the two Towns could help each other.

### **Town Clerk Gale**

- Handed out copies of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order "New York State on Pause", and Governor Cuomo's Guidance on Essential Services Under the "New York State on Pause" Executive Order.
- Handed out copies of the Assessor's Report of people receiving Star Exemption in the Town of Fowler as a list of senior citizens for the Town to contact during the pandemic.
- Made a list of cleaning supplies needed and reported on supplies that had been ordered to sanitize Town of Fowler buildings.

### **Highway Superintendent Durham:**

- Reported that the Highway laborers are now on call until March 31, 2020 when essential services will re-assessed.
- Reported that the highway laborers would like to be paid overtime for any hours worked after the regular 7:00 to 3:30 shift. Supervisor Newvine stated that the highway laborers would be paid straight time no matter what. Assessor Chair Geer interjected that County workers are being paid all straight time regular pay.
- Reported that the highway laborers are slated to come back to work on April 1, 2020.

Supervisor Newvine interjected that the Highway department needed to be sanitized before April 1, 2020 when the workers return. Councilperson Andrews agreed.

- Reported that he would go and purchase a sprayer and sanitize the highway department as well as clean the highway department bathroom.
- Reported that he would like to address having custodian Rosalee Thornton clean the bathrooms at the highway department once a month after he completes a thorough cleaning.

**Councilperson Jeff Andrews:**

- Asked how many vendors have the code to get into the highway department. After discussion, Highway Superintendent Durham was directed to change the code to the highway department and give the new code to the Town Clerk. It was further discussed that the code would not be given out to vendors for future reference.

Supervisor Newvine reported that he would contact everyone in attendance as to the date and time of the next meeting, to plan the next stages of contacting the Towns seniors.

The emergency meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

Tami Gale, Town Clerk