

Town of Fowler – Organizational Meeting Minutes – January 2, 2018 at 7PM

The Regular Organizational Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all board members (including newly elected Councilperson Jeff Andrews) present except Councilperson Lynn Bishop. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Assessor Sherry Geer, Assessor Phyllis Shaw, Assessor Andrew Miller, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Bookkeeper Barb Finnie, Dog Warden Dan Moyer, Tami Gale, Vicky Cappellino, Richard Clement, Stephen Gale, Jim McGregor, and Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM then proceeded with the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes from the Meeting and Public Hearing on December 5, 2017 and also the Budget Transfer meeting on December 28, 2017. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino administered the oath to the 2018 Appointees and the newly elected officials.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the 2018 Recommended Appointments. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to approve the 2018 Recommended Appointments. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the 2018 Salary Schedule. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to accept the 2018 Salary Schedule. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino discussed the 2018 Meeting dates. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to accept the 2018 Meeting dates. All monthly board meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month except the June meeting which will be held

June 7, 2018 and the November meeting will be determined at a later date. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to keep the mileage at .54 per mile. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve Resolution No. 1 of 2018 to authorize the payment in advance of audits of claims for public utility services, postage, freight, express charges and health insurance premiums. All such claims shall be presented at the next regular Town Board Meeting for audit. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to approve Resolution No. 2 of 2018 to adopt the Procurement Policy. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer stated that things had been a little hectic with taxes as people were trying to pay their taxes early before the new year due to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order. She reported issuing 27 dog licenses, and 1 marriage license. She gave the Board members an annual report for 2017 and stated that she had taken in almost \$11,000 for hunting and fishing licenses and of that \$11,000 the Town made around \$500. Town Clerk Harmer also addressed some statements that had recently been said about the Planning Board. She stated that the Planning Board was established on May 7, 1973 and that back then it wasn't necessary to have it established by making a law. In 1990, the State made it a law that there needed to be a local law to establish a Planning Board. She stated that she had contacted the County Planning office and her and CEO Besaw had spoken with Jason Pfothauer about some of the issues and the need for the Planning Board. Mr. Pfothauer stated that the project being done at the Old Fowler school should go in front of the Planning Board.

Assessor Sherry Geer welcomed newly elected Assessors Andrew Miller and Phyllis Shaw. She stated that it is exemption time now and that they will be busy with that. She stated that Tami Gale was still doing a great job with the Data Collection and that a lot of the cards were being held up at the Real Property

Office because they are busy there. She stated that she will be here on Wednesday's more often now.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that it is pretty quiet this time of year. She wanted to remind everyone that the Historian's office is open every Thursday from 1 PM to 4 PM.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer stated that he had met with Janet Collier from the Department of Ag & Markets. She explained to him some new laws that had been enacted recently. Some of the changes are: if a dog is picked up it must be checked for a microchip by the dog warden or taken to a vet to be checked, it must be advertised on social media within 24 hours for the owner to claim, and a kennel fee needs to be charged even if the dog was claimed that same day. Councilperson Simmons stated that when Janet Collier was here a few weeks ago she had suggested that a couple of changes needed to be made to our local law concerning dogs. Councilperson Simmons and Supervisor Cappellino went over the laws and made the changes and they are at Attorney Leader's office now. Mr. Moyer also had a couple of dog complaints, one in Fullerville and a lost dog on State Highway 812 in the Town of Pitcairn

CEO Besaw stated that he had issued 1 permit for the month of December and received 1 complaint where he had to issue an appearance ticket. He asked the Board if it was ok if he built a table to bring in and put in his office to use. It was the consensus of the Board to allow him to do this.

Court Clerk Donna Brown stated that Carol Woodcock was planning on coming back a few more times to help out on DA night. Mrs. Brown wanted to know if she was going to get paid for that. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that on the timesheets that Ms. Woodcock had handed in it said that she would just come in at no charge to finish things up. Supervisor Cappellino told Mrs. Brown that he had received a request to audit the justice books. Town Clerk Harmer stated that they do this every February along with the Town Clerk and Bookkeeper records. Mrs. Brown stated that she would talk to Carol about getting the records ready for the audit. Mrs. Brown also asked Supervisor Cappellino about getting the cameras reinstalled. After much discussion, Supervisor Cappellino told Mrs. Brown to

contact NCC systems to have them come and reinstall them. There was discussion about the 2 court grants that the previous Justice Paul Lamson had applied for. One was for \$2,500 and one was for \$7,100 and both of these grants had been awarded to the Town. The \$7,100 grant had not been spent but the \$2,500 had been used but not for what it was intended for. The Town needs to call NYS Unified Court to ask for the money to be reallocated to cover the purchases that were made. Supervisor Cappellino said he will call tomorrow to see what needs to be done.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he had a meeting with County Highway Superintendent Don Chambers about the plan with River Drive and the erosion around the culverts. Mr. Durham stated that Mr. Chambers offered his engineering services for free.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to give permission to Mr. Durham to pursue a grant for a new loader. Mr. Durham stated that the grant would be for \$100,000. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The quotes for the Loaders were opened.

Nortrax quoted a John Deere 544K-II Loader with an extended warranty for \$145,276.35, \$30,000 trade-in for the 2004 Caterpillar 938G and \$7,500 for a 1971 Caterpillar 930 leaving a total of \$107,776.35.

Monroe Tractor quoted a CASE 621G Zbar TF4 with a \$40,000 trade- in for both the CAT 930 and the CAT 938G-\$108,136.00. They also quoted a CASE 621G XR with the same trade-in for \$99,447.00, a CASE 721G Zbar T4F with the same trade- in for \$135,055.00, and a CASE 721G XR T4F with the same trade-in for \$120,108.00.

Milton CAT quoted a 2018 Caterpillar 930M for \$147,485.00 with a trade- in for the CAT938G- \$32,000 and the CAT 930- \$7,500 leaving a total of \$107,985.00.

Anderson Equipment quoted a Komatsu- WA270-8 Loader for \$154,900 with a trade- in for the CAT 938G at \$33,400 and the trade- in for the CAT 930 for \$7,500 leaving a total of \$114,000.00.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to accept all of the quotes and to have Mr. Durham go through them. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Andrews asked Mr. Durham if there was a policy stating how fast the plows could go. He stated that he had received some complaints about the plows going to fast. Mr. Durham stated that he thought the speed was 35 MPH.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he had been thanked for giving the okay for the Highway employees to get new coats. He stated that the guys had earned them for the great work they had been doing. Mr. Durham stated that the guys were here on Christmas working hard.

Councilperson Newvine reported that the Town had received a check in the amount of \$2,410 for the Recreational grant that we applied for, for the Sylvia Lake Beach. Mr. Newvine stated that he had missed last months meeting where we had finalized the CDBG grant. He had heard about several issues that the homeowners of the new mobile homes were having. Some of the issues were: leaking doors, siding coming off, and an issue with a newly drilled well. Mr. Newvine asked CEO Besaw if he was satisfied and what were his thoughts on the issues. Mr. Besaw said he would follow up with all of the grant recipients. Supervisor Cappellino said he would contact the St. Lawrence County Housing Council with these concerns and see what they were going to do about them.

Supervisor Cappellino brought up the topic of the DANC study due to the fact that the last time it was brought up the vote was tied. He stated that the Town would have to put in \$5,000 for a study to be done to bring power from the Emeryville Hydro Plant to Gouverneur to furnish electricity to Municipal buildings, schools and the hospitals. Councilperson Andrews asked how the Town would benefit if we got involved in the study. Supervisor Cappellino stated that we may get better pricing on electricity for the Town Buildings and there is also a possibility that the

hydro dam might give some money to fix the Emeryville Bridge. The Board voted again on this matter. Cappellino- yes; Simmons- no; Newvine- yes; Andrews- no. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would bring it back up at the next board meeting when Councilperson Bishop was here but by that time it may be too late to get in on the study.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #1- #9 with a total of \$33,373.57.

The next regular board meeting will be on February 6, 2018 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk