

Town of Fowler Regular Board Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2020 at 6:00PM

The Regular scheduled board meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date by teleconference with all Board members attending remotely. Also attending the teleconference remotely were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie, Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Assessor Phyllis Shaw, Michael Cappellino, and Rachel Hunter of the Gouverneur Tribune Press. Tom Manley of Pinnacle Technologies set up the conference call. Information on how the public could attend the meeting was posted on the Town Hall entrances, the Town of Fowler website, and advertised in the May 8th edition of the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Supervisor Newvine advised all in attendance that the meeting was being recorded as well as was being conducted according to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1.

Supervisor Newvine called the meeting to order at 6:00PM and requested a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, all of the healthcare workers serving on the front lines, and to remember Anne Kelley, mother of John Kelley, who was an employee of the Town of Fowler for several years, and wife of Ross Kelley who at one time served on the Town board and was a Justice of Peace in the Town of Fowler.

Supervisor Newvine asked all in attendance to state their names before speaking during the meeting as is mandated in the Governor's Executive Order 202.1, and was overlooked at the last teleconference meeting, adding that it would help the meeting run smoothly and keep the public aware of what is being said and by who.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2020 meeting.

Councilperson Simmons reported that she had a few corrections to make to the minutes, stating the first correction was under the Code Enforcement Officer report: Code Enforcement Officer Besaw referred to Local Law 1 of 2020, and he should have referred to Local Law 1 of 2019, no Local Laws have been adopted yet in the year 2020.

Councilperson Simmons reported that under Supervisor Newvine report: Deputy Clerk Debra Tupper was neglected to be mentioned as helping to put together the policy book that was prepared for all board members for the last meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Andrews to approve the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting held on April 14, 2020 at 6:00PM with the corrections. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

OPENING OF BIDS RECEIVED FOR ROAD WORK 2020

Councilperson Simmons opened and read out loud the bid from Hanson Aggregates. Supervisor Newvine opened and read out loud the bids from Barret Paving and Sheehan. All three bids were received by 4:00PM on Monday May 11, 2020 and included NON -COLLUSIVE BID Certificates

ROAD BID RESULTS 2020

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>RIVER RD</u>	<u>KILKARNEY RD</u>	<u>BYRNS RD</u>	<u>BYRNS RD</u>	<u>PROJECT TOTAL</u>
Barret Paving	\$214,490.65	\$27,750.00	\$119,172.90	\$105,314.30	\$466,727.85
Hanson Aggregates	\$195,662.92	\$26,814.73	\$104,984.00	\$94,548.96	\$422,010.61
Sheehan	\$248,811.68	\$35,494.99	\$152,071.50	\$134,872.50	\$571,250.67

Supervisor Newvine asked the board what their pleasure was concerning the prices. Councilperson Andrews stated that the Town did not know yet what they had coming in for money and asked other board members if this was correct. Supervisor Newvine agreed. Highway Superintendent Randy Durham interjected that is not really correct, stating that the Town had budgeted \$313,000 for this project this year. Councilperson Andrews asked if that total included everything. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that was everything that we budgeted, and as you all know, our revenue is low. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that when the budget was done, the CHIPS money awarded amount was put in as \$134,000 and that was the only money that was put in as revenue. On top of that, the Town is also going to get PAVE NY and Extreme Weather, and the total of those two is about \$56,000 in addition to the \$134,000. Highway Superintendent Durham then stated that basically from the State, the Town should get around \$190,334.38

Highway Superintendent Durham reported that he had discussed the receipt of the money over with Don Chambers, St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent, and he was pretty sure that the Town would get all of that money. He stated that the Association of Highway Superintendents had sent a letter to the Governor over the weekend requesting that the money remains the same. He stated that he had attended a conference over the internet a couple of weeks ago and they were all thinking that yes, we are going to get the CHIPS money in the amount that was in the original budget.

Supervisor Newvine stated that they can guess all that they want, what we got to know is exactly what we are going to get. Supervisor Newvine then suggested that the Town accept all of the bids, have Randy go through them to determine what is the best value, and then determine from there what we think we can afford to do once we are fully aware of how much money we have coming in. Highway Superintendent Durham interjected that he had called up to CHIPS today, and at this time the award letters had not arrived from the State, but that they

were hopeful it would be any day. Highway Superintendent Durham then stated that Supervisor Newvine was absolutely right, that we have not gotten our award letter yet, and until we get that, he was pretty sure we would not be doing any of the Byrns Road.

Councilperson Andrews asked when the companies needed to know if they are awarded the paving bid or not, as he does not want to spend any money until he knows what the Town is going to get. Councilperson Bishop agreed that the Town should not spend any money until we got the money in hand stating Cuomo has said that the State is broke, so he wouldn't rely on them. Supervisor Newvine reported that one bid stated it was good for 30 days, so he assumes they all are the same.

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie reported that the Town had only budgeted \$134,000 for revenue coming in, and had budgeted \$313,000 to spend. She stated that right now there is \$179,000 in expenditures to spend that the Town will not get back in revenue anyway. She stated that the board had budgeted an additional \$170,000 to do paving out of the Town budget and taxpayer money. Bookkeeper Finnie reported that the PAVE NY and the Extreme Weather money is not included in the budget anyway as we never know if we will get it. Bookkeeper Finnie stated right now budgeting-wise, the Town has \$179,000 without any revenue coming in. Supervisor Newvine asked if that \$179,000 was out of the reserve fund. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that out of the Highway Fund, the Town had budgeted \$313,000 to spend, but were going to be getting \$134,000 back in CHIPS money as revenue, now if you take the CHIPS away, it would be \$179,000 to spend on road work if the Town does not receive any CHIPS money.

Supervisor Newvine asked the board to entertain a motion on how they would like to address the road work bids. Councilperson Andrews stated that he did not want to award anything until the Town knows for sure what they got. Supervisor Newvine stated that the board would not award anything at tonight's board meeting, reporting that they are still at a loss as to who the best bid is yet, repeating that they need to have Randy go through the bids and determine who the best bid is, and agreed that he didn't want to award anything until we know what we have for money.

Highway Superintendent Durham then suggested that the Town should assess all bids and wait for the award letter from the State, that should be coming.

A motion was made by Councilperson Bishop seconded by Councilperson Andrews to accept all road work bids received. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine reported that the board would get the bids to Highway Superintendent Durham to go through and determine the best deal. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that he will.

REMINDER OF MEETING DATE CHANGES

Supervisor Newvine reminded meeting attendees of the board meeting date changes. The meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month now at 7:00 PM. Supervisor Newvine apologized for the time change of this evenings' board meeting, it was changed to 6:00PM thinking that people would like to get home sooner with everything that is going on. Supervisor Newvine stated that the next board meeting will be held at 7:00PM unless the board decides to change the meeting time, which has been discussed previously and not acted upon for an official record.

Councilperson Simmons interjected that she would like to change the meeting time to 6:00PM, and asked others thoughts on the matter. Supervisor Newvine had a concern if it would be a hardship on any of the Councilmembers. All Councilpersons agreed that the 6:00PM meeting time would be fine with them. Supervisor Newvine then asked the Town Clerk, she did not have a problem with the time change but didn't know how other department heads would fair. Councilperson Andrews asked if it would be a time that would work for Assessor Chair Geer and others who have to travel to work. Councilperson Simmons interjected that Assessor Phyllis Shaw was on the conference call and may be able to answer. Assessor Phyllis Shaw stated that she did not have a problem with it, she was not sure what Assessor Chair Geer's hours were going to be, and given all that's going on, she was probably not sure either. Assessor Phyllis Shaw reported that she could get in touch with Sherry later and discuss it. Supervisor Newvine then stated that the meeting time would be kept at 7:00 PM until everyone could be asked if it worked for them. If the 6:00 PM time change works for everyone then it can be addressed at the next board meeting.

PAVILION UPDATE

Supervisor Newvine invited Town of Fowler Pavilion Committee Chair, Michael Cappellino to give an update on the pavilion. Mr. Cappellino reported that he had spoken to Ivan Shampine of Boland Creek Masonry this morning and he is good to go tentatively looking at Friday, May 22 or Saturday, May 23, depending on the weather to pour the concrete for the pavilion. Mr. Cappellino stated that he had spoken to North Country Barns and they are good with the date as well so that they can begin to schedule their activities. North Country Barns requested that the Town remit a payment of 30% of the amount due ahead of time, up-front for materials mainly due to not being able to move the project forward for a few months. Supervisor Newvine stated that he did not have an issue with the payment as most people require 50%. Councilperson Simmons, Councilperson Bishop, and Councilperson Andrews agreed. Councilperson Andrews asked if the project was still going to be completed by the set date we had for the completion of the project. Mr. Cappellino reported that North County Barns will get started as soon as the pad has had time to cure, 2 weeks to 28 days is recommended for the concrete to cure.

Supervisor Newvine asked if there had been a place worked in the project for a nice flag to be installed. Councilperson Bishop stated that he wants to see a nice sturdy base installed for the flag and that it will be nice to see a big American flag instead of one just sticking off of the Town Hall.

Mr. Cappellino reported that he would check on the protocol for installing flags and see if there are any limitations. He stated that eventually the Town will be installing a septic system between the pavilion and the playground and that would need to be kept in mind while determining a location of the flag. He had spoken to Ivan, and there is quite a bit of top dirt over there that could be built up and sloped so that there is no water catch basin between the two. It would make a nice graded finish, going from the playground over to the pad.

Supervisor Newvine reported that the contract with Boland Creek Masonry will expire on May 15, and in speaking with Attorney Leader about this, he recommended that the Town Clerk could type an agreement between the Town and Boland Creek Masonry to extend the contract to July 1, 2020 due to the COVID- 19 delays.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to allow Supervisor Newvine to sign an extension of the contract between Boland Creek Masonry and the Town of Fowler until July 1, 2020. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Bishop to pay 30% in advance of the total cost to North Country Barns. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Pavilion Committee Chairman Michael Cappellino asked Town Clerk Tami Gale if the Town had received the pavilion plaque yet. He stated that the anonymous donor of the \$50,000 for the pavilion was very pleased with the plaque design and wanted to pay for that as well. Town Clerk Gale reported that the plaque had been paid for in April, but the Town had not received it yet.

Councilperson Simmons asked why they did not have the flag pole be erected behind the plaque. Supervisor Newvine asked Mr. Cappellino if the plaque was going to be attached to the building. Mr. Cappellino stated that was the original design. Councilperson Andrews interjected that the pavilion committee had agreed that the plaque would be placed on the pavilion. Councilperson Simmons reported she wasn't aware of that as she is not on the committee.

Supervisor Newvine thanked Pavilion Committee Chairman Michael Cappellino and his fellow committee members for all of their work that they have done stating that it has been great.

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Ryan Young was not in attendance. Supervisor Newvine reported that he had received paperwork from Court Clerk Irma Ashley, regarding a directive that she had received from the Unified Court System stating that she was not able to be performing any work involving the court. Court is now completely closed until further directives are received.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie reported:

- The Town had received the sales tax check in the amount of \$121,527.70 which is \$7,201.35 up from last May. From the last quarter in February it is down \$12,567.00.
- She reported that from the looks of things sales tax is going down, and it is going to get worse before it gets better.
- Revenue-wise the Town is right on track at between 32 and 33%.
- We have received our revenue right in line with our budget.
- The money that has come in for the SOS Program to date is \$3,564.25 and \$1,425.00, \$966.48, and \$18.00, has been spent. So right now in that account we have \$1,575.52 eligible to spend for donations for the SOS program.

Supervisor Newvine interjected that for the record: the SOS is our Support Our Seniors Food Program that was began to support our 65 & older population during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assessors

Assessor Phyllis Shaw reported:

- The assessors have been sitting with the roll. It is being done by appointment and over the phone.
- They have sat with the roll on May 7th, May 9th, and will be sitting with it again on Thursday May 21st, Saturday May 23rd, and Grievance is scheduled for May 26th from 4:00 PM to 8:00PM.

Supervisor Newvine asked Assessor Shaw if everything was set up so that they would not be violating any of the new rules. Assessor Shaw reported that the 3 assessors sit in the office 6 feet apart wearing their masks and conduct appointments over the phone. Assessor Shaw asked if there was any talk about the building being re-opened before Grievance Day. Supervisor Newvine answered that May 15th is the directive right now. Supervisor Newvine advised Assessor Shaw not to plan on the building re-opening.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- Volunteers Richard Clement and Ivan Shampine have been doing a lot of improvements at the Tri-County marker. They had sanded the monument, built a flower box, planted some flowers, and seeded the area with grass seed and covered it with hay. She and Supervisor Newvine had a chance to stop to look at the improvements last Thursday while delivering SOS care packages. Supervisor Newvine stated that it looks great and if you get a chance, to go take a look at it.
- She had received an email from Dick Clement inquiring about the Town putting some gravel to fix the road near the marker so water didn't wash the improvements out.

Councilperson Bishop asked if Highway Superintendent Durham could take the grader up to the area and grade it so the water flows in a different direction. Councilperson Andrews inquired if the water was coming from us or the Fort Drum side. Highway Superintendent Durham stated he thought it was coming from the County Route 24 Fort Drum side. He stated the County is going to be putting a new road in there and he is not allowed to tear apart County Route 24 as it is County property. Supervisor Newvine stated that maybe they could ask the County to put some money into it.

- The new sign for the Tri-County marker has yet to be installed. She is going to get in touch with Connie Bishop to ask her to be a part of the installation in a month or so and maybe the sign could be installed in June and call Rachel Hunter from the tribune to take a photo.
- That the Town donates \$5,000 a year to the Hailesboro cemetery and she feels they also need to start putting some money into the cemeteries that it owns. Fullerville cemetery in particular has large bushes growing over grave markers and head stones. She would like to see if the highway department or a contractor could take care of that. Supervisor Newvine asked Councilperson Bishop – head of cemeteries to take a look at the situation. Councilperson Bishop stated he would take a look at the cemetery and maybe it could be taken care of by the mowing contractor who is familiar with the cemetery. Supervisor Newvine stated that it would be additional money paid beyond the amount of the contract and that was fine.
- Asked Highway Superintendent Durham to move the sign that reads: items need to be removed by March 31st, in the Fullerville cemetery, as it was actually placed on someone's cemetery lot. It was brought to her attention by the person who owns the lot. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that he will look at that.
- Asked who was supposed to remove the items such as artificial flowers and the like from graves, as there is an abundance of these items in bad shape in the old part of the Fullerville cemetery. She asked if that would be another job for the mowing contractor. Councilperson Andrews asked how it has been handled in the past. Councilperson Simmons stated that it hasn't been and that is why things are

mangled and such a mess. Councilperson Simmons and Councilperson Bishop agreed to meet at the cemetery and take a better look at it.

Animal Control

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

- He had a call last Saturday about a dog on County Route 22. The dog's owner was located.

Beaver Control

Councilperson Simmons reported for Dan Moyer of Moyers Wildlife Control:

- He had taken a beaver on the Shantyville Road.
- He had taken one on the Byrns Road.
- He is working on the Emeryville Road still and reports no activity at this time on the Stone Road.

Councilperson Andrews asked how the beaver control contractor is paid. Councilperson Simmons stated that he is paid by the job. She explained that Highway Superintendent Durham calls her when there is a beaver problem in a certain spot, she then calls the beaver control contractor, he goes and takes care of the problem, watches the area for 30 days, and then after 30 days with no activity he turns in a bill for that particular area. Then Highway Superintendent Durham has to OK that everything is good at the location the bill was turned in for, before he receives payment.

Councilperson Andrews then asked if the contract with the beaver control officer was for a certain amount a year. Councilperson Simmons stated he is paid \$250.00 per event.

Code Enforcement

Supervisor Newvine reported that he had received no report from Glen Besaw who was not on the teleconference call.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- She had collected 81.53% of County Land Taxes.
- Tax collection will wind down on May 31, 2020 and people who still need to pay their taxes after this date will need to send them in to the County.
- She continues to take part in the weekly COVID-19 conference calls.
- Reminded tax-payers that there are cloth face masks, hand sanitizer and hand soap available for pick up at the Town hall.
- FEMA paperwork has been completed and signed and is ready to be turned in.

- Money taken in for the month and paid to the supervisor \$208.92

Supervisor Newvine reported that the Town Clerks office has been very busy and thanked the Town Clerk for taking care of things.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham reported:

- Asked Councilperson Simmons if the beaver that was taken off the Byrns Road mentioned earlier in the evening was the 2nd beaver taken from that road. She reported that it was the 2nd beaver taken from the Byrns Road. Councilperson Simmons reported that Moyers Wildlife Control will be paid for the first beaver in the bills to be audited at tonight's meeting. Highway Superintendent Durham stated then we found out that it wasn't 30 days, but he would let the board handle that.
- Reported that he is running a split shift now working 3 guys on Monday, a full crew on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and whatever he can muster on Friday. He stated that Friday was supposed to be 2 guys plus himself, but he has had 1 guy take vacation for the whole summer.

*****Correction*** It was corrected at the June 8, 2020 Board meeting that when Highway Superintendent Durham stated he had 1 guy take vacation for the whole summer, he meant that the 1 guy was taking only Fridays off for the whole summer.***

Supervisor Newvine asked if he had enough time to do that. Highway Superintendent Durham stated he did have enough time because the guys went 6 weeks on vacation and did not have to turn in any of their time. He stated that they have to let them take their time, or else they will say that we didn't let them take their time, because they have lots of time.

Supervisor Newvine stated to Highway Superintendent Durham that he did not have to let them take their time. Their taking time is at the Highway Superintendents discretion. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he understood.

Councilperson Simmons asked how come he had 6 weeks of time to use. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that they all had 6 weeks to use.

Supervisor Newvine stated that there was nothing that you can do about it, but when that ends and he runs out of time, he would be expected to come back to work. Highway Superintendent Durham stated absolutely yes.

Councilperson Bishop stated that it was pretty sad that the Town paid the guys for 6 weeks, and they turn around and do this. Supervisor Newvine agreed, stating that there was not much they could do about it. Councilperson Andrews agreed that it was kind of crappy.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he and Councilperson Andrews had talked it over and came to the conclusion that if they don't give them their time when they ask for it, that they would be in a mess at the end of the year.

- He would be able to help with the cemetery on Friday, since it would be just himself and Jacob Cunningham working.
- Reported that his Monday Crew did very well today, stating that they are 6 weeks behind right now.
- He had them working filling in pot holes on the gravel roads that should have been done 6 weeks ago.
- He will be splitting the crew during the week and have two crews of 3.

Supervisor Newvine stated that he had a very good report on the highway crew this week. That they are really getting after it, not taking many breaks and doing their jobs. Supervisor Newvine stated that he had heard the report from a private individual and thought the crew should be commended for their work right now.

Highway Superintendent Durham stated absolutely, stating that the crew had decided to not take much hours and grab breaks where they can grab them and that was how they were going to work. He reported that it has been approved by the union as well.

- Dennis Travis is off until who knows when, right now he is thinking it is July 27, 2020. He has a doctor appointment on June 1, 2020. He can't say when he is coming back.

Supervisor Newvine asked when Dennis went off work, and how close is he to being off for a year. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he has been off about 6 months. Supervisor Newvine stated that there is not much you can do about that. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that they had all talked it over and he gets a year.

- Stated that right now Dennis is still on the payroll, and not costing the Town anything, so he would like to bring on some summer help for maybe 1 to 3 days a week if they can find somebody.

Councilperson Andrews asked what about Austin Fayette, stating that he had heard today that he was not interested in coming back to work. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that he did not know, but he did know that he was not interested in just coming back to work on Fridays.

Supervisor Newvine stated that Austin Fayette did not have the license that would be needed and thought that if you are going to get somebody to help you might need to think about someone with the certification.

Councilperson Bishop stated that they needed someone there to supply some safety.

Supervisor Newvine stated that it was a pretty poor time right now to be spending money. Highway Superintendent Durham agreed stating that he wished he could find someone to just work on Fridays.

Councilperson Andrews stated that if Austin wanted to work more than just 1 day a week he can understand that, and asked Highway Superintendent Durham if he did not want to work on Fridays specifically. Highway Superintendent Durham reported that no he had another job on Fridays. Highway Superintendent Durham went on to say that he really only needs extra help on Fridays, and that is all he needs. He stated that most other days he has 5 workers and he can put himself in wherever he needs extra help and that seems to be working fine.

Supervisor Newvine told Highway Superintendent Durham to get an idea of who he can hire and how much it is going to cost the Town so that the board could make a decision.

- The prep work for River Road and Kilkarney Court Drive to do the profile work will cost \$6,500, and it should be able to be done in one day.
- The Gouverneur Elk's Club is donating a check in the amount of \$800.00 to the SOS Program and the check will be given to the Town later this week. The Town Board expressed their gratitude.

Councilperson Simmons asked Highway Superintendent Durham if the highway workers were wearing their face masks. Highway Superintendent Durham stated they do if they are within 6 feet of each other. He reported that he had actually dropped in on a work site today and 2 of the workers were wearing their masks because they were working close to each other.

Councilperson Simmons asked Highway Superintendent Durham about the mattress and TV that was in front of the highway department last week. He stated that they had been picked up on the Chub Lake Road. Councilperson Simmons asked Highway Superintendent Durham who had taken the items away. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that Woods Trash Removal had picked them up. Councilperson Simmons stated that they were still there last Friday after Woods Trash Removal had picked up the Town garbage. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he had called Woods Trash Removal to pick the items up and they did not say when they were picking them up, so they must have come back a second trip.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Bishop:

- Asked Highway Superintendent Durham if the sand was all in. Highway Superintendent Durham replied it was.
- Asked Highway Superintendent Durham how the other plow was coming at Viking. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that they had never ordered another plow. He stated that they had talked about taking Truck 17 and getting it fitted, but that was not

an emergency with the situation that we are in right now, we might want to hold on that. Councilperson Bishop stated that was Highway Superintendent Durham's decision.

- Asked Highway Superintendent Durham when he was going to put the mower out as the grass was going to be growing quickly in the warm weather. Highway Superintendent Durham replied that he would be putting two mowers out soon. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he knew the boom mower needed to go out and the brush needed to be cut and they are going to fit it all in. It is the reason that he was working 5 people instead of 4.

Councilperson Andrews:

- Reported he had received a phone call stating that the County had been doing some work on the Emeryville Road bridge and asked the other board members if any of them had been out to the Emeryville Road bridge.

Supervisor Newvine stated that he had been out there this morning after receiving a call from Tom Ritchie regarding the same concern. Supervisor Newvine had spoken to County Highway Superintendent Don Chambers and he has assured him that the only work that the County has done on our side of the bridge, (by the good bridge), is fixing the cross beams and signs that were cut down. He stated that no work is being done there and there is no work planned to be done there. Supervisor Newvine reported that NTC has a job at the dam by the bridge that would involve them getting a crane down next to the bridge. The work was not going to begin until after July 16th as it takes that long to get the required permits needed to perform work near a river. Supervisor Newvine stated that before any pillars are put up, it would need to be cleared through the Town of Fowler Highway Department as it is Town of Fowler property.

Councilperson Simmons:

- Reported she had received a call from Kim Hart, who is a member of the TOPS group that uses the Town Hall for their meetings. She wanted to know if the Town Hall was going to be open by May 15th so the group could resume their TOPS meetings.

Supervisor Newvine stated that it was his understanding that gatherings such as that were going to be in the last phase of reopening and he anticipates that they may not get back to the meetings at the Town Hall until July or August. Supervisor Newvine stated the priority was taking care of our essential services.

- Reported the Board of Elections had called the Town Hall to inquire about being able to hold the primary at the Town Hall on June 23, 2020. Town Clerk Gale stated that they were looking for a direction from the Town Board including their thoughts on holding the primary at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Newvine stated that we really don't have a way around it. He stated that there was a recent court case on the subject. Supervisor Newvine said that yes, we will allow the Board of Elections to hold the Primary there but involving what scope we don't know yet. Supervisor

Newvine stated that he would call the Board of Elections and find out what they will require from us.

- Reported on the SOS Program (Support Our Seniors). The 3rd delivery of care packages was made last Thursday. She stated the care packages included 15 individual food items, toilet tissue and Clorox bleach in each package. She reported the 1st delivery was of 42 care packages, the 2nd delivery there were 57 care packages and the 3rd delivery had grown to 71 care packages.
- Thanked Supervisor Newvine's sister Krista Wainwright and her husband Richard for their help in bagging the food items and assisting with deliveries for the SOS Program this time.
- Reported that the Town has received many thank you cards in the mail, and have received \$3,724.25 in donations to the program. She stated that one anonymous donor had put 5 one-hundred dollar bills in the drop box. She reported that there was another anonymous donor who just keeps on giving like the energizer bunny.

Supervisor Newvine:

- Reported that the SOS Program has been a great program. He wanted to make everyone aware of how much work goes into the program. He stated Councilperson Simmons, Town Clerk Gale and her daughter have done a lot of the work. He stated they should be highly commended for their efforts. They do the shopping, the bagging and it operates like a well-oiled machine and he stated they had done a super job on making the program a success. Councilpersons Jeff Andrews and Lynn Bishop agreed. Councilperson Simmons stated that it is a job that is not hard to do when you see the people's faces when you deliver the packages and they are so appreciative.
- Reported that he had helped to deliver the 3rd round of care packages and stated if you get a chance to go deliver, it is truly very eye opening. He stated that there are some tremendous homes in the Town of Fowler and still there are people in need of improving their homes and that's what we need to work on. He stated that it is good for the board members to go on deliveries to travel on and see the conditions of the Town roads and what the Highway Superintendent is up against. He stated it was a great time delivering the care packages, stating it is a great program and he wondered how we will ever stop it, stating that if the donations keep on coming maybe we wouldn't have to.
- Asked Councilperson Bishop how his parents were doing. Councilperson Bishop stated that his parents are doing better and thanked the Town Board and Highway Superintendent Durham for following up with him in regards to his parents and their health.
- Reported that there was a little issue with the mowing contract. He stated that Mr. Fifield had applied for and has received his disability. Mr. Fifield has asked if the Town would re-write the mowing contract to be in his wife's name, and he will have the insurance re-written for the contract to be in his wife's name. Supervisor Newvine reported that he had spoken with Town attorney Henry Leader concerning the change

and he did not have a problem with it. Supervisor Newvine asked the boards opinion on the mowing contract change. All three councilpersons agreed that they did not have a problem with it. Supervisor Newvine stated that he will get in touch with the Town attorney tomorrow and have a new contract drawn up.

- Reported that he believes the Governor's office owes Senator Patty Ritchie an apology. He went on to say that Senator Patty Ritchie has been tremendous for the Town of Fowler and the entire North Country. He stated that the Town would not have a playground if it weren't for her. He feels that we should ask that a public apology be made to Senator Patty Ritchie, the gentleman who made the comment should be reprimanded and it was a terrible thing to say. Councilpersons Andrews, Bishop and Simmons agreed.

Public Comment

- Debbie Tupper asked if the extra top- soil from the pavilion pad work could be used to fill in and level the dips by the playground. Michael Cappellino interjected that they had discussed this with Ivan and that there is a good pile of dirt left and he would see if Ivan would be willing to spread it there for us.
- Councilperson Bishop stated that if extra top- soil was needed the Town would get some to fill in the dips. He stated that we are putting a lot of money into the pavilion and playground and we don't need any big gulleys or dips from washed out areas of lawn.
- Supervisor Newvine agreed saying that we have money in the playground fund that can be used toward getting the ground leveled if it is needed.
- Debbie Tupper asked about the flag that is going to be installed at the pavilion and who was going to be responsible for taking the flag inside or it would need to have a light that could shine on it at night time. Councilperson Simmons stated that she thought that a solar light had been discussed to shine on the flag at night to be placed on the top of the pole.
- Councilperson Bishop volunteered to be the person to take the flag in at night- time. He was thanked by Debbie Tupper and the rest of the Town board for his offer to do the job.
- Debbie Tupper asked a question about Austin Fayette and what did Supervisor Newvine mean earlier in the meeting when it was stated that he did not have a license. Supervisor Newvine clarified he meant that he did not have a Class license to drive a big truck.
- Debbie Tupper stated that the reason Austin could not work on Fridays is because he already has 2 jobs and Fridays is one of the days he works one of the other jobs. She just wanted to make sure the Town knew that, and it wasn't because he didn't want to work. Supervisor Newvine stated that Austin is a good worker and he wasn't surprised that he would have other jobs.
- Debbie Tupper stated she didn't understand why the highway department wasn't working as they were exempt from the Coronavirus orders. Supervisor Newvine asked what she meant by being exempt. Debbie stated that highway departments and

municipalities were exempt, that they could have been working. Supervisor Newvine reported that they could have been working, but they were concerned that they weren't safe. Supervisor Newvine stated at the time that this began, there were about 6 to 8 people who had the combination to the door in the Barn, and they could get inside anytime they wanted to. This led the workers to feel unsafe in their work environment. Supervisor Newvine stated that is why the Town gave them the time off and the barn was cleaned, the code has been changed to the barn, so only essential people can enter the building. Debbie Tupper stated that she didn't realize that and could now understand, however she agrees with Councilperson Bishop on his statement earlier in the meeting that she agrees that it is pretty dirty for a worker to take 6 weeks off when they have just had all this paid time off during the pandemic.

- Michael Cappellino stated that he wanted to commend everybody, Councilperson Simmons, Supervisor Newvine, and Town Clerk Gale, Krista & Richard Wainright, and all of the folks who have helped with the SOS Program. He stated his mom gets a delivery and they really appreciate it. Mr. Cappellino stated it is really an awful nice gesture on behalf of the Town, and he wanted to give a personal thank you to all involved.
- Mike Cappellino asked Councilperson Simmons, and republican chairperson for the Town of Fowler, if Nicole Duvee was running for office on the republican line. Councilperson Simmons stated that yes, she had carried a petition around and had gained enough signatures to be on the republican line at the primary being held on June 23rd and will be running against Greg Storie. Mr. Cappellino stated that he will be encouraging people to vote for Greg Storie. Mr. Cappellino stated that Nicole Duvee is running on the republican line in the primary and if she wins the primary then she would basically win the November election. Debbie Tupper added that she is a democrat running on the republican- party line. Mike Cappellino added that he just wanted to find out for sure if he understood it correctly.

Supervisor Newvine asked if Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press was on the teleconference call. Rachel identified that she was on the call. Supervisor Newvine asked her what was new and if she had any new information or insider information for us. Rachel Hunter replied that we will have to know on Friday. Supervisor Newvine thanked Rachel and all participating in the teleconference call for attending. Supervisor Newvine stated that the next meeting is on June 8, 2020 at 7:00PM and he hopes we will be back to normal, if we are not he is not anticipating another teleconference meeting. He stated that he thinks it is time we are back in our own Town Hall, even if we have to social distance at the next meeting.

Supervisor Newvine thanked everyone once again for all that they have done to keep the Town of Fowler the great township that it is and for attending this meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons to audit the bills.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 143 - # 173, with a total of \$14,164.83.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7 PM.

At 7:12PM the meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Newvine.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk

