

Minutes - October 7, 2014 - 7:00 PM

The Regular meeting & Public Hearing for the Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2014 Overriding the County Tax Levy Limit of 2% for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all members present. Also present were Town Clerk Sherrie Williams, Justice Paul Lamson, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Chair Assessor Robert Fuller, Nancy, Fuller, Randy Durham, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Michele McQueer, Mark Deavers, Henry Leader, Legislator Alex MacKinnon, Peter Devine, Kathy Moses, Debbie Tupper, Vicky Cappellino, Paul Cappellino, & Mike Macaulay.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order then proceeded with the opening prayer & the pledge of allegiance.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to approve the September 2, 2014 Meeting Minutes with 1 correction which has been done & seconded by Councilperson Natalie Spilman. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino opened the Public Hearing to discuss the Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2014 Overriding the County Tax Levy Limit of 2% tax cap for 1 hour at 7:04 PM. This is put in place every year as it is needed.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that Michele McQueer from Hammond is running for the St. Lawrence County Legislator position this fall. She expressed her views to everyone at the meeting. If she is elected, she plans on attending the Fowler board meetings. The board thanked her for coming to the meeting.

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Peter Devine reported on the grant projects progress. He reported that 9 projects are done & 4 to be completed soon. All 13 projects will be done by the required completion date. He is hoping people will continue to fill out applications for future grants. The board thanked him for his report.

Director of the Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad Mark Deavers reported that the billing services & contracts have been changed for the rescue squad. He would like to see a 3% increase in the contract with the Town of Fowler or \$638.47 for 2015. There are 15 paid people & 25 volunteers working at the rescue squad. Volunteers are decreasing steadily. The tax exempt status is in place for the organization. He will provide a budget & report of calls for the board. A new board is being formed for the organization & he is looking for individuals who are interested in being on the board of directors to be in place by 2015. The board thanked him for coming to our board meeting.

Legislator Alex MacKinnon reported that he wanted to amend the County DA office renovations, but the legislators approved the renovation project. The 2015 county budget has been approved & will increase the tax rate by 3.9%.

After discussion, A motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to close the Public Hearing at 8:30 PM concerning the Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2014 overriding the county tax levy limit of 2% for the Town of Fowler & seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED

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After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman to approve the Local Law No. 3 of 2014 overriding the county tax levy limit of 2% for the Town of Fowler & seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that the board would be going into executive session with the town lawyer to discuss lawsuits in progress with the town. A Motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine for the board to go into executive session concerning lawsuits in progress at 8:25 PM & seconded by Councilperson Natalie Spilman. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 8:55 PM Supervisor Cappellino reported that the executive session was closed concerning 3 lawsuits in litigation with the town.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Dog Warden Neil Hooley. There were 9 complaints, 2 dogs missing which were returned home, & 9 new dogs were licensed for the month. She reported that at the spay/neuter now clinic there were 10 cat & 8 dogs that participated in the clinic.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford reported that 11 permits have been issued for the month & 2 were grant permits. The grant projects are progressing very well.

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Town Clerk Sherrie Williams reported that she has been busy issuing hunting licenses.

Chair Assessor Robert Fuller reported that Tim Geer has resigned as assessor & he is looking for an assessor to replace him.

Justice Paul Lamson reported that he has finished the court grant application. He asked for \$22,000.00 for central air conditioning, phase 3 of scanning, & replacement of broken chairs for upstairs.

Supervisor Cappellino reported the board has received a letter of resignation from Historian Connie Bishop for the Historian position effective October 31, 2014. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to accept her resignation with regret & with thanks for her 33 years of dedicated service to the town as historian & seconded by Councilperson Natalie Spilman. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported that there are 2 headstones that need a resting place & would like to have them put at the Creek Meeting Cemetery. The issue will be looked into further.

Paul Cappellino of the Beaver Patrol reported that he has killed 2 beavers in September.

Highway Superintendent Gary Williams reported that the highway department has the roadside mowing completed for the season, brush cutting & ditching has been done on the Stone Rd., trucks

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Are being inspected, sand & salt is all up, & 2 plow trucks are harnessed.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop suggested hiring 2 temporary highway employees for the winter.

Mike Macaulay had issues with some highway expenditures.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop asked about putting rubber blades on the plow trucks. Superintendent Williams will look into the issue.

Councilperson Natalie Spilman reported that a Fowler School Historical presentation will be held at the West Side School on October 14th at 6:00 PM for anyone that is interested. She also reported that the beach is officially closed.

Councilperson Rick Newvine reported that the workers compensation with the County does not interfere with the tax cap & Safety Joe wants to have a work session for the board concerning safety. The safety work session for the board will be held on November 6, 2014 at 5 PM at the Fowler Town Hall.

Councilperson Rick Newvine asked about the progress in the youth grant award that the town received. Supervisor Cappellino is looking into the issue.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that the board has received a letter of resignation from Assessor Tim Geer for the assessor position effective September 30, 2014. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman to accept Tim Geer's resignation for the assessor position with regret & thanks for his

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Service to the town & seconded by Councilperson Rick Newvine. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that Dick Cutway has been hired part time for doing buildings & grounds work for the town. He read Mr. Cutway's work progress report out loud.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that on October 30, 2014 at 6:00 PM there will be a work session for the board concerning the 2015 proposed budget .

The next regular meeting & Public Hearing for the 2015 Proposed Budget is on November 6, 2014 at 7 PM at the Town Hall.

The bills audited for the General Fund were #204 - #232- \$14,634.01 & the Highway Fund #138 - #153 - \$39,898.81.

Kathy Moses reported she went to a school meeting & found out 1 in 5 students in the school system do not get enough to eat on the weekends. A new program called Wildcat Backpack Program has been started to send home bags of food to the students who have applied for the program on Fridays. She is looking for support & help to pack the bags for the kids on Friday afternoons. She will provide a box for the town hall for people who would like to donate nonperishable food for the program.

A motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 PM & seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; Yes, Rick

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Newvine; Yes, Karen Simmons; Yes, Natalie Spilman; Yes, Lynn Bishop; Yes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor Sherrie Williams; Town Clerk

Rick Newvine; Councilperson Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Natalie Spilman; Councilperson Lynn Bishop; Councilperson