

## **Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2018 at 7PM**

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all Board Members present. Also present were Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, CEO Glen Besaw, Bookkeeper Barb Finnie, Vicky Cappellino, Debbie Tupper, Lisa Durham, Lillith Griffith, Richard Clement, and Rachel Hunter from the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2018 meeting. All in Favor.

MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he had a couple of corrections to make to the minutes of the August 21, 2018 Special Highway meeting. Supervisor Cappellino thanked Councilperson Newvine for taking the minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2018 Special Highway meeting with the corrections. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale reported for Town Clerk Kelly Harmer that she had issued 61 dog licenses, received \$50.00 in Kennel Fees, and had received \$1,080.00 in hunting and fishing licenses.

Historian Karen Simmons reported that she had received some scrapbooks from the Town of DeKalb, that were thought to have pertained to the Town of Fowler. Historian Simmons found that one scrapbook did belong to the Flight family from Fullerville. The remaining scrapbooks she thought might belong to Heuvelton and DePeyster. She is doing further investigation to pass the scrapbooks along to their rightful owners. Historian Simmons stated that she had received a letter from Gouverneur Historian, Joe Laurenza, regarding a person who is buried in the

Garrison Cemetery. Historian Simmons has placed a call to the Pitcairn Town Historian, where the Garrison Cemetery is located.

Councilperson Simmons reported that Dog Control Officer Moyer had had two different dogs in the pound, and one dog had been in the pound twice. One of the dogs were in the kennel over the weekend and was picked up by the owner on Tuesday.

Councilperson Simmons stated that she had nothing to report from Moyer's Wildlife Control on the Beaver situation. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he had taken a pile of brush that Mr. Moyer had removed from the culvert on the Shantyville Road and had moved it further down the road. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there had been lots of mulch in the culverts.

CEO Glen Besaw reported that he had issued 10 Building permits for the month of August. He stated that he had received one written complaint and that the paper work had been started on the complaint. Supervisor Cappellino asked CEO Besaw how many new homes had been built this year. CEO Besaw replied that there had been about four new homes, lots of additions, and one barn.

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham reported that he is contacting Don Chambers to get more involved with the issues relating to the road going in to the Pump House at Sylvia Lake.

Highway Superintendent Durham reported on the status of the loader. He stated that he had talked with Supervisor Cappellino two to three weeks ago concerning the price. The price would be \$133,277.00 for the loader. Highway Superintendent Durham has since spoken to Case District Manager, Mark Wisniewski. He stated that Case has requested that we trade the old loader in for a trade in value of \$32,000.00, and with the SAMS Grant total of \$100,000, the remaining cost for the loader would be \$1,277.00 to the Town of Fowler.

Councilperson Newvine asked Highway Superintendent how long it takes to get the \$100,000 back from the SAMS grant. Highway Superintendent Durham stated next year, and that he would order the loader with the stipulation that the Town could not receive it until next year for money purposes. Councilperson Andrews

asked what the loader consisted of. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that it is just the loader, no attachments. Councilperson Andrews stated that the loader might be of more value to the Town to have attachments come with it.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to order the loader. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Highway Superintendent Durham reported on the USDA Loan Grant that he is interested in applying for to assist with the purchase of a new Mack truck for the Town of Fowler. He stated that he wanted to make it public knowledge that the Town of Fowler on August 21, 2018 at 5 PM had a special meeting with USDA representative Renee Hotte, regarding a direct loan grant. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the truck he would like to purchase is priced at \$217,567.00. He reported that if the Town applied for and received the USDA loan grant, that the grant would be for \$33,000 making the final cost of the new Mack truck \$185,000.00. He stated that the truck would not be here for this winter's plow season. The truck if purchased would arrive in April or May of 2019.

Highway Superintendent Durham reported that on September 17, 2018 the Town would be receiving \$190,301.68 in CHIPS, and an additional \$50,000 from the New York State SAMS grant for River Drive that will be added into the budget. He stated that he planned to pay for a portion of the truck right out of CHIPS. He added that if the Town decides to pay half of the cost of the truck up front, that he would just charge it right off to the CHIPS, and the Town would get that money back a lot quicker.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have Highway Superintendent Durham complete the paperwork for the USDA loan grant, and to order the Mack truck.

Councilperson Newvine asked if the Town of Fowler gets any CHIPS money for the Battle Hill Road. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the left side of the Battle Hill Road is in the Town of Hermon, and Hermon does not receive any CHIPS. He stated that it is going to cost \$88,000 to fix the Battle Hill Road. Councilperson Newvine asked Highway Superintendent Durham if we could ask

the Town of Hermon to apply for CHIPS for that road. Councilperson Bishop stated that maybe the Town of Hermon could put the shoulders on the Battle Hill Road.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he would like all local Town of Fowler residents to be advised that they can drop off their scrap metal to a metal bin that is located by the Town Highway garage. He stated that the money that is generated from the bin will be donated into the Town of Fowler's Playground Fund. Councilperson Newvine reminded all that the bin is "deposit only."

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the Highway Department will also accept recyclable bottles and cans, and the monies generated from them will be added to the Town of Fowler Playground Fund. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that \$450.00 from the culverts, \$78.30 from bottles and cans, and \$200.00 from scrap metal had recently been deposited to the Playground Fund. The next project for the Town's playground will be a pavilion. The drawings for the pavilion project can be viewed at the Fowler Town Hall.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that 11.4 miles in the Town had been paved this year. Councilperson Simmons asked Superintendent Durham if the new cemetery signs could be installed at the entrances to the Towns cemeteries.

Highway Superintendent Durham asked Supervisor Cappellino if he had heard anything back on the speed reduction request for the Sylvia Lake Rd. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he has not heard back on the speed reduction.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that there was a purchase order in the amount of \$543.00 for Pepsi in August 2018. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the bill was for the new soda machine that is located outside of the Highway Department. Supervisor Cappellino asked who keeps track of the money that is generated from the machine, and the expenses incurred from having it. He stated that he had calculated that the soda machine uses 11 amps of electricity to run it. Councilperson Andrews asked if the machine would be left outside all year round. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the soda machine had only been at the location for a month. The purchase order includes the initial set up.

Councilperson Simmons stated that the bill also included the soda that was used

at Fowler Family Day for one of the children's games. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he had recently increased the price for the soda to \$1.75. He stated that he orders, and Pepsi delivers. He stated that he would move the machine inside the Town barn for the winter. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he is the one who empties the money from the machine. He reported that he would count the money and give it to the Town Clerk. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that the soda machine will have its own line in the budget. Supervisor Cappellino thanked Highway Superintendent Durham for his work on grants and stated that all his work went above and beyond.

Councilperson Bishop asked Highway Superintendent Durham if the logging truck had been removed from the Stone Rd yet. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that they had not started logging yet.

Councilperson Bishop asked Supervisor Cappellino if the new street light had been installed by the Erdman home yet. Supervisor Cappellino stated it had not been, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> it would be one week and if the light was not up by then he would send another e-mail.

Councilperson Andrews reported that he had heard from a Town of Fowler resident that Island Branch Rd, Northwoods Rd, Chub Lake Rd, and the Battle Hill Rd. were all missing their road signs. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he would look into the situation.

Councilperson Andrews asked if the road sides were still being mowed. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that the old tractor is broken down, losing oil with an engine problem. He stated that the old tractor had over 5000 hours on it. After some discussion it was decided that Highway Superintendent Durham would get prices on a new one.

Councilperson Newvine asked CEO Besaw if Dave Blevins had been up to the beach yet to look at the dock. CEO Besaw stated that he had thought that Continental Construction was going to look at the dock. He stated he would get in contact with Dave Blevins to look at the dock.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the Sylvia Lake Beach is now closed, and thanked Town Clerk Kelly Harmer and Head Lifeguard Emily Bush for all their hard work.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the ballfield looked great all summer. Councilperson Bishop agreed, and stated that Dan did a great job on the mowing for the Town. Councilperson Bishop stated that the benches at the ballfield looked good as well.

Town of Fowler resident Richard Clement stated that he had safety concerns at the ballfield with cars being parked on both sides of the road during the ballgames. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he would look into getting signs for the area of the ballfield.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would like to see the remaining sections of fence at the ballfield be fixed this year. He stated that the money could be spent out of the Recreation Fund for the repairs. After some discussion, Councilperson Newvine stated that he would get in touch with Kris Bice to get a cost for the repairs.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the Town is looking into getting the pad poured for the playground pavilion, and that they would need to pay prevailing wage.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the Town needed to get the Planning Board up and going. He stated there needs to be five members on the Planning Board and three members on the Review Board. Councilperson Newvine would like to see the Chairman of the Planning Board hold a meeting to fill the needed members.

Councilperson Simmons reported that she had picked up the cornerstones for the cemetery lots that have been sold in the Fullerville Cemetery, and Dan Fifield would be setting them in place.

Councilperson Simmons stated that the Fowler Family Day meetings are done and will resume in February 2019. She would like to remind everyone that the Back-

Pack Program will begin accepting food items and donations at our next board meeting.

Councilperson Simmons reported that there was a good turnout for the rabies clinic. She stated that this year was the first year that Dr. Twining had not been able to work the clinic. She thanked Dr. Twining for all his years of service to the Town of Fowler, and thanked Eric Putman, for stepping in. She reported that a total of 98 vaccinations were done, 72 dogs and 26 cats. Town Clerk Kelly Harmer licensed 13 dogs during the clinic. Councilperson Simmons stated that the donations received from the rabies clinic were donated to the Town of Fowler Playground Fund.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that the Sylvia Lake Beach litigation as pertains to the Parrow's had been settled in favor of the Town of Fowler, and that he had signed the necessary documents at the Town of Fowler's attorney's office. The litigation as pertains to the Carr's has not been settled yet.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would approach St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre to set up a meeting with the County to talk about the Emeryville Bridge. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had a verbal agreement that Kruger Energy would put money into the bridge. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that Supervisor Cappellino should make sure that the bridge is strong enough for a plow truck to go across.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to go into Executive Session at 8 PM to discuss Union Contracts. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews and seconded by Councilperson Bishop at 8:23 PM to close the Executive Session. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino asked Bookkeeper Finnie about the status of the Highway Budget. Bookkeeper Finnie reported that in June 2018 the Town Board ok'd the transfer of \$428,998.00 from the General Fund into the Highway Fund.

Bookkeeper Finnie stated that the Highway Fund is depleted, due to the fact that the Board voted to get the Town roads done, that was the point of the transfer.

Councilperson Newvine asked Bookkeeper Finnie if there was enough money in the budget. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that 44% of the General Fund has been spent, and 73% of the Highway Fund has been spent. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that by the end of September 2018 that 100% of the Highway Budget will have been spent. The plan was that the Town wanted to get the roads done, and the General Fund Balance was approved to be kept between \$400,000 - \$500,000. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that there will be no negative Fund Balance, she is monitoring it very closely, and that the Highway Budget did not look that bad considering where we are at in the year.

Supervisor Cappellino asked what date should be set for the Budget Requests to be turned in. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that the Budget Request need to be submitted to the Town Clerk and the Town Supervisor by September 20, 2018. The tentative budget needs to be submitted to the Town Clerk by September 30, 2018. The Town Clerk needs to present the tentative budget to the Town board by October 5, 2018. After some discussion it was decided that the budget workshop meeting would be set for September 19, 2018 at 5 PM. The meeting will need to be advertised in the paper.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #319 - #356, with a total of \$499,281.41.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be on October 2, 2018 at 7PM at the Fowler Town Hall.

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

Tami Gale; Deputy Town Clerk