

Town of Fowler Directory 2022

Assessment Review Board

Chair: Donna Brown315-287-2949
Candace Brown315-287-2144
Rich Weaver.....315-286-2696

Assessors

Kathy Besaw.....315-276-5987
Michael Bates.....315-854-6202
Assessor's Office.....315-287-0045 Ext 2

Code Enforcement

Glen Besaw.....315-323-0761
CEO Office315-287-0045 Ext 4

Custodian

Rosalee Thornton..... 315-287-0045 Ext 1

Maintenance

Byron Woodward.....315-287-0045 Ext 1

Dog Control

Dan Moyer.....315-528-7988

Ethics Board

Marcia Cleveland.....315-854-0420
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503
Alex Mackinnon.....315-778-1287
Chair Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753
TBD.....

Health Officer

Dr. William Twining.....315-287-2192

Highway Superintendent

Randy Durham..... 315-286-8664
315-222-6797
Hwy. Dept.....315-287-0045Ext 5

Historian

Karen Simmons315-287-4753
315-854-5517

Justice Department

Justice Tim Knowlton.....315-287-0045 Ext 3
Fax #315-535-4300
Court Clerk: Irma Ashley ...315-287-0045 Ext 3

Town Supervisor

Ricky W. Newvine.....315-287-4098
315-771-2194

Town Board Members

Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753
Lynn Bishop.....315-955-2929
Jeff Andrews.....315-287-0587
Scott A. Cleveland.....315-778-5358

Town Bookkeeper

Barbara Finnie.....315-486-1075

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Tami Gale.....315-287-0045 Ext 1
Fax #.....315-535-4094

Deputy Town Clerk

Debra Tupper..... 315-287-0045 Ext 1
Kim Reed.....315-287-0045 Ext 1

Town Facilities

Use of Town Hall.....315-778-5358
Public Beach/Sylvia Lake..... 315-287-4098
Hailesboro Ball Field..... 315-287-4098
Use of Pavilion/Playground.....315-778-5358

Town Planning Board

Chair Stephen Gale.....315-287-1408
Leo Knight.....315-528-2440
Roger Refici.....315-323-5994
Dan Kingsley..... 315-816-7531
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503

Town of Fowler Newsletter 2022

Assessment Review Board

There are three seats on the Board of Assessment Review. Currently, the Chairman is Donna Brown. Other members are Rich Weaver, and Candy Brown. The Board of Assessment Review holds Grievance Day on the fourth Tuesday of May from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Fowler Town Hall.

Residents who disagree with their assessment are urged to meet with the Town Assessors to discuss their assessments **PRIOR** to presenting their grievance to the Board of Assessment Review. To make arrangements to meet with an assessor at the Town Hall, please call the Assessors at 315-287-0045 Ext 2 or call the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045 Ext 1. After meeting with the assessors' residents who still wish to grieve their assessments may do so at the date and time previously outlined. The Board will review grievances and then make a decision to either lower the property owner's assessment or leave the assessment the same. Residents who have filed a grievance are notified of the outcome by U.S. Mail.

Justice Department

Tim Knowlton was elected to a 4- year term as Town Justice for the Town of Fowler. Town Court is held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 10AM upstairs in the Town Hall. Fines may be paid at that time or sent in the mail. Individuals who wish to make payments to Fowler Town Court using credit and debit cards may do so through **allpaid.com**. Go to www.allpaid.com and use the Pay Location Code (**PLC a0026f**). The Court does not accept checks. Irma Ashley, Court Clerk is at the Town Hall on Mon. Tues. and Wed. from 9:00 AM to 3:00PM to answer questions and collect fines. If you need to contact the court any other time, please call **(315) 287-0045 Ext 3** and leave a message or fax us at (315)535-4300.

Town Board

In the year of 2022, the town board meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm except for the month of October. Special meetings will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press and/or the Watertown Daily Times newspapers and on the town's website. www.fowlerny.com

The 2022 Town Board consists of Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine, Deputy Supervisor and Councilperson Karen M. Simmons, Councilpersons Lynn Bishop, Jeff Andrews, and Scott A. Cleveland. Day to day operations at the Town Hall continue to be handled by Town Clerk Tami Gale.

Ms. Barbara Finnie will continue to oversee the duties as our bookkeeper in 2022.

The resurgence of COVID-19 makes it necessary to continue practicing social distancing and wearing masks to our Town Board meetings. The town board would like to inform all town residents and visitors they are welcome to attend our monthly meetings in person or via teleconference by contacting the Town Clerk's office for the phone number and PIN number. Visit our website (www.fowlerny.com) to view and download newsletters and other information about the Town. In 2021 the Town Hall Parking lot was re-paved using monies from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) from the federal Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

Sylvia Lake Public Beach 29 Old Beach Road, Gouverneur NY 13642

The Public Beach is owned and operated by the Town of Fowler with guidance from the NYS Board of Health (Canton Office). The beach is open seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August. Certified lifeguards are on duty during the posted hours of operations. (10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.) Handicapped and public parking is located in relative proximity to the beach entrance.

The beach has a picnic area with tables and charcoal grills for public use pending any COVID-19 Restrictions in 2022. Changing rooms, rest rooms, and a handwashing station are also on site.

Of the six life guards employed for the 2021 season, four of the life guards were new hires. Head Lifeguard Claire Knowlton and Town Clerk Tami Gale did a tremendous job to make 2021 a successful season. We now have a group of young adults who will ensure town residents can enjoy the Town recreation site safely well into the future.

New for 2022, we hope to have a set of steps that will make access to the water much easier and safer for younger children and senior citizens. Please visit and enjoy your beach.

If you have special needs, or are planning a special event, please contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315) 771-2194, or the Town Clerk's Office at (315)287-0045 Ext 1.

Historian's Office

The Historian's Office is located upstairs in the Fowler Town Hall. Historian Karen Simmons is in the office on Thursdays from 1-4PM or any time by appointment by calling (315)287-4753 or the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

If you are researching ancestors and/or working on your family genealogy, contact my office as I have some records on hand that may assist you in your search.

In September 2021 we were able to put the new Tri-County Marker in place on County Route 24. Mr. Ross Young, Town of Diana Historian was there representing Lewis County. Mrs. Nancy Raymon, Town of Antwerp Historian, representing Jefferson County, was unable to attend.

I am still looking for names of veterans who are from Fowler who served in the Korean Conflict.

Highway Department

The Town of Fowler maintains 56.25 Miles of Town Roads.

In the winter months the town plows 73.75 miles of roads which includes County Route 22 and 24.

Our phone number has changed. It is now 315-287-0045, Ext 5. Of course, you can always reach me on my personal cell at 315-222-6797.

We appreciate everyone's patience this past year during our busy 2021 construction season. We have been steadily working on my goal of upgrading the Town roads and equipment.

This year we received a New Roller and a New 2022 Mack Plow Truck. This truck like the 2020 will be paid for, using a USDA low interest bond and grant. I will continue looking for these grants to further my goal of safe roads and safe equipment for our town and employees.

In 2021 we rebuilt 2.5 Miles of the Byrns Road, 1.1 Miles of the Swiss Hill Road, and .5 Miles of the Shantyville Road. For 2022 we are planning on finishing the River Road, rebuilding the Island Branch Road from State Highway 58 to the Post Office, and changing the Large Culvert on the Country Club Road.

I would like to extend a special thanks to Jacob Cunningham for his dedicated service to the Highway Department. He has decided to move on to other ventures and we wish him good luck.

Also, I would like to thank Tom Peck a retired Corrections Officer who came in and helped us out for the Summer. Tom will be returning in April to help us for next Summer.

We have hired Anthony Sequin to be our new full-time employee. He is a graduate of the BOCES Heavy Equipment Course and comes highly recommended.

Please like and check out my Town of Fowler Highway Department Facebook Page to get current road conditions for our area during these winter months.

In a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for your support this year. It is your support that makes this team so successful.

Best wishes for a happy and safe new year in 2022 from the Town of Fowler Highway Crew: Randy Durham, Nelson Bice, Francis Cole, Larry Allen, John Walsh, David (Dennis) Travis, Terrell Ferrer, Anthony Sequin and Summer Helper Tom Peck.

Dog Control

Dog Control Officer, Dan Moyer, responded to several complaints in 2021. He picked up two dogs that were not claimed by their owners, and later adopted out. Four dogs were kenneled in 2021, which were picked up by their owners the next day. Mr. Moyer would like to remind everyone, there is a leash law in the Town of Fowler along with other laws in the Town of Fowler, governing your dog. We would like to thank Dr. Putman DVM and his assistant from Roput Veterinary Clinic, for administering the rabies vaccines at our free rabies clinic in 2021, as well as volunteers Ricky Newvine, Tami Gale, Kim Reed, Leo Knight, and Scott Cleveland for volunteering to work at the clinic in August.

Watch for our free rabies clinic in August 2022.

Remember, all dogs 4 months of age or older must have a rabies shot and be licensed in the Town in which they live.

If you have any questions, contact Dan Moyer at (315)528-7988 or (315)771-8103 or the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045 extension 1.

Use of Town Facilities

The Town Hall is not available for parties or special occasions due to the COVID -19 Pandemic. Hopefully, we will be able to make the Town Hall available free of charge for use by Town of Fowler residents again, for all occasions.

The Sylvia Lake Beach is open to the public seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August in compliance with guidelines from the Department of Health. For more information call Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315)771-2194. We are always in need of certified lifeguards who are the age of 16 or older. If you would like to apply, call the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

Groups interested in using the Hailesboro ball field during the summer should contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, or (315)771-2194. The availability of the Hailesboro Ballfield will depend on the restrictions of COVID-19. The pavilion is expected to be ready to use in the summer of 2022. Anyone interested in using the Pavilion should contact Councilperson Scott Cleveland at (315)778-5358 for details and information on obtaining an application for its use.

Ethics Board

The Fowler Board of Ethics Committee consists of five members, Marcia Cleveland, Vicky Cappellino, Chair Karen Simmons, Alex Mackinnon, and one empty member seat available. Each member serves a four -year term. Any person may file a concern or complaint in writing to the chairperson who in turn will set up a meeting with the other committee members to address the issue. The committee may request an interview with the party or parties involved to discuss the situation further to reach a decision or solution. After the discussion, the committee notifies the party or parties of their decision in writing. There were no complaints in 2021. Karen Simmons was appointed chairperson at the January meeting, Vicky Cappellino was re-appointed Secretary, and the Ethics board welcomed Marcia Cleveland as a new member in 2021.

From the Assessors ***** (Tuesday office hours 9:00am to 12:00PM)*****

Assessors Kathleen Besaw, and Michael Bates make up the Assessor Department. Assessors Phyllis Shaw and Sherry Geer both moved out of the Town of Fowler in 2021, which will leave one open seat to be filled in the November 2022 election. The Town of Fowler would like to thank both Phyllis and Sherry for their dedicated service to the Town of Fowler and our taxpayers. They will be greatly missed.

VETERANS:

If you are a **Veteran** or **surviving spouse** of a Veteran with an **honorable discharge** you may be eligible for one of the following exemptions:

Alternative Veterans Exemption (form RP-458-a) available only on residential property of a veteran who has served during a designated time of war or received an expeditionary medal.

Cold War Exemption (form RP-458-b) available only on residential property of a veteran who served during the Cold War period.

You must apply by March 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 Assessment Roll. Please call our office at **(315) 287-0045 Ext 2** and we will mail you the necessary application to complete and return with necessary documents. For more information you can reference the following link: <https://veterans.ny.gov/content/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>

STAR EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

If you are currently receiving the basic or enhanced star exemptions NYS Tax department will be doing the yearly qualification for these exemptions. If more information is needed you will receive an information request in the mail directly from the NYS Tax Department office. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to call our office and we will try to help you all we can.

If you currently have the **BASIC Star Exemption** and **at least one** of the homeowners **turns 65 before December 31, 2022**, you can still apply for the Enhanced Star Exemption with your **local assessor**. You will need to complete the required application and submit proof of age and income. **Income limit for 2022-2023 Enhanced star exemption is \$92,000 or less.** If you qualify you would be able to continue to receive the **exemption** on your school tax bill. **Please contact our office 315-287-0045 Ext 2 if you believe you may qualify for this exemption.**

We will mail you the required application to complete and return to local assessor office. This will need to be done by **March 1, 2022, for the 2022-2023 Assessment Roll.**

NEW HOMEOWNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE BASIC OR ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION. NEW HOMEOWNERS MUST APPLY FOR STAR CREDIT WITH NYS TAX DEPARTMENT. WITH THE STAR CREDIT YOU RECEIVE A CHECK FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT TO APPLY TO YOUR SCHOOL TAXES. You can apply for Star Credit by calling 518-457-2036 8:30am to 4:30pm or online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.tax.ny.gov/star

Senior Exemption is eligible for seniors 65 or older upon age, ownership & income qualification. You must earn **below \$17,699** per year to qualify for this. **If you believe you qualify, please contact your local assessor at 315-287-0045 Ext. 2** and we will mail you the necessary application for this exemption.

Our office is currently working on updating property record cards for the Town of Fowler as mandated by NYS Office of Real Property. Data Collection is needed to value each parcel of property located within a specific assessing jurisdiction. It is very important that the data be recorded as accurately and consistently as possible as it will serve as the basis of all future appraisal activity in revaluation programs and ORPS market survey process. Not only will this information provide the specific elements needed to value each parcel of property, it will also become a valuable record of information for future use by the assessor's office. If the data collector comes to your property and no one is home a notice will be left so you know we were there. If you could please call the phone number left on the notice that would be greatly appreciated. We might be able to confirm any information needed over the phone and or can set up a time when it would be best to return to your property. This is a work in progress and your help would be greatly appreciated!!!!

Town Planning Board

The Planning Board consists of five Fowler residents. We regretfully accepted the resignation of James "Art" Besaw, from the board due to his moving out of the Town of Fowler. Art has served on the planning board for many years, and his knowledge and experience will be greatly missed. Leo Knight was appointed to fill the empty seat on December 13, 2021. Welcome to the planning board Leo Other members are Chairman Stephen Gale, Dan Kingsley, Roger Refici and Vicky Cappellino. There are no zoning laws in the Town of Fowler. In 2021, the planning board made 2 amendments to Local Law 2 of 2020, Land Use Laws and Regulations of the Town of Fowler, changing setback requirements and providing for the regulation of Solar Energy Facilities.

The Planning Board makes its decisions and submits them to the Town Board according to the Town's Land Use Law. You may obtain a hard copy of the Land Use Law at the Town Clerk's Office. Or you may view or print the policy from our website: www.fowlerny.com.

Planning Board meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month as needed or when necessary, at 7 PM in the Fowler Town Hall. Meetings are advertised in the local newspaper and on the Town of Fowler website.

Code Enforcement Officer

Building permits are required for demolition of buildings, renovations, structural changes on your home or buildings, roof replacement, pools, buildings over 144 sq. ft, and septic systems.

Building and use permits are still required for any construction to enlarge, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of any building or structure as well as changing or installing any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

Effective January 1, 2021, Building Permit applications and fee schedules were updated, to be more compatible with surrounding Towns. Building Permits and Fees can be viewed and downloaded from the Town website: www.fowlerny.com. It is the responsibility of the **homeowner** to fill out the building permit and call the Code Enforcement Officer **Glen Besaw, at 315-323-0761** with any and all questions pertaining to a building permit before it is turned in to the Town Clerk office with payment.

If residents or contractors have any questions, they need to call **Glen Besaw, Town of Fowler Code Enforcement Officer at 315-323-0761**. Glen will make every effort to get any requested information as quickly as possible, which will prevent the possibility of any work stoppage or delay.

If you have any questions about code regulations or concerns about unsafe or unsanitary conditions within the Town, please call Glen Besaw (Code Enforcement Officer) at (315)323-0761.

ANY PERSON STARTING WORK WITHOUT A BUILDING PERMIT WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDED FEE OF \$50.00 NO EXCEPTIONS.

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Starting January 3rd, 2022, evening hours on one day a week during tax-collection season, will be added for the convenience of the public. Our office is open Monday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to **6:00PM**, and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to 4:00PM. This office issues dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses and disabled parking permits. Voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and building permit applications, are available at this office. Both Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper and Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reed are returning to their appointed office in 2022. Town Clerk Tami Gale and Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper are Notaries. We will start collecting land taxes on January 3, 2022. Taxes may be paid with cash, check, money order, and credit /debit cards. There is a 2.65% fee added if paying by credit/debit cards. To avoid physical contact there is a drop-box at the rear of the Town Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045 extension 1.

2022 Town Board Meeting Dates

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM at the Town Hall

<i>January 10, 2022</i>	<i>July 11, 2022</i>
<i>February 14, 2022</i>	<i>August 8, 2022</i>
<i>March 14, 2022</i>	<i>September 12, 2022</i>
<i>April 11, 2022</i>	<i>October (TBD)</i>
<i>May 9, 2022</i>	<i>November 14, 2022</i>
<i>June 13, 2022</i>	<i>December 12, 2022</i>

Town of Fowler Online

A local Fowler business, Rainbowtech Designs, created and manages the Town of Fowler's website. You can find minutes of meetings, a business directory, and other information about Fowler. Everything on the site is searchable. www.fowler.com.

Fowler Family Day

While the Circumstances of 2021 forced the cancellation of the 6th annual Fowler Family Day event, plans for Fowler Family Day 2022 will begin in February of 2022. The new pavilion was completed late last year, so hopefully we will be able to hold our Fowler Family Day Event and have a beautiful new pavilion for everyone to enjoy in 2022.

SOS (SUPPORT OUR SENIORS) PROGRAM

In March 2020, when the government demanded people to wear masks and practice social distancing because of the Corona Virus, our Town Supervisor, Ricky Newvine, came up with an idea to help the senior citizens of Fowler, thus came the birth of the SOS (Support Our Seniors) Program.

Through donations from individuals, we have been able to buy and deliver care packages to senior citizens 65 years and older. This program has grown from 42 households to 85 households that we deliver to.

HAP PROGRAM

In February 2021, we started a new food program, HAP (Hometown Assistance Program) at the Fowler Town Hall. The program is open to all residents of the Town of Fowler. On Thursdays from 9-12 and 1-4 people can come into the Town Hall and pick up groceries from the shelves. The HAP and SOS programs are available because of monetary and food donations from the public.

If you have any questions or would like more information contact Karen Simmons at (315)287-4753 or Tami Gale at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

* NOTE: There is a Drop box located by the back entrance to the Town Hall that is checked twice a day on business days.