

Town of Fowler Minutes of July 12th, 2021, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting at 6PM.

The Town of Fowler Regular scheduled Town Board meeting was held on the above date with all Board members present. Also, present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie, Assessors Sherry Geer and Kathleen Besaw, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Vivian Goodman, Town Justice Tim Knowlton, Vicky Cappellino, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press. There were no teleconference attendees.

Supervisor Newvine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM then proceeded with the pledge of allegiance.

Supervisor Newvine led a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, all healthcare workers, and for the family of Councilperson Andrews, who lost his mother-in-law, and for the Fuller family who has lost another relative.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes, from the June 14, 2021, Town board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Cleveland. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #13 OF 2021

Speed reduction on the Sibley Road

Supervisor Newvine submitted Resolution #13 of 2021, a Resolution to allow for the implementation of a speed limit reduction on the Sibley Road to the board for adoption. Supervisor Newvine reported that a portion of the Sibley Road is being reduced to 30 MPH after having been evaluated by the NYSDOT and deemed necessary.

A motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland seconded by Councilperson Andrews to adopt Resolution #13 of 2021, All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, ANDREWS, CLEVELAND

NAYS: 0

RESOLUTION #14 OF 2021

Standard Work Day

Supervisor Newvine submitted Resolution #14 of 2021, a Resolution reporting a standard work day for elected and appointed officials in the Town of Fowler for the New York State Retirement System based on their record of activities to the board for adoption. Supervisor Newvine reported the resolutions are done yearly as needed.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adopt Resolution #14 of 2021, All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, ANDREWS, CLEVELAND

NAYS: 0

Town Justice Tim Knowlton was in attendance and stated the court is getting back to regular operations, the on-call duty judge for the County has ended and justices are again responsible for their own townships. He stated everything is going well in the court. Supervisor Newvine thanked Justice Knowlton for being in attendance.

Town Department Reports

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie:

- Reported everything is looking good, expenditures should be at 50% spent and all departments are under 50% spent with the highway being 30% spent.
- The Town had received the 2% Fire Tax in the amount of \$23,805.97 and it was included in this evening's vouchers for the Gouverneur Fire Department. She explained the money comes in and goes right back out.
- Expenditures and revenues are both looking good.

Assessors

Assessor Sherry Geer reported:

- They had received a quote for a new printer from Advanced Business Systems that they felt was very high. The 3 assessors are going to get back together and investigate staples for a cheaper alternative.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- She has been busy working on a couple of genealogy searches for a few people.
- There has not been much going on up there right now.

Animal Control

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Dan Moyer who was not in attendance:

- The dog kennel had been broken into on June 16th, it was later discovered it was a couple of young kids messing around. She reported nothing had been stolen or taken and the break in had been reported to the State Police.
- The Town will hold a rabies clinic on August 12th from 6PM to 8PM at the Town Barn. Everyone is required to pre-register and can do so by calling public health or the Town Clerk's office beginning August 5th. The registration will be opened to make appointments for 1 week prior to the clinic.
- They had a dog in rough shape in the kennel for 1 night. The dog was un-licensed. Its owner was found and after receiving a rabies shot, getting licensed, and paying the kennel fees, the dog was returned to its owner.

Beaver Control

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Moyer's Wildlife Control:

- There was no beaver activity going on right now and he has had no calls from Highway Superintendent Durham concerning beaver activity.

Code Enforcement:

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw reported:

- Everything was going smoothly, and people have been calling him when they need him.
- Reported he will be on vacation August 4th thru the 10th and any code enforcement issues will be handled by Supervisor Newvine.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC commissions for the month were \$22.90, with total DEC sales being \$415.00, she had issued 6 certified marriage transcripts, 2 marriage licenses, 12 Certified Death Certificates, licensed 40 dogs, handled 8 building permits, collected \$26.00 in miscellaneous dog fees, and sold 2 bicentennial books.
- She had received \$134.20 in bottle & can donations, and \$144.75 from 4,320 pounds of scrap metal.
- She had received a \$250.00 donation to the HAP Program and a \$250.00 donation to the SOS program.

- The bear tree rack raffle that was made and donated by Cherie Thomas of Fowler had been raffled on 6/30/21, with proceeds of \$110.00 to go to the HAP Program. The raffle was won by Judy Brown of Fowler.
- She & Councilperson Bishop had taken the free Narcan training offered by St. Lawrence County Public Health Department on July 1st and had both received their free Narcan kits. She reported the class is 45 minutes and can be taken on- line or by phone if anyone is interested in taking it, it is free to the public as well.
- Hunting Licenses will go on sale August 2nd.

Supervisor Newvine thanked Town Clerk Gale for her report.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham:

- Reported the Town will spend \$19,000 on road crack sealing as discussed at the May board meeting. Suit-Kote will be doing the crack sealing as soon as the weather permits. The roads to be sealed are the Doane Road, Hull Road, California Road, and the Sullivan Road, in that order, until the \$19,000 is gone.
- Asked about the paving of the Parking Lot and if any decisions had been made to complete it. Supervisor Newvine stated the board will have a better idea soon of how they can spend the ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money.
- Reported the grinding was completed on the roads that will be paved and paving is set to begin at the end of July.
- Reported all the fuel tanks needed to be re-painted and asked Supervisor Newvine if he wanted the maintenance worker to do the job or his guys to do it. Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham to have his workers repaint the tanks.

EXCESS EQUIPMENT

Hwy. Superintendent Durham provided the board with a list of equipment he would like to declare as excess and have the Town Clerk put out to BID as follows:

- 1. 1 Stihl 250 Chain Saw**
- 2. 1 Stihl 039 Chain Saw**
- 3. 2 Stihl Pro Series Weed Eaters**
- 4. 1 Stihl AT75 Weed Eater**
- 5. 1 Demo Cut Off Saw**

Supervisor Newvine asked if any of the items were operational. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported most of them are defective, and all have been replaced.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Bishop to declare the equipment as excess. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

It was discussed the invitation to BID would be advertised to be opened at the August board meeting.

PAVILION REPORT

Pavilion Committee Chair Michael Cappellino was not in attendance.

Supervisor Newvine asked the councilmembers if they all had received a copy of the sample pavilion use form he had obtained from Fuller insurance, regarding the Town of Heuvelton's pavilion. Supervisor Newvine reported he would like a copy of the sample form to be provided to the pavilion committee members and have Councilperson Cleveland, (councilperson who oversees the Pavilion) to meet with the committee and go through the sample to come up with a new form for the Town of Fowler to use, and present what they come

up with to the board, stating he would like to have the input of the pavilion committee before the board ultimately makes the final decisions.

- Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated he had the excavator, from BOCES for use on the part of the pavilion project that the highway department are assisting with and are ready to start digging but needed some guidance. Supervisor Newvine stated that he could contact Pavilion Chair Mike Cappellino for the plans and start digging any time, that he had spoken to Link Electric, and they are ready to go, the Town just needs to get ahold of them. Councilperson Andrews asked if the septic was being installed now too. Hwy. Superintendent Durham and Supervisor Newvine stated that right now the lines are only being put in for the water and the electric and the septic will be done later. Supervisor Newvine asked CEO Besaw to contact Dave Blevins and have him draw up plans for a septic system to be installed for the pavilion.
- Bookkeeper Finnie reported that all the money had been spent in the pavilion fund except for \$863.00 which won't cover the bills submitted for the month totaling \$3,000 and asked the board if they wanted to combine the playground fund with the pavilion fund as it was because of the playground fund that the pavilion came to fruition. Bookkeeper Finnie reported there is \$18,000 in the playground fund. It was the consensus of the board to agree to combine the 2 funds into one to use for both the pavilion and the playground. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the board to also combine the HAP Program fund with the SOS Program fund to make one fund to use for both programs. Bookkeeper Finnie reported she would have the changes made for the July report.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to combine the Pavilion and the Playground funds and to combine the HAP Program and the SOS Program funds. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked CEO Besaw about a residence on County Route 22, and if he had any plans to visit it any time soon, as he felt it needed to be secured for safety reasons. CEO Besaw said he had asked about the residence once and was told if he didn't receive any complaints to leave it alone. He reported he could do something once a verbal complaint is received.
- Reported he had been checking out the Town roads and feels there is a major problem with big trees that have grown too close to the roads and questioned if the highway department laborers would be able to take care of the trees due to their size. Hwy Superintendent Durham reported that the highway department takes care of tree issues in the fall, and for now if a tree dies, they go and take them down. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated he was not one to go and take a live tree down just in case it might fall, and he is restricted to their right-of-way. Councilperson Bishop reported if a tree was considered a road hazard there were no restrictions on taking it. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied that to take a live tree down an arborist needed to be contacted.
- Reported the foliage is really growing heavy and making the roads dark. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported they had already knocked all the trees back twice as far as they had ever been cut before on every road in the Town. He stated the highway department had just completed their 2nd pass on brush cutting. Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if he was going to look at the need

for cutting again in the fall. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he would, and they would trim every branch that are low hanging in preparation of snowplow season.

- Reported there was a low spot in the California Road that he is afraid will cause an accident by drivers trying to go around it by moving into the opposite lane. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he would take some more hot mix and fill it back in again.
- Reported the cemetery sign on the Farm to Market Road is down again and needs to be put back up when they had time.

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Thanked Hwy. Superintendent Durham for cutting the tree down that was growing up between the V-plow.
- Congratulated Scott Cleveland and Lynn Bishop for winning the primary and reported she had wished condolences to Mike Cappellino by phone.
- Reported that on June 25th, 83 care packages had been delivered to senior citizens participating in the SOS Program in the Town of Fowler and reported the next delivery is scheduled to happen around Labor Day.
- Reported she and Supervisor Newvine had picked up a van full of donated items from Dave Spilman Jr. to go to the HAP Program and thanked Mr. Spilman for the items. Supervisor Newvine added that Councilperson Lynn Bishop had helped un-load and carry in the van full of groceries from Dave Spilman Jr. Councilperson Simmons reported that on several occasions Town Councilmembers including Jeff Andrews and Scott Cleveland had participated in the pickup and un-loading of donated groceries for the programs.
- Reported that people are still donating money and groceries to the HAP Program, stating there has been one resident who in the last 2 weeks had contributed 10 bags full of groceries.
- Reported Krista Wainwright, Exalted Ruler of the Gouverneur Elks Lodge, on July 8th, had presented her with a check in the amount of \$333.33 to support the food programs in the Town of Fowler.
- Reported that Town of Fowler resident Joan Shove, is going to hold a 2nd garage sale over Labor Day Weekend from Friday through Monday and donate all the proceeds to the food programs.
- Introduced her sister Vivian Goodman who was attending the board meeting to everyone. Supervisor Newvine thanked Vivian for attending the board meeting.

Councilperson Scott Cleveland:

- Reported he had received a call from an individual living in Syracuse, who asked about renting the pavilion. He advised the individual that the Town is not renting the pavilion at this time as it is continuing to be worked on.
- He had looked over the sample pavilion rental form discussed earlier in the meeting and agrees there are items to be modified on the form that will be created to use for rental of the Town of Fowler's pavilion, including if there will be fees for its use, and the structuring of potential fees.
- Reported he had visited the pavilion/playground last week and talked with maintenance worker Byron Woodward and reported there is still a large amount of work to be done to the bathroom/storage end of the pavilion.
- Reported the overhead door is still not going to come in for another month or longer.

Councilperson Jeff Andrews:

- Asked about the work that was done recently on the property across the road from the Town Hall. Supervisor Newvine reported that the DEC had been at the location earlier in the month and completed test samples of wells on the property.
- Discussed he had the contact information for the company that is doing the spraying and he would get the information to Hwy. Superintendent Durham for possible spraying of the Town Plow trucks.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Thanked Hwy. Superintendent Durham for all his help with the beach along with John Walsh for doing a great job at the beach.
- Asked Town Justice Knowlton if BOCES had been able to begin work on the cemetery signs for the Town. Justice Knowlton stated they were planning on beginning the work in the fall.
- Reported the Town of Rossie had sent a copy of their insurance to the Town of Fowler for filing with the executed shared services agreement between the two Towns, and reported he had the Town's insurance provider, Fuller Insurance, remit the same to the Town of Rossie.
- Reported he had received a newsletter from the Sylvania Lake Association that included a request for donations to help pay for Milfoil recovery at Sylvania Lake, stating the Town is a landowner at Sylvania Lake, and asked the board their thoughts on donating to the cause.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Bishop seconded by Councilperson Andrews to donate \$100.00 to the milfoil recovery at Sylvania Lake. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

- Reported the Town had received notification from Advanced Business Systems of a severe vulnerability threat that relates to the printing system inside of Windows and the only way to mitigate the vulnerability at the time was to stop all printing by all the Town of Fowler departments. Supervisor Newvine reported he called ABS to discuss the matter and decided the Town could not stop all printing weighing the small chance of a hacker deciding to target the Town of Fowler, versus the need for the Town to continue printing.
- Reported the Town had received its NEU (Non-Entitlement Unit) Recipient Number for submitting information of the Town of Fowler on behalf of our local government to receive funds from the ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie applied for the number and had everything set up for the Town to receive the money. Supervisor Newvine reported the amount to be received is \$216,449 and ½ will come this year and ½ in the summer of 2022.
- Reported the Town had received a small beach violation due to a 3' and 4' float line being incorrectly placed indicating where the water gets deeper with some excess hanging rope, but it was not a violation that caused the Town any fines.
- Reported the Town had received a notification that the Town website should be a .gov rather than a .com, so people would be more inclined to visit it. He checked with webmaster Shari Barnhart, who determined that it can be switched however there would be a charge of \$35.00 per person who uses it, there are a lot of steps, and it takes a long time to get it, so it was decided to keep the .com that we have been using.
- Reported he had received a notice the Town is eligible to apply for a grant to plant trees if there was any interest.

- Reported all board members, Hwy Superintendent, and Town Clerk recently attended a zoom meeting for updating the Town of Fowler's Hazard Migration Plan. He reported the plan needed to be in place in case there is ever any FEMA money to be had, the Town would not be entitled to receive any of the money without this plan in place.
- Discussed he had just read a nice article in the Tribune that the Town of Fowler beach was opened in 1976 and the Town paid \$37,500 for it.
- Complimented Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press for her great article on the vulgarity sign. He reported the vulgar sign in the Town of Fowler is still up, but at least they know the Town is aware of it.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham to remind a taxpayer he needs to trim his hedges again for safety purposes, and not being able to see around it.

Public Comment

- Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported the newsletter published for Sylvia Lake lists the Town Justice as a contact for any dog issues at the lake, and he stated that is not correct. Town Clerk Gale reported in the newsletter, the dog warden for the Town of Fowler is incorrect also. Supervisor Newvine stated he would look at the newsletter and call Jane Dodds to give her the correct contact information.
- Rachel Hunter reported the Fowler Baptist Church will have their rummage sale at the end of August.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to audit the bills. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to audit the bills. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #263 to #313 with a total of \$68,215.62.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be held on August 9, 2021, at 6:00PM.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Bishop, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk