

Town of Fowler Regular Board Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes for November 5, 2020 at 6:00 PM

The Regular scheduled board meeting and Public Hearing on the proposed 2021 Budget for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date, at the Town Hall with all board members present. Also present were Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Assessor Chair Sherry Geer, Assessor Phyllis Shaw, Planning Board Chair Stephen Gale, Pavilion Committee Chair Michael Cappellino, Board of Ethics member Vicky Cappellino, Councilperson elect Scott Cleveland, Marcia Cleveland, Town Justice elect Tim Knowlton, Exalted Ruler of the Gouverneur Elk's Club Gresford A Speid, Rachel Hunter Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press, attending the meeting via teleconference was Councilperson Lynn Bishop.

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 to honor Town of Fowler maintenance worker Byron Woodward's mother Shirley and Town of Fowler Planning Board Member Art Besaw's mother Beverly, who both have recently passed.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2020 Town board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Andrews. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2020 Special Town board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Andrews. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 6:02PM Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on the proposed 2021 Town budget. A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine addressed all in attendance reporting the Public Hearing would be left open as long as anyone needs and stated that at any time during the meeting if they have any questions or comments regarding the proposed budget to raise their hands to ask their questions and they would be addressed as they are asked. Supervisor Newvine then stated in doing so he would start out giving the floor to Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie to give an overview of what the budget is all about.

Bookkeeper Finnie reports on the proposed 2021 budget:

- The General Fund has a 2% increase, and the Haillesboro Lighting District has a 1.9% increase.
- The levy increased by \$20,919 from last year to this year.
- There was an assessment increase from last year to this year of \$200, 891. Bookkeeper Finnie stated the increase helps keep the budget at 2%.
- Highway payroll has an increase of 2%, as well as elected and appointed employees have a 2% increase.
- The Fund Balance was used to help with the budget with the General Fund receiving \$16,700 and the Highway Fund receiving \$50,000.

Supervisor Newvine reported there were copies of the proposed budget available for viewing and asked if there were any immediate questions or concerns. Supervisor Newvine reported the Public Hearing would be left open for any questions at any time and instructed the attendees not to be afraid to ask questions.

SOS (SUPPORT OUR SENIORS) GRANT AWARD

Supervisor Newvine introduced Exalted Ruler Gresford A. Speid of the Gouverneur Elk's Lodge #2035, and reported he was in attendance to present a grant in support the Town of Fowler SOS Program. Supervisor Newvine asked Randy Durham, the driving force behind the grant, to accept the grant on behalf of the Town of Fowler. Exalted Ruler Gresford A Speid then presented a \$900.00 check to the Town on behalf of the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks lodge #2035 in support of the Town of Fowler SOS Program for fiscal year 2020-2021.

RESOLUTIONS

Supervisor Newvine reported that he had attended a Supervisors' meeting and shared information pertaining to a resolution in support of the City of Ogdensburg and their struggle to re-do the sales-tax menu. He reported that Bill Nelson President of the Supervisor's Association and Ron McDougal, President of the Mayor's Association had been asked to take part in the sales tax negotiations, and with that being said, presented a resolution to the board.

RESOLUTION # 14 OF 2020

Resolution to support the City of Ogdensburg proposed change in the County sales tax apportionment to local Municipalities.

Supervisor Newvine read aloud the resolution to support the City of Ogdensburg proposed change in the County sales tax apportionment to local Municipalities and presented it to the board for adoption. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to adopt Resolution # 14 of 2020. All in Favor.
MOTION CARRIED

AYES: 4 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, ANDREWS, BISHOP

NAYS: 0

Supervisor Newvine asked if there were any questions. Michael Cappellino asked how changes that Ogdensburg propose effects the Town of Fowler. Supervisor Newvine reported with the changes that Ogdensburg have proposed the Town of Fowler would garner \$140,000 per year in sales tax stating in the County's formula the Town still makes quite a portion of sales tax, but it hurts the City of Ogdensburg. They are being asked to give up \$180,000 a year for 10 years, and conversely the City of Ogdensburg is asking the County to give up 6 million dollars in sales tax a year. Supervisor Newvine reported the only way the Town would lose, is if Ogdensburg decides to pre-empt their sales tax, then the Town is at the County's mercy. Bookkeeper Finnie reported the Town had just received its 4th quarter sales tax in the amount of \$159,112, the amount received in August was \$117,560, stating we had received an additional \$41,000 this last quarter. She stated it looks like the sales tax is going up. Supervisor Newvine stated the speculation is the increase in sales tax is from the sharing of internet tax, which it is believed the County has not been doing until now. Supervisor Newvine reported that everyone is trying to protect their own budget. He feels that the City of Ogdensburg has had our back since 1965 so he feels it behooves us to try to help them by each township sending a resolution in support of the City of Ogdensburg.

Supervisor Newvine asked if there were any questions on the proposed 2021 budget and reported they would entertain a motion to pass the resolution on adopting the budget if there were no questions or concerns. He reported the budget was quite easy this year and complimented Bookkeeper Finnie on a great job preparing it. Bookkeeper Finnie reported that \$460,000 was budgeted for sales-tax in 2020, and we came in at \$532,296,

\$72,300 more than what was budgeted. Supervisor Newvine stated that amount would go to the Fund Balance and help us next year. Bookkeeper Finnie reported most of the revenue is coming in more than what was budgeted, and it is going to help our budget for the next year.

At 6:15PM with no questions or concerns regarding the proposed budget, a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to close the Public Hearing on the budget. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION #15 OF 2020

Adoption of Town Budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

Supervisor Newvine presented Resolution #15 of 2020 to the board for adoption. A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons to adopt Resolution # 15 of 2020. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED

AYES: 4 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, ANDREWS, BISHOP

NAYS: 0

PAVILION UPDATE

Supervisor Newvine invited Pavilion Committee Chair Michael Cappellino to give the board an update on the pavilion. Mr. Cappellino reported he is awaiting a phone call from Edwin of North Country Barns with an estimate for the remaining work on the Pavilion. Mike Cappellino stated there may be an issue with the electrical not being able to accommodate 200 amp service, which isn't a big deal, instead a 100 amp service could be run from the main panel in the front of the building. He stated he is hopeful it could be done before snow flies, but it is up to their schedule at this point. Councilperson Andrew asked if they will work on it if winter sets in or wait till spring. Mike Cappellino stated he thought they would, depending on the temperature.

TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Justice

Town Justice Travis Dann was not in attendance.

Bookkeeper

Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie reported:

- CHIPS Extreme Weather funding had been received. She stated this is where the revenue in the budget comes from and it was put into the budget for \$134,000 for the 2020 budget and we ended up getting \$152,260.
- Expenditures are coming in, and at this point we should be at 80% spent. The General Fund is at 82% spent, so we are a little over but there aren't that many bills left to come in for the year.
- The Highway is at 72% spent.
- The Fire Contract will be paid next month.
- Actual revenue should be at 80% and revenue for the General Fund is at 90%, and revenue for the Highway Fund is at 95%, which is good.
- The retirement bill that just came in for the year was under budgeted by \$2,100 which will be covered by the extra revenue received.

Assessors

Assessor Chair Sherry Geer reported:

- They have been out checking on completed work from building permits.
- Assessor Besaw has taken her Assessor Fundamentals course and exam.

- She had handed out copies of the Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption and the sliding scale that is used by the County for the boards review.
- The Town of Fowler is at \$6,000 right now and there are 8 people in the Town who receive this exemption. She stated if the Town did want to adopt a higher amount she didn't know if the board would want to match what the County does or apply a different amount.

Supervisor Newvine asked Assessor Chair Geer if she had a recommendation to change it to. Assessor Chair Geer stated some of the other Towns' choose the amount that the County uses. Supervisor Newvine had discussed changing the amount to \$15,000 which would make 50% off the assessment. Supervisor Newvine reported the last adjustment made to the Senior Citizen Exemption was done in 1983. It was discussed in order to make a change to the Senior Citizen Real Property Tax exemption the Town would need to hold a public hearing and amend the Local Law. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to increase the Senior Citizen Exemption to \$15,000 and Assessor Chair Geer will get in touch with Town Attorney Henry Leader to begin the process. Assessor Chair Geer will verbally notify the County of the Town's intentions and a Public Hearing on the matter will be tentatively scheduled for January.

Councilperson Simmons asked if the Assessors have any idea of how far along the Data Collection is. Assessor Chair Geer and Assessor Phyllis Shaw stated it was a little over a third completed. Assessor Chair Geer stated COVID-19 had really slowed things down. Supervisor Newvine stated he had looked at last years minutes and it stated 760 had been completed plus the ones that Devon Korn had completed thought to be around 300. Assessor Chair Geer stated that the cards Devon had completed really needed to be re-done with the time that has gone by.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- It has been pretty quiet and no one has been to visit the Historian's office in awhile.

Animal Control

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Animal Control Officer Dan Moyer who was not in attendance:

- There was an incident with some chickens down the road from the Town Hall. People have free roaming chickens that wandered into the neighbor's yard and pecked an individual on the leg. There have been 3 complaints regarding the same free-roaming chickens and 1 complaint form has been filed.
- Dan has reported there is nothing he can do, so the complaint was turned over to Code Enforcement Officer Besaw, and there isn't much he can do as there is nothing in the code regarding chickens. CEO Besaw stated in the Ag & Markets Law it states you can't let livestock migrate to other properties, but he can't enforce that, it would be the Sheriff 's Department who would need to be called. Supervisor Newvine asked CEO besaw to let the parties know who they need to call.
- There was a complaint on CR 22 about a neighbor's dog going into their yard and causing problems. The dog was not licensed. Dan went to speak to the owner of the dog. The dog was licensed the next day and the complaint was resolved.

Supervisor Newvine reported he had received an inspection report from Ag & Markets and everything had passed. Councilperson Simmons stated that the paperwork as well as the kennel were checked during this inspection and everything was found to be in order.

Beaver Control

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Moyer's Wildlife Control:

- He is working on the Shantyville Road and has a couple of traps set there.
- He was paid this week for removing beavers from the Stone Road and the Country Club Road.

Highway Superintendent Durham reported that there are still dams in culverts on the Stone Road and the Shantyville Road. Councilperson Simmons reported she would call Dan and let him know.

Councilperson Andrews asked if the highway department still put grates in front of the culverts. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied that they did.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw reported:

- He had received 4 complaints of which 3 of the complaints didn't pertain to code enforcement or the Town.
- 1 of the complaints he is working with the Planning board on and is a violation of the Local Land Use Law.
- It has been very busy, and the contractors are all busy working.
- There are 10 new houses being built in the Town, very nice houses, which is a positive for the Town.
- He has sent a letter to the owner of the home on the Island Branch Road that has been causing the problem with sand coming into the road, and has spoken with Hwy. Superintendent Durham about a few ideas that may possibly help abate the situation without costing anybody anything.
- On the ongoing trash problem on CR 22. He stated one of the people have been to court, pled guilty and paid a fine, and with that having been dealt with in court he will need to start over this time going after the owner of the property.

Supervisor Newvine reported that he had received a call from a neighbor of the nuisance property, and he was pleased that it has begun to be picked up.

- That he expects to close a lot of the building permits in the next couple of weeks with all the work that is getting done with the nice weather.

Supervisor Newvine commented that Code Enforcement Officer Besaw has been doing a good job.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- DEC Gross sales for the month were \$3,243.00 with the Town of Fowler Commission being \$128.05. She had licensed 43 dogs, handled 11 building permits, issued 1 marriage license, issued 1 certified marriage transcript, and had issued 17 death certificates.
- The new intercom/door unlock system was installed by Barkley's Safe and Lock earlier in the day and is amazing.
- She had made a deposit into the Playground Fund of \$244.80 from bottles and can donations (\$154.80), cancelled family day donations that were asked to be used for the playground (\$90.00), and the Town had just received a scrap metal check in the amount of (\$82.00).

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham reported:

- The USDA Application is almost complete and the new Plow Truck has been ordered.
- He had received a complaint from Mitch Hays concerning the speed vehicles are traveling on the Sibley Road and upper California Road. Mr. Hays would like the Town to petition the County for speed limits on these roads.

SPEED LIMIT REQUEST

After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to petition the County for a speed limit on the upper end of the California Road (from Kellogs Corners to the Pitcarin Town Line). All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

After more discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons to petition the County for a speed limit on the Sibley Road. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

It was discussed that Town Clerk Gale would prepare resolutions to submit the speed limit requests for adoption at the next board meeting.

- That he had prepared for the board a list of Town of Fowler Seasonal Roads. He stated that there had been no changes to the list, and it is the same as last year, and the year before that.

Seasonal Roads in the Town of Fowler December 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020:

1. Stone Road from bus turn around to Orebed Road.
2. Sibley Road from bus turn around to State Land.
3. Fire Falls Road from Luke Gates to Town of Fowler line.
4. Lamb Road from Country Club Road to Town of Fowler line.
5. Shantytown Road from the bus turn around to the Besaws.

****Shantytown Road was added to the list due to a reminder from Councilperson Lynn Bishop****

Taxpayer Michael Cappellino made a request to the Town of Fowler board to drop the Firefalls Road from the Seasonal Roads list in the Town of Fowler December 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020. He stated that he and Vicky had purchased the place at the end of the Firefalls Road, stating there is solar power there and they intend to use it year- round.

Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham his thoughts on the request.

Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied:

- The Firefalls Road would need to be plowed with a pick -up, that there was no way a big plow could get through there.
- It would be a major construction project to get the road in condition so that a big plow truck could plow it.

Councilperson Andrews stated there was no place to turn around up there.

Michael Cappellino stated that they turn around in Luke Gates driveway now, and that there is a turn- around at the end of the road.

Councilperson Andrews asked Michael Cappellino if he wanted the Town to Plow all the way to the turn-around at the end.

Michael Cappellino stated it would be 7 tenths of a mile from where Luke Gates house is to the end of the road.

Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy Superintendent Durham if he could do all of that with a pick-up truck.

- Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied he would have to, it can't be done with a big plow truck, and it would ruin the truck within a year.

Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated it is not his decision, it is the boards' decision.

Supervisor Newvine asked the board their thoughts on the request.

Councilperson Bishop: * Asked how far it was being asked to be plowed and for what reason.
 * Stated it was a long way to plow with a pick-up, it would be a lot of wear and tear on the pick-up and he was against it.
 *If the Town started doing this, they would be plowing a lot of private driveways.

Michael Cappellino replied that the Firefalls Road is a Town Road.

Supervisor Newvine: *Reported that yes, the Firefalls Road is a Town Road.

Councilperson Andrews: *Stated that he thought they would have a hard time plowing if we got a lot of snow, and he would have to say no.

Hwy. Superint. Durham: *Reported he would have to say no for this year, give him a year to prep. Then stated he didn't have a vote though.

Councilperson Simmons: *Asked Michael Cappellino how long before he moves to the location permanently.

Michael Cappellino replied that the property will be their 2nd home where they will go to recreate such as hunting and to ski.

Supervisor Newvine: * Stated the Town will have Hwy. Superintendent Durham start doing some prep work there and see what they can come up with for next year.

Hwy. Superint. Durham: *Stated the whole thing would have to be ditched, and some surface would need to be put in there.

*Stated Mike owns the whole thing now and there is never going to be anyone else building anything up there.

*Stated his primary goal on building all of these new roads is to get new houses to come to Fowler.

Michael Cappellino replied that there is another camp in there.

Hwy. Superint. Durham: *Replied yeah, way up.

Supervisor Newvine stated that they will let the seasonal roads stand the way that they are for this year and asked for a motion to declare the roads seasonal.

Councilperson Bishop posed a question to Highway Superintendent Durham before the motion to declare the roads seasonal is made. He asked if the Shantville Road should be added to the list of seasonal roads.

Highway Superintendent Durham thanked Councilperson Bishop for catching his oversight and stated that Shantville Road from the bus turn around to the Besaws needed to be added to the seasonal roads list.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to declare the roads as seasonal. A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Jeff Andrews:

- Asked if the Town pick-up trucks had headache racks on them. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied that they did not.
- Suggested the Town look into a price to have them installed and stated that they would be a good idea.

Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham how much it cost to have the window in the pick-up truck fixed. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported it cost \$289.00.

Supervisor Newvine stated that a headache rack would have prevented the recent broken window in the Town pick-up truck and thought having them installed would be a good idea.

- Asked if Truck 17 was back with the new plow system. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported that it was.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if everything had run well Monday morning with the first snow. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied everything went well, and it was discussed the roads were slippery.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Asked about the air chamber in the new plow system and how they were installed.
- Asked if there was a high and low point on the new plow system so you could apply more pressure if you had to. Hwy. Superintendent replied there was, and it is driven up and down by hydraulics.
- Asked if the roads were being sanded both ways or just one way, because after the slippery roads on Monday it looked to him like the sand was staying in just one lane. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated the 1st day they sanded they only put sand down one way, which he stated was SOP, meaning (standard operating procedure), but it should have been toward the center. He stated on the 2nd day, it was just up in Fullerville, and they had to scrape and sand everything up there.
- Asked on roads like the Glasby Road if the plows are only sanding one way. Hwy. Superintendent reported that on straight- a- ways that is the SOP, meaning (standard operating procedure) except for corners and hills.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham to remind the highway laborers to watch out for the bridge joints, railroad crossings and the soft shoulders when plowing.

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Reported she was looking at the Talk of the Town magazine, provided by the Association of Towns and on page 18 there is an article about buying and selling highway equipment. She reported it states in the article that the Town should be adopting a resolution when they get rid of highway equipment like the sander the Town of Fowler just gave to the Town of Antwerp.
- Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated yeah we gave the sander away, we declared it as excess a year and a half ago, and we couldn't sell it, we couldn't give it away, and we finally got somebody who wanted to take it.

Supervisor Newvine stated that they had given it away with the consensus of the board. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated yes, I called the board, and the board said yes, I could give it away. Councilperson Simmons stated she knows he called the board, but it should have been decided at a meeting with a resolution so the public would know what was done with it, after all it is their tax payer dollar. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated it can be noted in the minutes of tonight's meeting.

- Thanked Hwy. Superintendent Durham for having Nelson Bice replace the no entry tape on the front entrance to the Town Hall that was removed due to the election.
- Congratulated Scott Cleveland and Tim Knowlton on winning their election on Tuesday.
- Reminded Sherry Geer and Glen Besaw to submit their newsletter update for 2021.

Supervisor Newvine:

- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if there would be another option to the \$60,000 crack sealer quote that was obtained. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied not to do it the right way. After some discussion, it was decided the purchase would no longer be entertained.
- Asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham about the Fire extinguisher bill that was in the purchase orders this month. It was discussed that some of the extinguishers both in the Town Hall and the Town Barn needed to be replaced. After some discussion, it was decided that the Town should get a quote from Oswego Fire Suppression to see if they are less costly.
- Reported that 2 of the railroad crossings were completed and thanked Hwy. Superintendent Durham and his crew for their work on them.
- Thanked Hwy. Superintendent Durham for re-painting the handicap parking areas at the Town Hall.
- Thanked Byron Woodward for re-painting the yellow striping in the parking lot and for repairing the playground steps.
- Reported the Town had received a 2nd water test report from Converse Labs for Sylvia Lake regarding a high E-coli test result in Hotel Bay and the readings are back to normal. It was reported that the high-test result is likely to have been caused from bird defecation in the water.

- Reported New York State has a new Travel Advisory and quarantine mandate. The forms are available from the Town Clerk's office if anyone has a need for them.
- He had checked the nets at the Hailesboro ball- field and they were installed not to be taken down.
- Asked if the Town needed to obtain fuel bids this year. It was discussed that fuel bids are obtained every 2 years and are due to be put out to bid in 2021.
- Apologized to the general public for all of the heavy traffic on election day involving the big Town trucks and recommended for safety reasons they will entertain giving the highway department the day off in the future for presidential general elections.
- Stated that while it is not the duty of the Town board to congratulate the winners of the election, he wanted to congratulate all the winners, because the Town had 4 new people who got involved in local politics this year and he is hopeful that those who didn't make it will try it again. He stated it was very nice to see the new faces and to have people in the Town of Fowler who are dedicated like that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:53PM Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion for the board to enter into executive session. A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

At 6:55PM Highway Superintendent Randy Durham was invited into the executive session.

At 7:05PM Highway Superintendent Randy Durham exited from the executive session.

At 7:07PM Assessor Chair Sherry Geer and Assessor Phyllis Shaw were invited into the executive session.

At 7:16PM a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to end the executive session. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine reported on the 2 items that were discussed in the executive session. The first was to give Highway Superintendent Durham some direction as to some plowing complaints and plowing issues concerning the loading of the trucks and some discipline issues that have to be dealt with, and they discussed how the board would like to proceed.

The second item discussed was concerning the assessors and a question on who will continue to be the chair of the assessors right now with Assessor Chair Sherry Geer having some things going on. Supervisor Newvine reported that Sherry is going to check things out and get back to the board. Supervisor Newvine stated that the board certainly hopes Sherry can stay on, as she has been very good to us, and we will handle that down the road.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Michael Cappellino asked the board to clarify if work on the Firefalls Road was going to be performed by Highway Superintendent Durham to prepare it for plowing next year. Supervisor Newvine replied that Hwy. Superintendent Durham will take a look at it and see what the Town would need to do and then a decision will be made on how to proceed and when to do it.
- Michael Cappellino stated that there are 3 other property owners on the Firefalls Road besides he and Vicky and at the very least the road needs some ditching, some serious ditching, otherwise the road washes out, and that is one of the reasons it needs to be brought up to some specs. Michael Cappellino stated the Town had some issues years ago on the Shantyville Road where a motorcyclist was in an accident because the road was not maintained, and the Town lost the lawsuit. He stated the point being that the road should be maintained, ditches too, so the middle of the road isn't being rutted up and washed out all of the time. He stated he just wanted to make sure that it was part of the agreement that next year we would be looking into this again. Supervisor Newvine stated that Highway Superintendent Durham will look into it and give the board his recommendations as to how to proceed, what it will cost and then they could make a decision as to when and how they can do it.
- Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated that it is something that needs to be budgeted and he can't just go out and spend \$300,000 dollars, stating it would need to have a whole new base in , all of the

ditching, and a whole summer would be spent there. Supervisor Newvine directed Hwy. Superintendent Durham to put some figures together for the project.

- CEO Besaw reported he had received a call from a production company in California who asked if they needed a permit to put Christmas lights up in Fullerville. He reported he had asked the caller several questions regarding the Christmas lights and if the Town would be receiving any bills and the caller did not seem to know the answers. CEO Besaw stated he gave the production company Supervisor Newvines number for further discussion on the matter.
- Stephen Gale reported he had contacted the County Planning Office regarding setting up a solar law for the Town of Fowler. The planning board held a meeting on October 19, where sample solar laws from surrounding Towns were given to planning board members for review. The County advised the Town could add solar to the land use law or choose to adopt a separate local law for solar to include decommissioning to protect the land- owner. The County recommended submitting a rough draft to them to review and they would give their recommendations, then a final draft would be sent to the County for their approval before a public hearing would be held for proposed adoption. He advised he would call Town Attorney Henry Leader for guidance on this as well as another planning board issue.
- Tim Knowlton asked Councilperson Andrews if they had thought of asking BOCES, and Welding Instructor Jared Prashaw about making the racks for the highway truck windows that were discussed earlier in the meeting. He stated that he has seen very nice ones made there. All board members agreed that this was a good idea. He reported he would mention the truck racks to Jared Prashaw and was sure he would be more than happy to help out the Town.
- Tim Knowlton stated the next time there is an open house at BOCES, it is worth going to see all of the renovations that have been completed, reporting it is state of the art.
- Tim Knowlton thanked everybody for the overwhelming support he received in the election. He stated for the people who didn't win their races, they are to be applauded, stating it takes a lot to put yourself out there, stating it is refreshing to see the class and respect that was shown by the candidates who ran in the Town of Fowler election. Supervisor Newvine added that hopefully they will run again.
- Scott Cleveland expressed his appreciation to the residents of the Town of Fowler for electing him as their new Councilperson. He stated he appreciates it and looks forward to working with the board and he can't wait to get started.
- Scott Cleveland thanked Republican Committee Chairperson for the Town of Fowler, Karen Simmons for her guidance. Supervisor Newvine reported that they are lining up Scott's chores.
- Rachel Hunter, Editor of the Gouverneur Tribune Press asked the board for an update on the SOS Program and what the grant from the Elk's Club presented earlier in the meeting will be used for. Councilperson Simmons reported there will be another SOS delivery on November 20th. She reported the delivery will be a little different this time keeping with the theme of Thanksgiving. She reported there are 72 senior citizens already on the list and they are buying enough for 75 packages to be delivered. If you know of any senior citizen who does not receive a delivery get in touch with her. She reported Supervisor Newvine will once again be assisting with the deliveries, and everyone receiving the deliveries, are so appreciative and so thankful for the Town doing this program. She was told by a recipient that they don't know of any other Town that would do this and they appreciate it and are so thankful. Supervisor Newvine reported it is because of the people in the Town of Fowler that the program is possible as it is all donated money. Michael Cappellino asked the amount of the grant that was given this evening by the Elk's Club. Councilperson Simmons replied it was for \$900.00. Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie reported there is a little over \$1,000.00 left in the SOS account before the Elk's Club donation is added. Councilperson Simmons reported that the delivery will spend a majority of it.
- CEO Besaw discussed the need to create new building permits with a change in fees, and updated forms, and asked the board who they wanted to work on it. Supervisor Newvine stated he trusted

Glen and Town Clerk Gale to come up with a new version of the building permit and stated it would be nice to have by the December board meeting for the boards approval to go into effect on January 1, 2021.

- Randy Durham reported on Veterans Day at the Gouverneur Elk's Club there will be a free turkey dinner starting at 4:00PM for all veterans and their spouses. If you are not a veteran, the meal can be purchased for \$12.00.

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 368 - # 411, with a total of \$82,874.90.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6PM.

At 7:35PM a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons to adjourn the meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk