

Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for February 3, 2015 at 7 PM

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler and Public Hearing for the Grant was held on the above date with all board members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Deputy Dog Warden Tammy Hooley, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Justice Paul Lamson, Assessor Doug Turner, Legislator Joel Lapierre, Mike Macaulay, James Hadfield, Dustin Fayette, Wanda Fayette, Debbie Tupper, Randy Durham, Sheila Davison, Colter Davison, Bonnie Seaman, Donnie Seaman, Kathy Moses, Alex MacKinnon, and Michelle Durham and Peter Devine with the St. Lawrence Housing Council.

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

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine and seconded by Karen Simmons to approve the January 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes and the minutes from the Special Meeting on January 20, 2015 with the Assessors. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino opened the public hearing at 7:03 PM for the CDBG Grant. Michelle Durham, the new Executive Director, discussed the steps needed to get the next CDBG. They have received 22 applications for the grant and will need a total of 30 before they can apply. If the grant is secured, it will be used for low and moderate income owner occupied Fowler homes. They are hoping to do 14 or 15 homes with this second round of funding. Michelle stated that we needed to have a windshield survey done on all properties in the Town of Fowler, before the start of the grant. The board agreed that we could have this done and to her before February 27, 2015. A motion was made by Councilperson Karen Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Rick Newvine for a Resolution Authorizing Submission of the Community Development Block Grant Application. All in Favor. Motion Carried. This will be Resolution No.8 for 2015.

New Legislator Joel Lapierre recently attended a workshop in Albany for orientation for newly elected officials. At the workshop, they discussed a large

number of unfunded mandates with Medicaid being one of the biggest. New York State is one of five states where the County actually has to pay a portion of the Medicaid bill. They are trying to push that back upon the state. He stated there would be a Legislator's meeting on February 9, 2015 at 7 PM. in Canton where County Lawmakers will be considering a resolution that he is sponsoring for the repeal of New York State's Safe Act. He is serving on the Multi-Trail use Committee, Solid Waste Committee and the Negotiations Committee. He thanked past legislator Alex Mackinnon for starting the trail system where they now oversee 528 miles of marked trails and 100 miles that are kept up by individuals for snowmobiles.

Past Legislator Alex MacKinnon was presented with a plaque for 21 years of service with the county. The Board thanked him for his service to the Town of Fowler. Alex stated that Town Board Meetings are very important. He thanked the town for the plaque and for the cake. He stated that he has enjoyed coming to these meetings for 21 years. There were plaques for Gary Williams and Sherrie Williams that will be on display up in the Historian's Office.

Deputy Dog Warden Tammy Hooley reported that she had 3 dog complaints, 2 warnings, and no tickets for the month of January. She stated that there had been one dog in the kennel and one dog adopted out. She had received a call for two dogs that were missing in a neighboring town.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford reported that he had just got his computer back after a couple of months. He had gotten a virus on it from the BAS software. He talked to the neighbor next door about the drain issues, and stated that come spring he will do a dye test.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had received 63.79% of all the taxes. She has been busy with taxes, fishing licenses and death certificates.

Assessor Doug Turner stated he had drawn up a letter for the data collection and he is waiting to hear back from Bob Andrews and Robert Fuller to see if they need to make changes. He stated he had gone through previous cards and cross checked the list so they don't send out duplicates. Alex MacKinnon stated that

there were only two towns in the tri-counties that do not have their data collection done.

Judge Paul Lamson reported that he has received a grant for the court systems 7 out of the past 9 years. He will be receiving \$1,150 from this year's grant that will go toward replacing furniture and equipment.

Historian Karen Simmons has been doing research on a couple of genealogy projects. She has had a few out of town people come in to visit the historian's office.

Paul Cappellino, Beaver Control Officer, gave his report from December 2014. There was very little activity in December. For the year 2014, he trapped over 20 beavers.

James Hadfield from the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department was here to report for the fire department. For the year 2014, there were 42 calls in the Town of Fowler. He stated that they got the new truck mounted up and ready to go. He spoke about the call that they received on the Emeryville Road and how they were sent the wrong way to the call. He spoke about how important it is to give as much detail as possible. If they are given an actual physical address their maps on their phones can take them right to it. They hope to get the communication problems all worked out soon.

Councilperson Natalie Spilman opened up the one Beaver Bid that we received. The bid was from Paul Cappellino with a bid of \$7399.00 for a 10 month period starting March 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. A motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman and seconded by Councilperson Rick Newvine to accept Paul Cappellino's bid. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; abstain, Rick Newvine; yes, Natalie Spilman; yes, Lynn Bishop; yes, Karen Simmons; yes. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Karen Simmons at 8:10 PM to close the Public Hearing for the CDBG Grant. It was seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop. Motion Carried

Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney stated he was still having some computer issues out back so he wasn't able to get all of his reports. He reported the fuel usage for the year so far was 1,022 gallons verses 3,108 gallons last year. They plowed 12 times in December verses 23 times last December. They have been working on the trucks, and have had to replace some major components on them. He spoke about the 2012 International and its radiator issues. He brought up the idea of maybe getting rid of it before it gets worse. Three of the town's five trucks had been down and the Town of Edwards loaned us their spare truck.

After discussion of the Sand and Salt being used for Commercial purposes, a motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman and seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons to pass Resolution No.4 of 2015 for Sand and Salt Usage to be used for Residents Only. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop to pass Resolution No. 7 of 2015 For Holding Harmless for New York State. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Lynn Bishop and seconded by Rick Newvine for Councilperson Karen Simmons to be the Town Historian. Roll call vote showed Michael Cappellino; yes, Lynn Bishop; yes, Natalie Spilman; yes, Rick Newvine; yes, Karen Simmons; abstain.

The motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons to go into executive session at 8:34 PM with Henry Leader to discuss our pending lawsuits. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. They returned from executive session at 9:08 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman and seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop for mowing bids to be opened at the March Meeting. Councilperson Natalie Spilman would like to meet with Councilperson Rick Newvine to make some adjustments to the mowing specifications before advertising them.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that there is a Court date set for February 13, 2015 in Canton to discuss the Emeryville Bridge. He also informed everyone that the offer for the Hollow Dam Assessment had been refused.

Debbie Tupper asked again if there should have been an audit done before the new Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent started. The board will look into having an audit done.

Mike Macaulay suggested putting up a chain link fence at the beach to address safety issues but also allow access to the beach. Councilperson Natalie Spilman stated that she will get an estimate for a fence.

Kathy Moses wanted to thank everyone again for all of their donations to the Kiwanis Backpack Program. They are currently serving 174 kids and she expects that they have enough food to last the year.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop wanted to thank the Highway Department for doing a great job.

Councilperson Rick Newvine wanted to let people know that he has grant applications available at NAPA.

Councilperson Karen Simmons stated that there would be a Rabies Clinic on Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 6-8 PM and Dr. Twining will be here to administer the shots.

The bills audited totaled \$53,755.01 for January 2015.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that the board would now audit Justice Paul Lamson's, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins and Town Clerk/ Tax Collector's 2014 books.

A motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman and seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 PM.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Natalie Spilman; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson