

Town of Fowler July 11th, 2022, 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, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Assessor Chair Kathleen Besaw, Ethics Committee Member Vivian Goodman, Ethics Committee & Planning Board Member Vicky Cappellino, Data Collector Mike Cappellino, Planning Board Chair Stephen Gale, John & Deb Walsh, and Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press.

Supervisor Newvine 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 for the families of all who have passed: Florence "Sis" Besaw, Wilma Girard, Gary McIntyre, Rosie Moore, Mike Sweeney, and Garnet Weaver.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13th, 2022, regular scheduled board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland, seconded by Councilperson Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Department Reports

Justice Department

Town Justice Tim Knowlton was not in attendance.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie reported:

- She had provided Town of Fowler Cash Balance Reports for Month Ending June 30, 2022, and Budget Balances for Month Ending June 30, 2022, to the board members for their review.
- Being 6 months into the year the budget balances are on track with the general fund at 52% spent and revenues received at 74%. The highway fund is at 66% spent with revenues received at 109%.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Kathleen Besaw reported:

- The final tax roll has been received.
- The busy time in the assessor office is done now until September, when they will be busy working on building permits.
- Data cards are being turned in every month, she reported she had turned in 20 this month and Tim had completed 3 and he had completed them very well.

Councilperson Simmons reported she was pleased with the progress in data collection being completed.

- Newly appointed assessor Tim Thomas has been doing very well, is excellent on the computer and has caught on very quickly. He is eager to get going as an assessor for the town.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- She had visitors to the historian office last Wednesday, who enjoyed their visit. They were particularly interested in maps.
- Mike Tersmette brought her a map of the Town of Fowler from 1890, which she took to Ferguson Printing and had copies made if anyone is interested in looking at the map.

Animal Control

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

- 2 dog complaints had been received, 1 on each end of the California Road. She reported 1 of the complaints ended up having a summons issued and will be answered in the Town of Fowler court for unlicensed dog and for a dog running at large.
- There had been a complaint of a dog running at large near the Fullerville Cemetery, and a warning was issued to its owner.

Beaver Control

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

- He continues to work on beaver control on the Chub Lake Road.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Besaw reported:

- Building has been slowed down by the banks, and there have not been many building permits issued, stating it has been extremely slow for this time of year.
- He has a variance request that will need to go to the planning board.
- He has received a complaint from a homeowner that he is trying to get taken care of.

Supervisor Newvine asked CEO Besaw if he was going to be able to attend the meeting pertaining to a potential solar location at a private residence on the Sylvia Lake Road. It was discussed it is a preliminary meeting being held at the potential site, and some members of the planning board will be there, CEO Besaw would be in attendance and Supervisor Newvine would also try to attend.

Supervisor Newvine asked CEO Besaw what was needed by his office to get something done with a home on County Route 22 that has been discussed at several board meetings and is in very bad condition. CEO Besaw stated the board had previously directed him that a signed complaint was needed for him to take action. Supervisor Newvine reported he had been asked about the home by a taxpayer and he himself, may fill one out to get the process moving. Councilperson Bishop stated he had received a complaint form from the Town Clerk and would fill it out the following day. It was discussed as stated in the health officer agreement, that the health officer could declare it a nuisance, if it presents a public health hazard. CEO Besaw reported he can declare it a nuisance as soon as he has a signed complaint.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$410.00 with the Town of Fowler's Commission being \$22.63. She had licensed 32 dogs, sold 1 cemetery lot in the amount of \$450.00, handled 8 building permit applications, issued 2 certified marriage transcripts, issued 18 death certificates, and had collected .25 from photo copies.
- Soda Machine money taken in for the month was \$196.00 in coins and \$342.00 in dollar bills for a total of \$538.00 since 3/10/22.
- The building permit fee schedule had been fixed to add .02 per square foot for renovations over 50% to floors, walls, and ceilings.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham Reported:

- The Swiss Hill Road is going to be completed this year by the Town of Antwerp, which will match up with what the Town of Fowler did last year, and the whole road will be done.
- Paving should begin on the week of July 18th, with plans to start paving on July 21st.
- He verified the pricing is still good. Councilperson Simmons asked how long the paving is going to take. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported it would take 3 days to pave. Councilperson Simmons asked if that meant the men would be paid overtime. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he had 2 workers who will work on Friday and be paid either overtime or comp pay.
- The town barn is going to be closed this Thursday, for the workers to attend OSHA training.
- John Walsh is going to retire on May 8th, 2023. With this in mind, he would like to move Terrell Ferrer, who was hired on April 18th to permanent part-time, changing his status, which will be no increased pay, but would allow him to receive benefits in 6 months. It was the consensus of the board to approve the change in status for Terrell Ferrer to permanent part time.
- If John Walsh comes back to work this winter, he will run two shifts for plowing. He reported there would be an extra person if he comes back, until May 8th, when John Walsh retires.
- Bookkeeper Finnie asked when Terrell would be eligible for benefits. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated it would be 6 months from April 18th, and he would let her know about a month before.
- Reported all of the new equipment, the bobcat, excavator, and crack sealer, have been out and have been being used and everything is good with the equipment with no issues.

Councilperson Andrews asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham about a purchase order in this evening's bills for \$47,000. It was discussed the bill was for the approved purchase of the crack sealer.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Reported there were 54 people who benefited from the HAP Program for the month of June, which was an increase of 14 people from the month before.
- There will be no HAP Program this Thursday, as preparations are underway for Family Day on Saturday.

- Reported there will be a food distribution this Friday, July 15th at the high school.
- Reported she and Supervisor Newvine had delivered 90 SOS care packages to the Town of Fowler's senior citizens on July 1st.
- Thanked Roger Refici for helping her deliver some of the SOS program care packages prior to July 1st.
- Reported the next SOS delivery will be made on September 1st and 2nd.
- Reported the garbage cans in the Fullerville cemetery are full and need to be dumped.
- Reminded everyone Family Day is this Saturday, July 16th and stated she believed it is going to be bigger and better than ever. Supervisor Newvine stated the new Family Day t-shirts are in and are very nice. It was discussed there were hats, koozies, and wristbands with Fowler logos as well.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked CEO Besaw how long a building permit is good for. It was discussed a building permit is good for 1 year and may be extended for a year if the work is not completed within the first year.

Councilperson Jeff Andrews:

- Asked what had been decided about closing in the pavilion ceilings to prevent the birds from getting in. Councilperson Cleveland reported he is waiting on a price from maintenance worker Byron Woodward, and he had spoken to bookkeeper Finnie to ask if there was money available to do the ceiling. Supervisor Newvine reported the ARPA money is going to be available for this project, as he has just received the notification of the \$108,000 that is expected to be received this month.

Councilperson Cleveland:

- Reported he would be pressure washing the pavilion and raking the playground in advance of Family Day on July 16th to have it readied for the event.
- Reported he had called the New York State Cemetery Association to learn more about the grant process and if there are any programs available to the Town of Fowler for head stone repairs in all of the town cemeteries. He reported he had left a message for the person in charge of this and hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Thanked Hwy. Superintendent Durham for trimming the weeds and brush at the welcome to Fowler signs.
- Thanked Councilperson Bishop for contacting the Lowville DOT to spray around the welcome to Fowler sign located on State Highway 812.
- Reported the paperwork has been received from the DEC regarding the Empire State Mine's project.
- Read aloud a report he had received from the Gouverneur Rescue Squad.
- Reported everything is going well at the beach, with Kortney Knight filling in for head lifeguard Claire Knowlton, who is away on vacation, stating he has nothing but praise for all of the lifeguards this season.
- Reported maintenance worker Byron Woodward had painted the floor in the pavilion bathroom.

- Reported Link Electric had done some work to aid in the issues that have been going on with the light that shines on the pavilion flag pole, and while they were here checked all of the outlets, so we are ready to go for Family Day.
- Reported he had attended the Sylvia Lake milfoil meeting held at the Gouverneur Community Center which was very informational and interesting. They are proposing using chemicals, in addition to hand pulling the milfoil, which has been very successful in other states. He stated the meeting was moderated by Lea Dickson and Mike Tersmette, who did a great job, and reported the meeting can be viewed on the Sylvia Lake website if anyone would like to learn more.

Public Comment

- Randy Durham spoke on behalf of Byron Woodward, stating when the Town of Fowler receives the ARPA money, the furnace in the Town Hall needs replacing. Mr. Durham recommended a propane furnace and feels that a generator should also be installed.
- Councilperson Bishop added he felt the furnace in the Town Barn should be changed, noting he didn't like the set up of the furnace being in the break room.
- Vivian Goodman asked if the window in the break room could be enlarged, to give an escape route from the break room.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #220 to # 270, with a total of \$150,556.61.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be held on August 8th, 2022, at 6:00PM.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Cleveland, the July 11, 2022, Regular Town Board meeting was adjourned at 6:31PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk