

Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for October 2, 2018 at 7 PM

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all Board Members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, CEO Glen Besaw, Assessor Phyllis Shaw, St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre, Debbie Tupper, Tami Gale, Stephen Gale, Dave Martin, Lillith Griffith, Richard Clement, Lisa Durham, Rachel Hunter from the Gouverneur Tribune Press, George Erdman, Vicki Cappellino, Dan Kingsley, and Larry Streeter.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7 PM then proceeded with the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Supervisor Cappellino then asked for a moment of silence for the miner that was killed in an accident at Empire State Mines.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to accept the September 4, 2018 meeting minutes after a change is made to the minutes to reflect that Supervisor Cappellino signed the litigation involving the Parow's and the Sylvia Lake Beach. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre gave the Board Members a copy of the St. Lawrence County Tax Trends. This paperwork is a comparison of the taxes in the Town of Fowler versus the other Towns in District 4. It gives a run down on the different tax trends from 2015-2018. Mr. LaPierre stated that the new budget for the County was presented to the Legislators by County Administrator Ruth Doyle. He stated that it is going in the right direction and the County doesn't need to borrow any money for cash flow. Mr. LaPierre stated that the sales tax went up quite a bit, possibly from the Canadian shoppers. Mr. LaPierre stated that they have \$18 million in the Fund balance. Resident Stephen Gale asked if that means there may be a tax cut. Mr. LaPierre replied that there is a possibility of a small tax cut. Supervisor Cappellino asked if the Emeryville Bridge was dead in the water. Mr. LaPierre replied YES, it is. Legislator LaPierre stated that him and Legislator Leader tried to get support from the other legislators. They even said that the Town of Fowler and Krueger Energy were willing to help with the cost, but the

County said that they couldn't get any funding and that there were other bridges that were closed and needed the funding more than the Emeryville Bridge. Supervisor Cappellino and Legislator LaPierre suggested gathering up a group of tax payers to go to the County Legislator's meeting and speak.

CEO Besaw asked Legislator LaPierre if there was an agreement between the DEC and the County to clean up underground fuel tanks. Legislator LaPierre stated that there is a program. Mr. LaPierre stated that the clean-up of the tanks across the road from the Town Hall has been started and Phase 1 has been completed. Phase 2 will be starting in the next month or two. Once the site is all cleaned, it will then go to the Tax Auction. Half of the money from the sale of the contaminated site will go to the DEC.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to accept the resignation of Andrew Miller and Glen Besaw from the Planning Board. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino administered the Oath of Office to new Planning Board members Dan Kingsley and Larry Streeter.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had issued 3 marriage transcripts, 2 marriage licenses, 33 dog licenses, and over \$4,000 in hunting and fishing licenses and took in \$40 in dog kennel fees. She stated that the installation of the new doors on the exterior doors was completed and that the key fob system still works on the new doors, but you must push the door in and then pull for it to open.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that it had been quiet in the Historian's Office.

Assessor Phyllis Shaw stated that the Assessors have been working on data collection, exemptions and going through building permits.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer reported that he had picked up 3 dogs this last week and one was picked up by the owner today. He stated that the ones that are still in the kennel were two young pit bulls that were picked up down by Vanderbilt. He reported that if no one claims them that the man that found them would like to adopt one of them.

Mr. Moyer reported for Moyer's Wildlife Control stating that Highway Superintendent Durham has him working on 4 sites. Two of the 4 sites seem to be cleaned up, but he is still working on the Shantyville and Stone Road. Mr. Moyer stated that he had seen some beaver activity on another road, but he was unsure of what road it was. He will let Randy know which road it is later. Mr. Durham stated that he is working on grates for the Shantyville Road. Hopefully this solution will work so the grates do not keep disappearing.

CEO Besaw stated that he issued 5 permits, received one complaint that resolved itself and issued a summons to a resident.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that a lot of residents had used the metal bin this month. He reminded everyone that the money made from the scrap metal is all donated to the Playground Fund. Mr. Durham stated that the paperwork for the USDA grant for a new truck has been completed and sent to the USDA. Mr. Durham stated that he would like permission from the board to pursue a grant to pave the Swiss Hill Road, which is .98 miles. It was the consensus of the Board to allow Mr. Durham to pursue the grant.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had received a letter of resignation for Sid Harmer II from the Highway Department.

Councilperson Newvine asked Mr. Durham why there is a yield sign on the Island Branch Road. He thought it should possibly be put somewhere more effective. Supervisor Cappellino stated that Mr. Durham should contact the County to get a suggestion on where the sign should be put.

Mr. Newvine stated that he had received a call from Pitter Patter Daycare stating that they would like to use the parking lot of the Town Hall for an event for Halloween. He stated that they wanted to have a Trunk or Treat. The Board stated that they didn't see a problem with that. Mr. Newvine stated that maybe the Playground Committee could give \$50- \$100 from the playground account for Halloween candy for the event.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he received a letter from Verizon stating that they would start the project of getting Broadband service to our area this fall. Mr.

Newvine stated that he had talked to Kris Bice about replacing a portion of the fence at the Hailesboro ballfield. Mr. Bice will get pricing and get back to Mr. Newvine. Mr. Newvine asked Mr. Durham about the fence that had been taken down on the Battle Hill Road by the Highway Department. Mr. Durham stated that the wire and the posts were not in good shape. George Erdman spoke up and stated that it was functional before the Town had got there and now it isn't. Mr. Erdman stated that the damage was done and that he was never notified of it. Mr. Durham stated that there was brush growing through the fence and that it had to be cut out of it. He stated that he went up there during the weekend to resolve the problem, but it had been fixed. Mr. Newvine stated that they should have let Mr. Erdman, or the property owners know that the fence had been taken down. Mr. Erdman stated that the problem has been resolved and that he just doesn't want it to happen again.

Councilperson Newvine asked CEO Besaw if he had talked to Dave Blevins about the dock at the Sylvia Lake Beach. CEO Besaw said that he hadn't gotten ahold of him yet.

Councilperson Simmons reported that the Elk's Club had donated \$100 to the Playground Fund from the Fowler Family Day. Councilperson Simmons stated that she had gotten ahold of Dan Fifield to put the cornerstones in at the Fullerville Cemetery. Ms. Simmons thanked Mr. Durham for putting the new cemetery signs up.

Councilperson Andrews asked what was going to be done about the fence issue with Mr. Erdman. Supervisor Cappellino stated that someone will talk to the Highway Department.

Councilperson Andrews asked Mr. Durham if he had talked to anyone about the issues with the road going in behind Vanderbilt. Mr. Durham stated that the County is working with the State on it.

Councilperson Bishop thanked Highway Employee Sid Harmer II for his years of employment and stated that he is a good employee who will be missed. Councilperson Bishop asked if Mr. Durham was going to patch the potholes on the

Battle Hill Road. Mr. Bishop suggested putting in hot mix from Barrett's. Mr. Durham stated that he will put in some mulch that he already has, to hold over until next Spring. Mr. Bishop stated that the Mowing for the year is completed. He stated that Dan Fifield had done a great job mowing the Town properties and cemeteries.

Supervisor Cappellino reminded everyone of the Local Government Conference that will be held at SUNY Potsdam on October 9, 2018. He stated that if anyone would like to go to contact Town Clerk Kelly Harmer.

There will be a Budget Workshop on October 17, 2018 at 5 PM at the Town Hall to discuss the Tentative Budget.

Mr. Cappellino went over the scanning quotes for the Court documents. Image Data gave a quote of \$7,100 and Security Scan gave a quote of \$6,995. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to take the lower bid of \$6,995 from Security Scan. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Resident Dave Martin voiced his concern with snowmobile season starting up and the destruction that the snowmobilers have caused on his land. They have torn up the land, scared the cattle and almost ran over Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin isn't sure what to do about it. There was discussion about calling the DEC or the State Police to handle it.

A motion was made by Councilperson Bishop and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to go into Executive Session at 8:06 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to close Executive Session at 8:42 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Executive Session was to discuss a personnel issue.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #357 - #396, with a total of \$46,513.48.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be on November 8, 2018 at 7PM at the Fowler Town Hall.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Andrews to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk