

TOWN OF FOWLER
87 Little York Road
Gouverneur, NY 13642

Minutes for August 21,2018

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Cappellino at 5:00 pm with the entire Board, Highway Superintendent Durham, USDA representative Renee Hotte and resident Larry Streeter present.

Ms. Hotte took the floor and explained the duties and responsibilities of her office. The direct purpose of the agency for Town needs at the present is the direct loan/grant program. Ms. Hotte explained that if the Town were to purchase a vehicle for \$ 200,000-225,000 the USDA grant would be 15% up to a maximum of \$ 33,750. She urged the Town to apply just after 10/1/18, the start of the USDA fiscal year, when acceptance is nearly guaranteed. As the year goes on the grants become much more competitive. Grant caps through this program are based on median household income for the Town which is \$ 48984 based on the 2010 census. Ms. Hotte felt that Fowler would be first in line for a grant/loan award. The loan has currently would have an interest rate of 3.875% that can change quarterly. Maximum term is 15 years for the loan, but it can be paid off anytime with no penalty for early repayment. Owing to the fact that this is a federal loan program the Town needs a Dun's number and a Cage number that Ms. Hotte explained is very easy to obtain and she provided an outline to proceed for same. She further advised that Denise Farber in her office would require some information like availability of funds for the Highway department as well as the Town General fund balance sheet.

To apply and win this award the Town needs to do the following:

Announce the intention to apply at a regular Board meeting, record public comment and report same to Ms. Hotte at USDA.

Contact Attorney Leader to recommend a bond counsel for the necessity of a permissive referendum. Counsel and the Town will then publish a bond resolution for 30 days and then an estoppel notice for 20 days after the loan/grant application is filed.

The Board will address this program at a subsequent meeting.

The Board discussed the exorbitant amount of repair expense for the 2012 International. Per Councilperson Simmons the Town has spent \$ 21,300 in repairs in just 2018. Total repairs are believed to be in excess of \$ 60,000 since the purchase. Vehicle is worth only \$ 15,000 in trade per Highway Superintendent Durham, but he also advised that the truck has to be used for the balance of this year. Superintendent Durham announced his intention to adjust the Highway budget by moving monies from the road improvement to machinery for the purchase of a new

truck. Mr. Durham plans for future paving are tentative but include .7 of a mile on Battle Hill, 2 miles on the River road and some repairs in the Byrns and Shantyville area of the Town. He will also check on the possibility of some help from the Town of Hermon as they own half the Battle Hill Road. He further advised of bills due from County shoulder work. He also told the Board that shoulders also need to be done on Fullerville, Ore Bed, California roads. Choice of material for the shoulders was discussed but no immediate change to material was made.

Board comments:

Councilperson Andrews commented on the roadside mowing and feels the County does a better job and asked if our staff needs further training. He is also concerned with the treatment and care of the equipment by the staff. He also expressed his desire to replace the IHC with the current state contract low bidder Mack.

Councilperson Newvine suggested checking our fund balance and current financial situation with Bookkeeper Finnie before too many expenditures were made.

Supervisor Cappellino would like to see more use of chains to prevent winter season mishaps.

Motion by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to go to executive session to discuss Union contract at 6:15 pm. Vote all in favor.

Motion to close executive session at 6:30pm by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons. Vote all in favor.

Other discussion:

Board feels the need to get Bookkeeper Finnie to more meetings to better educate the members as to our financial health.

Resident Larry Streeter has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Planning Board. The Board will provide the necessary action to appoint Mr. Streeter and seek other volunteers for open positions.

Respectfully submitted,
Councilperson Newvine