

Town of Fowler June 9, 2025 Minutes of 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, Town Justice Tim Knowlton, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Planning Board member John Walsh, Planning Board & Ethics Committee member Vicky Cappellino, Assessor Chair Kathy Besaw, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Michael Cappellino, Debbie Walsh, Curtis Huston, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Supervisor Newwine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM then proceeded with the pledge of allegiance and led a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, all healthcare workers, and those who have passed since our last meeting: Retha Abrantes, Rodney Shove, and Terry Platt.

Supervisor Newwine asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025 regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland, seconded by Councilperson Knight. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

OPENING OF BIDS RECEIVED FOR ROAD WORK 2025

Supervisor Newwine reported that 2 bids had been received for road work to be completed in 2025.

Councilperson Knight read aloud the bid received from Barrett Paving Materials for Road Work 2025. The bid was received by 4:00PM on Monday, June 9th, 2025 and included a NON-COLLUSIVE BID Certificate, and Public Work Contractor Registry Certificate.

Councilperson Simmons read aloud the bid received from Heidelberg Materials Northeast NY LLC for Road Work 2025. The bid was received by 4:00PM on Monday, June 9th, 2025 and included a NON-COLLUSIVE BID Certificate, and Public Work Contractor Registry Certificate.

BID ROADWORK RESULTS 2025

BIDDER

Project Total

Barrett Paving	\$169,787.00
Heidelberg Materials Northeast NY LLC	\$139,500.00

Supervisor Newwine asked the board about their thoughts on awarding the 2025 roadwork bid. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland seconded by Councilperson Knight to award Heidelberg Materials Northeast NY LLC the 2025 roadwork bid. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Tim Knowlton reported:

- The court has been busy, there were 5 DWI's last month.
- He will attend Magistrates' Training in mid-July in Potsdam.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie was not in attendance.

Supervisor Newwine reported that no report was provided by meeting time.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Kathy Besaw reported:

- Grievance has now concluded.
- There were 5 residential grievances filed this year, and commercial grievances were received from Fowler Hydro.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- The plaque for the Korean Conflict has finally been completed and will be on display at Family Day this year.
- Discussed, we will now need a plaque holder made for the wall to display the new plaque.

Animal Control

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

- No complaints were received.

Beaver Control

Councilperson Simmons reported for Moyer's Wildlife Control who was not in attendance:

- Beavers had been removed from Shantyville Rd and Popple Hill Rd, with a bill submitted in this evening's purchase orders.
- He continues to work on lower Stone Rd and has pictures from the site.
- He has plans to canoe to the beaver sites on CR 22 to break up and remove the dams.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Besaw reported:

- 29 building permits have been turned in to date.
- He had received 1 complaint that he turned over to the DEC, involving a newly installed cement dock on Sylvia Lake, with no building permit obtained. He is going to wait to act on it until he hears how the DEC is going to handle the complaint. He reported he can issue a ticket to the resident, answerable in court for building without a permit.
- He had received multiple complaints about burning.
- He is planning to attend an informative training session to learn more about truss repairs.
- The complaint on the Farm to Market Rd appears to have been resolved between the owners of neighboring properties.
- He may need to issue a ticket for the non-removal of garbage to one of the parties.
- Discussed that there is no regulation on park RVs in the land use law. He addressed that they can be assessed, but there is no present regulation on their placement, and there is no building permit required at this time for RVs.

Supervisor Newvine asked CEO Besaw if he thought the Town of Fowler needed a lawn mowing policy. CEO Besaw stated that there is a State code that mandates that grass cannot be more than 9 inches high within 10 feet of a building. It was discussed that there are several properties not complying with that code. CEO Besaw stated that a Local Law could be passed to make people mow their lawns. Supervisor Newvine asked if the planning board could make a recommendation to the board on the issue. After some discussion Supervisor Newvine reported that he would contact planning board chair Steve Gale to discuss the matter.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$180.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being \$9.95. She had issued 2 certified marriage transcripts, collected \$6.00 in miscellaneous dog fees, issued 13 death certificates, had licensed 31 dogs, handled 10 building permit applications, and had taken in \$3.00 in photocopies.
- Tax collection is over, and 93.84% of the tax roll has been collected. In the year 2024 93.28% had been collected.
- Bottle & Can money in the amount of \$201.18 was picked up by Hwy. Superintendent Durham after no check had been received by the Town of Fowler.
- A scrap metal check was received after our last board meeting in the amount of \$289.45 for 4.49 tons of scrap metal.
- There will be a local government conference held at SUNY Potsdam on October 14, 2025 and education classes will be offered for assessors, board members, budget & finance, highway superintendents, municipal clerks, and planning and zoning. If anyone would like to sign up for the conference training, contact her to be registered.
- Family Day raffle tickets are on sale now through July 19th at \$3.00 each.

Maintenance Worker Bryon Woodward reported:

- He has installed the air conditioners at the Town Hall.
- He is waiting for the rain to stop to be able to complete the new sidewalk at the pavilion.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham:

- Showed the board the 20 new ATV signs that will be installed on Town roads.
- Reported Sylvia Lake Rd has had new signs installed.
- The Country Club Rd will have all new signs installed.
- The California Rd has had some new signs installed.

Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if CHIP funds can be used on purchasing new signs. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported that he could use it on some of them, and the FEMA reimbursement can also be used too.

- Asked for permission to have the paving bills paid as they come in, prior to the next board meeting, so that they can be submitted for CHIPS reimbursement. After some clarification on which bills were being discussed, a motion was made by Councilperson Knight seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to approve the request. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- Reported the loader is still not back from needing repair and has been gone for 3 weeks. It was discussed that the warranty has expired.
- The new 2026 Beam Mack plow truck is in Watertown. It likely will be a year before it is ready to take possession of.
- Reported Suite-Kote will be providing the cold mix for the Country Club Road at a cost of \$140,514.00.
- Reported Heidelberg Materials Northeast NY LLC will pave it and put the shoulders on it three weeks later.

Supervisor Newvine stated that all together we have spent a total of about \$300,000 on the road. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated the total comes to \$280,000.14, which is less than what was applied for through FEMA.

- Reported that the FEMA funds came in today, in the amount of \$280,000.00 and \$12,000, was also received today

Councilmembers

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- In the month of May, the HAP Program was visited 43 times.
- Thanked Mike & Missy Tersmette, Bob Saidel, Sue Porter, and the Gouverneur Presbyterian Church for donating food to the program.
- Thanked Janet and John Nichols, and Judy Brown for the monetary donations to the HAP Program.
- On June 14th SOS Care Packages will be delivered to 109 people.
- Family Day is coming along nicely, with a meeting scheduled for Thursday at 3:00PM.

Councilperson Cleveland:

- He is still waiting for the paver to come and fix the basketball court at the pavilion, which is expected to happen in June.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham about a pile of rock on the corner. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that they had to unload it there, as they had lost a truck and will pick it up as soon as he is done on Sylvia Lake Rd.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham about a culvert for a driveway that needs to be done. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported that he had called for a DIG on it, and it will be done when time allows.
- Asked Supervisor Newvine to contact the DOT to cut back the brush at the intersection of Sylvia Lake Rd, which is causing hazards to drivers there.

Councilperson Leo Knight Jr.:

- Asked maintenance worker Byron Woodward if he had thought about what could be done to repair the beam in the storage barn that was damaged last winter. Maintenance worker Byron Woodward stated that it could be plated with 2 by 6's.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Reported that Matilda Larson, of the St. Lawrence County Planning Office will be presenting an overview of the County's septic repair and replacement program at the July 14th, 2025 board meeting. She will be providing a map of the properties that are in the designated areas and eligible to participate in the program and leave informational pamphlets for the public at the Town Hall.
- Reported that Brian Tripp had contacted him to see if the Town of Fowler wanted to sell any of its land on the Sullivan Rd. It was the consensus of the board that they did not wish to sell any land.
- Read aloud a thank you card from Carol Dier and family for the donation that was made to the Gouverneur Fire Department in memory of Bob Dier.

- Reported the Town had received its permit to operate the beach and continue the process of hiring lifeguards for the season.
- A copy of the Sylvia Lake Breeze 2025 newsletter was received.
- Reported California Road, part way to Balmat, is expected to be paved by the County. The County will also be paving from SH 812 to SH 58.

Public Comment

- Byron Woodward asked the total the Town of Fowler received from Peck's Auction Barn for the equipment that was approved to be auctioned there. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he had picked up a check from Peck's Auction Barn and it was neglected to be mentioned at last month's board meeting. He thought the check was for \$460.00 or \$470.00 from memory. After a lengthy discussion, Supervisor Newvine stated that he would check with the bookkeeper to determine the check amount and to verify that the bookkeeper had received the check.
- CEO Besaw reported that we are free and clear of the fire damaged house next door to the Town Hall. CEO Besaw reported that he had received a call from Town Attorney Henry Leader that the County is going to take care of taking the burned out home down at their expense, in either June or July.
- Supervisor Newvine welcomed Curtis Huston to the board meeting, who was in attendance this evening for a government class.
- Tim Knowlton asked if the new ATV signs were also designated to include snow mobiles. After some discussion, Supervisor Newvine reported he would ask the County what their policy is.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #196 to #239, with a total of \$80,612.04.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on July 14, 2025 at 6:00PM.

The 8th annual Family Day will be held on Saturday, July 19th, 2025.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Bishop , seconded by Councilperson Knight, the June 9, 2025, Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 6:44PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk