

## **Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for November 1, 2016 at 7PM**

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler and a Public Hearing to pass the 2017 Budget, was held on the above date with all Board Members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, CEO Rick Whitford, Dog Warden Dan Moyer, Assessor Sherry Geer, Herbert Fuller, Vicky Cappellino, Lisa Durham, Debbie Tupper, Tami Gale, Bonnie Seaman, Phyllis Shaw, Al Redmond, Wanda Fayette, Jessica Bice, Karen and Gordon Stevens, and Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM then proceeded with the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2016 meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to open the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM to discuss the Proposed 2017 Budget. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the CDBG grant. There are 4 projects completed, 5 projects under contract, 1 project out to bid, and 1 project with completed lead assessments. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there was a release of funds for the \$500,000 grant.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he had received a letter from DASNY stating that the town had received a grant for \$50,000 for a playground. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Town needed to appoint people for the Playground Committee. A motion was made by Councilperson Fayette and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to appoint Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Councilperson Newvine and Councilperson Simmons to the Playground Committee. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had issued \$1,700 in hunting licenses, 28 dog licenses, 2 birth certificates and 2 death certificates in the month of

October. She stated that she had been to a conference in the middle of October that was very informative.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer reported that he received a complaint stating that a dog on the Little York Road was not being cared for properly. Mr. Moyer stated that the dog had been given back to the original owner that does not reside in the Town of Fowler. He stated that he had just received a complaint from a lady on the Island Branch Road that her neighbor's dog had bit her dog. Mr. Moyer will stop on the way back from the meeting to talk to her about it. There had been an inspection done of the dog pound and everything seemed to have went good. Supervisor Cappellino asked Mr. Moyer about housing the dogs picked up in the Town of Fowler at his shelter for the winter. Mr. Moyer stated that it would not be an issue and the cost would be \$10/ day per dog, the same as what the Town gets now. Councilperson Simmons will look more into this matter.

Dan Moyer reported on the Beaver Control. He stated that they have been a lot more active. He got 2 beavers on the Shantyville Road, and 3 beavers in a sluice pipe on the Stone Road, and one on the Country Club Road.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that it had been quiet in the Historian's Office. She did get her new Historian's Office signs hung over her door and one at the bottom of the stairs. She thanked Superintendent Durham for getting the signs and Dick Cutway for hanging them up.

CEO Rick Whitford reported that he has issued 12 building permits for the month of October. He also stated that he had received a couple of complaints that he had to address. Councilperson Fayette asked CEO Whitford if he had any contact with the SLC Housing Council about the grant. CEO Whitford stated that he has not. Supervisor Cappellino asked CEO Whitford if he had heard anything from Dave Blevins about the issue downstairs. CEO Whitford stated that he had not heard back from him yet. Councilperson Newvine stated that it really isn't CEO Whitford's responsibility to take care of the issues with the building. He stated that one of the board members should be responsible for seeing that things are being maintained at the Town Hall and Town Barn. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would call Blevins about the issue in the basement.

Assessor Sherry Geer reported that it had been pretty quiet the past month. She stated that there had been some issues with the new STAR program with people not receiving their checks back. Town Clerk Harmer asked Assessor Geer if the Enhanced STAR program was still done the same way as it had been in the past. Assessor Sherry Geer stated that people still go through the town to sign up for the Enhanced STAR.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that some residents have dropped off cans and bottles at the Town Barn to be donated to the Playground Fund. He stated that if any residents are interested in donating that they can be dropped off at the Town Barn anytime. He reported that all of the trucks have been inspected except the 91, which needs new tires. Superintendent Durham stated that the TS 90 Tractor has been taking a ½ quart a day of oil. He was going to do some research on it to see if the engine should be replaced or rebuilt. He gave the board members a copy of the Highway Employees job description. He stated that he got the job description from the County because Union Rep. Nelson Bice had stated that they were all considered Motor Equipment Operators under the County standards. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Fayette and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to recognize the job description under the County's standards. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Bishop asked Superintendent Durham if he was still taking equipment out to the beaver sites. Superintendent Durham stated he does sometimes to prepare the site. Supervisor Cappellino stated that we would look at the figures at the end of the year to see what works better for the town- if we should put out to bid or continue with Moyer's Wildlife Control.

Councilperson Simmons asked Supervisor Cappellino if he had set up a meeting with St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent Chambers or Ruth Doyle yet to discuss the Emeryville Bridge. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had to speak with the Legislators. He stated that he had talked to Fowler resident Vern Fuller who had spoken with Senator Patty Ritchie who stated that if there was anything she could do that she would be glad to help. Councilperson Fayette stated that it is

a difficult subject to get into when we fought the County to prove that it is their bridge.

Councilperson Newvine stated that a tax payer asked him about getting the speed limit reduced on the newly paved California Road. Superintendent Durham will check with the County to see if they will change the speed limit. Councilperson Newvine asked Supervisor Cappellino if he had done any research about the Town owning and maintaining beyond the Glasby Road. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had already spoken to Rich Weaver about this and that the road went back to the landowners. Councilperson Newvine stated that he had spoken with a representative from Time Warner Cable about getting internet service further down County Route 22. Time Warner Cable will do a 30-35 house survey further down County Route 22 to see if it is feasible.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had received an estimate for \$24,000 to replace the fence at the ballfield. After some discussion, Supervisor Cappellino will get more estimates. Also, Supervisor Cappellino, Councilperson Newvine and Superintendent Durham will meet at the ballfield to check to see if the fence can be repaired and if the highway employees could remove it themselves to save on the cost.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to change the amount given to the Gouverneur Fire Department from \$41,554 to \$41,600 for 2017. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had received a letter from National Grid that stated that they must be notified if we put anything on the poles such as Christmas decorations.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Town Attorney Henry Leader wrote up a lease agreement between the Town and the Fowler Baptist Church for use of the land for a garden. We are just waiting on a \$500,000 liability certificate from them.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to close the public hearing at 8:05 pm. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to approve the 2017 Budget. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Resident Jessica Bice wanted to acknowledge that Mrs. Kingsley has been handing out homemade cookies to the kids for Halloween for 50 years.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to go into executive session to discuss the Emeryville Bridge at 8:11 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to close the executive session at 8:33 PM.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #365- #369 and #371 - #412 with a total of \$40,457.97.

The next regular board meeting will be on December 6, 2016 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk