

## **Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for May 5, 2015 at 7 PM**

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all the Board Members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Beaver Control Officer Paul Cappellino, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Justice Paul Lamson, Legislator Joel LaPierre, Vicky Cappellino, Herbert Fuller, Debbie Tupper, Wanda Fayette, Bonnie Seaman, Mike Macaulay, Randy Durham, Barbara Cross, Nancy Fuller, Superintendent of Schools Lauren French and Gouverneur Central School District Business Manager Carol LaSala.

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

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to approve the April 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Legislator Joel LaPierre reported that they had finalized the budget for 2014. He stated that perhaps in three years there might be a better chance of getting the funds from St. Lawrence County to repair the Emeryville Bridge. Councilperson Simmons asked if they would keep it open for those three years and Legislator LaPierre said it would be up to the bridge inspectors.

Superintendent Lauren French gave a presentation on the 2015-2016 Proposed Budget for the Gouverneur Central School District.

A motion was made by Councilperson Spilman and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to pass Resolution No. 10 of 2015 for Standard Work Day and Reporting for Elected and Appointed Officials. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Simmons reported for the Dog Control Officer. She stated that there had been a complaint that a dog had bit its owner and another complaint about two lost dogs. She announced that Dog Control Officers Neil and Tammy Hooley had resigned as of May 2, 2015. The resignation was accepted with great regret by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine. It

was also discussed that we would need to find a new Dog Control Officer. We will put an ad in the paper for this position.

CEO Rick Whitford issued 5 building permits and two property maintenance violations for the month of April.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had received 82.76% of the tax warrant. She will be collecting taxes until June 1, 2015. She showed the board and the public the reports that can be printed within the new BAS clerk software.

Beaver Control Officer Paul Cappellino reported that he has been cleaning the beaver grates and that there hasn't been a lot of activity lately.

The Assessor's Office has been receiving a lot of calls about the property tax increases.

Justice Paul Lamson presented the board with a Participation Agreement to start taking credit and debit cards to pay for fines online and by phone. It will be no cost to the town. The person paying the fine would be responsible to pay for the service fees. Consensus of the board was to accept the proposal.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that it had been quiet in the Historian's Office but she had been busy working on a few projects.

Highway Superintendent Sweeney has been having the highway crew cut the shoulders of the roads in Fowler and Halesboro. They have picked up four pickup loads of garbage on the roadside. The plows have been taken off and they have all been pressure washed for the season. Two loads of gravel were taken to the Sylvia Lake Beach Road. The Lamb Road, Shantyville Road, and Byrns Road have been graded. He reported that from December 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 the Highway Department saved \$59,558 on snow removal, sand salt and fuel. Safety Joe will be here Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 2:30 PM for a safety meeting. They hope to get the Chub Lake Road started next week. The Highway Department has rented an excavator for a month to work on the Chub Lake Road.

Councilperson Bishop asked Highway Superintendent Sweeney if he was going to be getting a tamper with the excavator rental. Mr. Sweeney said they would be renting one for an extra \$460/week.

Kathy Moses stated that the Kiwanis Backpack Program is now helping 237 Kids. They are continuing to receive donations. Any donations or suggestions would be appreciated.

Barbara Cross presented the board with a letter asking the town to recognize Marjorie Farr for cleaning up the Hailesboro Ball Diamond, Park Area and the streets of Hailesboro.

Councilperson Newvine asked if the assessments were increased on the homes that received the grant last year. The assessors will be contacted regarding this matter. He stated he would email CSX to complain about the rough railroad tracks on Route 58 by Spilmans Garage and also the railroad tracks on Route 812 by Gouverneur Talc.

Councilperson Simmons reported that Peter Devine, from the SLC Housing Council, has received 45 applications for the grant. It may be the third or fourth week in June before we hear news on the success of this year's grant application. Peter also sent new 2015 income guidelines.

There will be a Rabies Clinic in the Town Barn on May 14, 2015 from 6-8 PM.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that they were looking for two committee members for the Gouverneur Area Development Corporation (GADC). Councilperson Newvine and Councilperson Spilman will be the new members. He stated that the court date for the issues at the Sylvia Lake Beach will be on June 5, 2015 at 9:30 AM.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #135- #167 with a total of \$73,326.99.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Spilman at 9:55 PM to adjourn the meeting.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Natalie Spilman; Councilperson

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk