

DRAFT - Town of Fowler December 13, 2021, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting & Public Hearing Minutes on proposed Local Law #4 of 2021 at 6PM.

The Town of Fowler Regular scheduled Town Board meeting was held on the above date with four Board members present, and Councilperson Bishop attending the meeting by phone. Also, present were Mike Gillette of Fuller Insurance, Town Clerk Tami Gale, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Assessor Chair Phyllis Shaw, Assessor Sherry Geer, Assessor Kathy Besaw, Town Justice Tim Knowlton, Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw, Planning Board Chair Stephen Gale, Dog Control Officer & Beaver Control Dan Moyer, Leo Knight, Richard Clement, Vivian Goodman, 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.

Supervisor Newvine led a moment of silence to honor our military men and women, all healthcare workers, and for the family of Ronnie Bice, who has recently passed.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2021, Town board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons, seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to approve the minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2021, Special Town board meeting. A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews, seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ON ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

Supervisor Newvine asked assessor Shaw if she had moved out of the Town as she had discussed with the board at the November 4, 2021, board meeting, and her status as an assessor for the remainder of the year. Assessor Shaw reported she had officially moved and was prepared to turn in her keys this evening, or if they wanted her to finish until the end of the month she would, stating it was up to the board. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to have assessor Shaw continue as an assessor until the end of the month.

Supervisor Newvine addressed assessor Sherry Geer stating her official last day as an assessor is December 14 and reported the Town would like to hire her at an hourly wage beginning January 1st for 6 months to assist Kathy Besaw, who feels she still needs some help until she is comfortable with what she is doing in the assessor office and if that was something she was interested in providing. Assessor Geer stated she had thought long and hard about it, reporting she has taken a promotion at the County, she still is the assessor for the Towns of Depeyster, and Clare, and she doesn't feel like she can. Supervisor Newvine asked assessor Geer if there was somebody, she could think of that might be interested in helping the assessing department out. Assessor Geer stated they could ask Phyllis Shaw. When asked if she was interested, assessor Shaw wanted clarification that the position would be as an advisor to the assessor office, and not as an assessor, and asked what the hourly rate of pay would be. Supervisor Newvine stated he needed to check with the Town attorney to make sure the advisory position is allowed, and the board still needed to discuss the rate of pay. Assessor Shaw asked to be made aware of the information when it is determined, and she would need to think about it. Town Clerk Gale reminded assessor Shaw she would need a resignation letter to notify the Board of Elections of the vacated office. Assessor Shaw reported she would have resignation letters turned in on December 31st from both the assessor office and as an ethics committee member.

Assessor Geer reported she had received a call from Town Clerk Gale last night asking about assessor training and who receives the information for the training. Assessor Geer reported it is up to the assessor to sign up for their own training, it does not go through the Town Clerk office. She reported the training is through

ORPTS, the NYS Real Property site, and is free. She reported other training, such as ethics, is offered through the NYS Assessor Association website, and there are costs for these classes. In this case, the assessor picks the class they want to attend and would give the information to the Town Clerk. She reported the Real Property Office in Canton is going to be the best place for the acting assessors to ask any assessor related questions and reported the number to the Real Property office to be 379-2272.

Assessor Geer reported the assessor computer will need to be taken to the County to be updated, and the assessor mail will need to be picked up in Canton. She stated her phone will always be open for any questions and that her phone would never close to the Town. If a taxpayer calls her, she will always direct them to where they need to go.

Supervisor Newvine addressed Sherry Geer saying the Town appreciates everything she has done, and she has done a terrific job. Supervisor Newvine then addressed Phyllis Shaw thanking her for all she has done and expressed he hopes she will agree to stay on in an advisory role.

Supervisor Newvine stated it has been discussed presently the assessors don't hold any regular office hours. Supervisor Newvine asked Assessor Besaw if it falls on her, could she hold some regular office hours. Assessor Besaw stated she would start being at the assessor's office every Tuesday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.

Assessor Geer reported that Assessor Shaw had mailed the Enhanced STAR renewals out, and people will start to come in to the Town Hall to speak with an assessor. She reported in the past some seniors have come in to receive help filling out their Enhanced STAR paperwork. Supervisor Newvine asked if the seniors needed to renew their Enhanced STAR every year. Assessor Geer reported they do, and last year they didn't have to, due to COVID-19.

FULLER INSURANCE AGENCY PRESENTATION OF QUOTES

Michael Gillette, of Fuller Insurance Agency, Inc. delivered an insurance proposal for policy term 1/1/2022 to 1/1/2023, prepared for the Town of Fowler, for their consideration. Mr. Gillette discussed Supervisor Newvine had asked him last year to prepare some insurance quotes, and he reported it was a worthwhile exercise. He reported he had obtained policy coverage quotes from three companies; Trident Insurance Services, Glatfelter Public Practice Insurance Group (GPP), and New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR). He discussed the Town is going into its 19th year with Trident, which is phenomenal these days. He reported every company rates differently, and Trident puts a lot into auto coverage.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	PREMIUM COMPARISON			
	<i>EXPIRING PREMIUM (\$)</i>	<i>RENEWAL PREMIUM (\$)TRIDENT</i>	<i>RENEWAL PREMIUM (\$)GPP</i>	<i>RENEWAL PREMIUM (\$)NYMIR</i>
<i>Commercial Property</i>	5,852.00	6,071.00	3,543.00	4,283.40
<i>Commercial General Liability</i>	6,430.00	5,755.00	4,860.00	6,066.50
<i>Business Automobile</i>	9,114.00	8,597.00	5,617.00	5,500.00
<i>Inland Marine</i>	1,759.00	1,869.00	4,284.00	4,659.60
<i>Public Employee Dishonesty Bond</i>	615.00	615.00	554.00	548.90
<i>Public Officials Liability</i>	1,454.00	1,497.00	3,997.00	3,641.00
<i>Excess Liability</i>	<u>1,135.00</u>	<u>1,065.00</u>	<u>1,419.00</u>	<u>1,069.20</u>
TOTAL	26,359.00	25,469.00	24,274.00	25,768.60
Added 2022 Mack Plow Truck		<u>1,805.00</u>	<u>774.00</u>	<u>1,002.10</u>
 REVISED TOTAL		 27,274.00	 25,048.00	 26,770.70

Mr. Gillette discussed the benefits and differences of awarding the 2022 insurance policy with each individual company. It was discussed the new contract is set to renew on January 1st, 2022. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to accept the proposal from the Trident group and renew the policy through Fuller Insurance Agency. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine added that there were some coverage amounts he felt would benefit from being looked at for consideration of coverage cost vs. the worth of the building, mentioning the dog kennel and beach building as examples. Mr. Gillette reported they can take a look at the buildings in question and change the coverage amounts for further savings. Councilperson Simmons reported the driver list needed to have a driver, who had retired removed.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:20PM Supervisor Newvine asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No 4 of 2021. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Andrews to open the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #4 of 2021, a local law amending Local Law #2 for the year 2020 regarding Land Use Laws and Regulations to provide for the regulation of Solar Energy Facilities in the Town of Fowler. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Newvine asked planning board chair Stephen Gale if he had anything to add to the discussion on the solar law. Planning board chair Gale stated the planning board, Town Attorney Leader's Office, as well as the County planning board had spent a lot of time preparing the solar law. He reported it protects the landowner and the Town by providing protection at projects end or decommissioning, or if a company goes bankrupt, or moves away, the law states the property must put back to how the landowner wants it. Councilperson Cleveland asked if they were putting money aside to do that. Planning board chair Gale reported it is a requirement stipulated in the law that must be met before any solar project is started. Planning board chair Gale stated, on the other side, if at decommissioning time, the Town decides it may be beneficial to have the established Solar project left as an advantage to the Town, they could decide to keep it and use it.

Supervisor Newvine asked if the solar panels were constructed of hazardous materials. Planning board chair Gale stated they are less and less hazardous as they used to be. Supervisor Newvine thanked the planning board for the work they put into the proposed solar law.

Supervisor Newvine reported the Public Hearing on the proposed Local Law would be left open as long as anyone needs for questions or clarification.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #23 OF 2021

USDA loan resolution for the acceptance of the 2022 plow truck and authorization to make the final payment of the 2022 plow truck.

Supervisor Newvine submitted Resolution #23 of 2021, a Resolution agreeing to accept the 2022 plow truck and authorize final payment on the plow truck, to the board for adoption.

A motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to adopt Resolution #23 of 2021, All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, ANDREWS, CLEVELAND

NAYS: 0

Supervisor Newvine asked when the date was set for the closing on the USDA Mack plow truck loan. Town Clerk Gale reported it is tentatively set for the pre-closing to be done on January 5th at the Town Attorney's Office and

the closing would be 2 days later, on January 7th. Supervisor Newvine reported Bookkeeper Finnie was happy with the closing date, and that it worked out better with the closing being held in 2022.

Councilperson Andrews asked Highway Superintendent Durham how the new plow truck was working so far. Hwy. Superintendent Durham replied, they have it ready to go, but haven't plowed with it yet due to the lack of snow. He has driven it on the road and has sanded with it and it is working well.

DISCUSSION ON CAMERA SYSTEM PROPOSAL OBTAINED ON 12/6/2021 PREPARED BY BARKLEY'S SAFE & LOCK

Supervisor Newvine asked the board if they had a chance to review the camera proposal from the December 6, 2021, special board meeting, and if there were any questions or comments. Councilperson Bishop asked about the number of cameras on the playground, stating he felt the playground should be well covered. It was discussed the cameras could be relocated to where the board wants them, and the diagram is just a reference. Councilperson Andrews asked about an increase in cost due to having to add equipment to include the monitoring of the dog kennel. Supervisor Newvine reported he had discussed the quote with bookkeeper Finnie and the money could be used from the fund balance. After further discussion, it was consensus of the board to contact Will Smith of Barkely's Safe & Lock to discuss the changes to the December 6, 2021, proposal and re-schedule the proposal to be acted on at a future board meeting.

TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Town Justice

Town Justice Tim Knowlton:

Supervisor Newvine asked Town Justice Knowlton how his trial went.

- Reported his trial went well with everyone being very well behaved. He reserved his decision on the case and has 30 days to rule. He has been working with the Office of Court Administration for informational purposes.
- He received many nice compliments about the court room, and people were very impressed.
- He was very pleased to have had the monitor, which was the show piece of the trial.
- He and Court Clerk Irma Ashley have both completed their yearly training hours with the Office of Court Administration and have filed their certifications with the Town Clerk.
- Informed the board on January 15, 2022, people who are not paying rent will start being held responsible again. He is waiting to see what happens with this considering the rising COVID-19 cases.
- The court is still waiting for their laptop that was ordered from Tom Manley and discussed it had already been paid for. Supervisor Newvine stated he would call Tom Manley the next day about the matter.

Bookkeeper

Supervisor Newvine reported for Bookkeeper Barbara Finnie who was not in attendance:

- Everyone who normally gets paid once a month, in the 3rd week of the month received their paychecks today.

Historian

Historian Karen Simmons reported:

- It has been very quiet with nothing going on up there in the Historian's Office.

Animal Control

Dan Moyer Animal Control Officer reported:

- It has been quiet.
- He had one dog in the dog kennel and spent a week trying to catch it. He was able to capture the dog using a live trap on the North Shore Road, where the dog had been staying for 3 weeks unclaimed.
- The dog was adopted out to a lady from Fulton, New York.

- He stated he would get the license tag information to the Town Clerk to complete the paperwork on the adoption.

Town Clerk Gale asked Dog Control Officer Moyer to clarify how the other Towns he works for handle delinquent dog licenses, stating the Town of Fowler has a few dog owners, who are over 2 years behind on renewing their dog licenses. Dog Control Officer Moyer asked if they had been sent letters. Town Clerk Gale reported Councilperson Simmons, who oversees dog control, makes calls and sends reminder cards from the Fowler dog control office. Town Clerk Gale stated when she has asked him about this in the past, she was told at the end of every month the Town Clerk prints out a delinquent dog license report, gives that report to the dog control officer, and the dog control officer starts their part in trying to get the owner to license the dog. Dog Control Officer Moyer reported he can issue tickets for failure to license, which is an Ag & Markets State violation and a misdemeanor, and they can be put in front of the judge.

- Dog Control Officer Moyer reported Councilperson Simmons usually talks to owners about their delinquent dog licenses, if they don't listen to her, then she will have him talk to them, and he will give them 2 weeks to get the dog licensed. If they don't get the dog licensed in that time, then he has to give them a ticket for the Ag & Markets violation.
- Councilperson Simmons reported Dog Control Officer Moyer has one person right now that he is issuing a ticket to and has been waiting to catch her at home.
- Dog Control Officer Moyer reported Councilperson Simmons had mentioned to him a couple of weeks ago that she was working on tickets that needed to be issued, and she would be giving him a list of names to contact concerning their delinquent dog licenses. Councilperson Simmons reported there were 3 dog owners who are 2 years behind on their dog licenses. Supervisor Newvine asked what we want Dan to do, issue a citation. Councilperson Simmons stated Dan already had the information for one dog owner to issue a ticket and she stated she had to get the information on the other 2 dog owners together for him. Dan reported he can put them in front of the judge to try to get them licensed if they still have the dogs. Councilperson Simmons added if they come to court, that is the next thing. Dan reported a ticket being issued for failure to license is a State Ag & Markets ticket, if they do not appear in court, the judge can re-set their court date, and if they still don't appear, the judge can issue a bench warrant for failure to appear.
- Supervisor Newvine stated if we make an example of one then maybe the other ones will fall in line. Supervisor Newvine asked Dan if he was going to handle the tickets. Dan replied he was good on that.

Supervisor Newvine stated it was nice to see Dan at the board meeting.

Beaver Control

Dan Moyer of Moyer's Wildlife Control reported:

- He had taken care of a beaver dam earlier in the day on the Emeryville Road and it dropped the water 3', and he believes the water is now down below the road level where it should be.
- He has taken several beaver from the Shantyville Road. He is waiting for the ice to get firm enough to walk on to remove the beaver dam and get the water down in the culverts to where it is supposed to be.
- He is not aware of any culverts being plugged on the Shantyville Road since he has taken the beaver out.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw reported:

- He has received quotes from Advanced Business Systems (ABS) for either replacing his code enforcement office computer at a cost of \$1,159.98 or replacing the internal SSD to his existing code enforcement office computer for \$135.00. He reported his computer is not working at all and he will need permission to move forward on one of the quotes. If the internal SSD is replaced there is no guarantee how long that fix will last. He reported ABS will transfer all the data, which is backed up with the Department of State. Supervisor Newvine asked if Glen had money left in his code enforcement budget this year. Town Clerk Gale stated she thought he had \$800.00. After some discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the purchase of a new computer for the code enforcement office. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.
- He had received 2 complaints and had determined only 1 of the complaints was legitimate. The other was just two people who didn't like each other.
- He had contacted Attorney Leader to discuss if mining properties were exempt from local law, and learned they are not exempt from local law. He reported the transfer between Gouverneur Talc and Empire State Mines was fine.
- He believed Gouverneur Talc is talking about the possibility of putting in a solar array, and if it is not attached to any buildings, they are exempt from the uniform code, but are not exempt from local law. He reported if they do decide to put a solar array in, it would need to go in front of the planning board for approval.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tami Gale reported:

- The gross DEC sales for the month were \$433.00 with the Towns commission being \$23.87, she had collected \$20.00 in bank fees for a dishonored check, issued 1 certified marriage transcript, completed 2 genealogical services requests, licensed 28 dogs, handled 3 building permits, and had collected \$3.50 in photo copies.
- She had received a check in the amount of \$236.80 for scrap metal.
- She had attended a webinar for training on November 10, 2021, on the internal controls for tax collection.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham:

- Reported he had set the car counter up on the Island Branch Road, between the railroad tracks and the State barn, and it showed an average of 370 cars a day traveling through there. He reported it determines it would be beneficial to the Town to repair that road. He stated the Town is going to have to write letters to the homeowners notifying them of the anticipated roadwork that will need to be done in this area.
- Reported the new 2022 Mack Plow truck has arrived and it is ready to be used.
- Asked Supervisor Newvine if the Town was going to provide breakfast for the Town employees this year, stating they didn't have it last year due to COVID-19. Supervisor Newvine stated he didn't have a problem with the Town buying their breakfast, but he didn't think the board needs to be involved unless they want to be. Councilperson Simmons stated just let the guys out there have their own Christmas breakfast.

USDA & NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

- Reported since the Federal budget has not passed, the USDA knows they can bond us, but they don't know for sure how much money they can grant us. He reported on January 1st, the equipment he is looking to purchase is going to have a price increase. He reported they think the budget that should

have been passed in October, will be passed by March. He asked the board if they wanted to pursue the new equipment or wait. Supervisor Newvine suggested that the Town maybe better wait on new equipment purchases.

BOBCAT DISCUSSION

- Reported he had discussed the bobcat and the cost to repair it with Councilperson Andrews. The estimate he received to finish fixing the bobcat is \$7,614.63, on top of what was already spent trying to fix it (\$4,371.81) at Leberge & Curtis. Supervisor Newvine reported he thought they all knew the answer to that one.

NEW BOBCAT QUOTES

		<u>QUOTE</u>	<u>TRADE IN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bobcat of Watertown	S66 T4 bobcat Skid Steer Loader	\$47,719.78	(\$2,500.00)	\$45,219.78
Leberge & Curtis	S66 T4 Bobcat Skid Steer Loader	\$52,952.54	(\$10,000.00)	\$42,952.54
(Leberge & Curtis quote includes Dealer PDI & Freight fees)				

Councilperson Simmons asked why there was such a big difference in the amount given for trade-in prices, stating it seemed like a wide spread. Councilperson Cleveland stated it sounded to him like Bobcat of Watertown didn't want it. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated it was Leberge & Curtis, who had replaced the \$4,371.81 part. Supervisor Newvine asked if we were locked into purchasing a Bobcat. Hwy. Superintendent Durham stated Case didn't want the old bobcat. Councilperson Andrews asked if he had talked to Nortrax or Anderson Equipment. Hwy, Superintendent Durham replied he had not talked to them yet, and he has to disclose the amount of the repairs to whoever takes it. Supervisor Newvine suggested Hwy. Superintendent Durham wait until after the 1st of the year to re-bid for a loader and obtain additional bids from other vendors. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he would do some more research.

- Highway weather reports are now on the Town website thanks to webmaster Shari Barnhart. Supervisor Newvine stated that was great.
- Presented the board members with 2 excavator quotes that were not discussed.

CLOSING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW No. 4 OF 2021

Supervisor Newvine asked if there were any questions on proposed Local Law #4 of 2021. At 6:45PM, having no questions received, a motion was made by Councilperson Andrews seconded by Councilperson Simmons to close the public hearing on proposed Local Law No.4 of 2021. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION #24 OF 2021

Supervisor Newvine submitted Resolution #24 of 2021, a Resolution enacting Local Law No. 4 of 2021, amending Local Law 2 for the year 2020 pertaining to zoning to provide for the regulation of solar energy facilities, to the board for adoption.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons seconded by Councilperson Cleveland to adopt Resolution #24 of 2021, All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

AYES: 5 NEWVINE, SIMMONS, BISHOP, ANDREWS, CLEVELAND

NAYS: 0

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EMPIRE STATE MINE INFORMATIONAL MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

Supervisor Newvine reported there was going to be an informational meeting presented by Empire State Mines personnel regarding the ongoing preparations for open pit mining at their number 2 mine on Tuesday December 14th at 4pm at the Fowler Town Hall instead of being held at Southwest Tech BOCES due to COVID-19 concerns. He reported an access road is being constructed that crosses the East Shore Road and the Pumphouse Road that will impact Sylvia Lake residents on those roads. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

Councilmembers

Councilperson Scott Cleveland:

- Reported the pavilion is 100% done and is all set to go.
- Reported some siding had been blown off in the last wind storm, that he put in the garage portion of the pavilion for maintenance worker Byron Woodward to re-install.

Councilperson Jeff Andrews:

- Reported the newly paved parking lot at the Town Hall looks great and a nice job was done.
- Reported three councilpersons had attended the open house at the Southwest Tech BOCES, and they had done a really nice job on the remodel, and it was well worth attending the open house. Supervisor Newvine agreed, stating BOCES is a great facility and if you haven't been to check it out you should go and see it.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop:

- Notified Hwy. Superintendent Durham there was tires and garbage located at the stop sign on the Gulf Road where it meets the Sullivan Road. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he had seen the tire today, but right now brush is the main thing.
- Asked Code Enforcement Officer Besaw if there had been any movement on the County Route 22 home that he had previously discussed with him. CEO Besaw asked which one. Councilperson Simmons reported it was the old Cole place. CEO Besaw asked what we were doing to it. Councilperson Simmons stated it is in such disrepair and he wanted CEO Besaw to condemn it she thought.
- Councilperson Bishop told CEO Besaw they had discussed the house should be torn down months ago. CEO Besaw reported he could not go on the property unless someone signed a complaint. Councilperson Bishop stated he will sign a complaint as he is very concerned for the safety of the little kids nearby who may be hurt if they got in there. Supervisor Newvine said they would get a complaint form for Councilperson Bishop to sign and get going on it.
- CEO Besaw reported he had obtained the address of the owner from the assessors one time and had sent a letter and had never heard back from the owner. He reported Councilperson Bishop is right something has to be done about the structure, and then we are going to have to do it with every place that is in similar condition.

Councilperson Karen Simmons:

- Reported the Christmas delivery for the SOS program will be done on Friday, December 17th. She reported there will be 85 packages going out.
- There have been quite a few monetary and food donations made this month. She reported the family of Jeff Andrews donated money, Bob & Diane Jennings donated money, John and Mary Lou Wranish-Cook donated money, and the Fowler Baptist Church had made a very large monetary donation to the food program.
- Councilperson Lynn Bishop & family donated a turkey and all of the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal, Ginny Burwell and her family donated food, Dave & Shelly Fackler donated food, and Missy and Mike Tresmette donated food.

- A donation was made of 6 lap blankets to be donated to 6 recipients of the SOS care packages.
- The next SOS delivery will be at Easter.
- Reported the program is doing very well and she is very pleased with it.
- Reported the HAP program is still taking place on Thursdays from 9-12 and 1-4.
- Thanked everyone for all they have donated to the programs.
- Reported Town Clerk Gale has been working on the newsletter and asked her how the progress was coming. Town Clerk Gale reported anyone who has anything more to add needed to get it to her as it is being sent to Ferguson Printing very soon.
- Suggested the Councilperson overseeing the use of the pavilion be added to also being in charge of use of the Town Hall, replacing her from that role. It was discussed that Town Clerk Gale would get Councilperson Cleveland a key to the Town Hall. Supervisor Newvine suggested the contact information be updated in the newsletter.
- Reported there had been a situation with a power outage at Kilkarney Courts on Saturday, prompting a tenant to call Supervisor Newvine, as they couldn't get the generator to work, and had no power, and some of the tenants were quite upset. Councilperson Simmons, who is on the Kilkarney Court board called Carol Bassford, who is one of the managers of the housing division, and she relayed the transfer switch wasn't able to handle providing power to all of the complex, and they are working on getting a new switch. Councilperson Simmons reported they have been trying for a year and a half to obtain a standby generator for Kilkarney Court, and the office of Rural Development notified them that they didn't feel they needed one, because there are shelters the senior citizens could go to, however HUD is looking into a program called Care Act to try to get a standby generator for the senior citizens housing. She reported the cost to be \$13,000 for a generator that would take care of the entire project. Presently they are trying to get the switch to handle the job. Councilperson Simmons reported she had spoken to the tenant who had called Supervisor Newvine about the matter, and she felt the maintenance person for Kilkarney Court had known that the switch was not able to handle the job load. The tenant felt that it should have been fixed before something like this happened. Carol Brassford is working on the problem. Councilperson Simmons reported they have had an awful time since Dave Spilman retired as the maintenance person for Kilkarney Courts. They have been through several maintenance people and can't seem to keep anybody, which has added to the switch not being fixed. Councilperson Simmons reported she would stay in contact with Carol Brassford about the situation.

Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine:

- Reported he had taken the beach grant paperwork to Canton, and it is all set for this year.
- Reported he has had a couple of people ask him about an issue with icy conditions as you are coming into the Town of Fowler, near where Art Besaw lives now, and near Grant Mitchel's home and it being icy most of the time in that area. Supervisor Newvine asked Hwy. Superintendent Durham if the area could be salted instead of just sanded, as it is a known icing area to do with a culvert located there being too close. Hwy. Superintendent Durham reported he had already cut the Town of Gouverneur's trees for them that were creating a cold spot, but he can have Larry Allen, who plows that beat, hit that area a little harder with the sand.
- Reported he had been notified by the Office of the State Comptroller that they had processed an AIM-related payment to the Town of Fowler in the amount of \$8,511.00. Supervisor Newvine discussed he thought the payment was the Town of Fowler's portion of leftover ARPA Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund money, that other Town's didn't take, and it was split amongst the Town's that had applied for the funds.

- Reported he had spoken to Holly Durham of Southwest Tech BOCES to inquire about the possibility of having BOCES build an addition to the Town Hall, and she made him aware of the first steps to do to sit down and discuss the possibility. Supervisor Newvine added, if the ARPA money comes next year, this could be a project it might be used for.
- Supervisor Newvine gave special mention to a transfer chair that was donated by Richard and Debbie Tupper to the Town of Fowler reporting he had it embroidered by Stowell's Custom Printing recently to reflect the gift in their name. Supervisor Newvine thanked Dick & Debbie Tupper for the donation and stated it will be a benefit when Fowler Family Day can return.
- Supervisor Newvine passed on to Rachel that he had enjoyed her father's letter to the editor.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

Councilperson Simmons asked if the planning board was still down a member. Planning board chair Stephen Gale stated he had talked to Leo Knight, and he was interested in becoming a member. Town Clerk Gale advised the board if they want to appoint Leo tonight, they needed to make a motion. A motion was made by Councilperson Cleveland seconded by Councilperson Andrews to appoint Leo Knight as a planning board member. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

****there were no public comments at tonight's meeting****

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

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were # 445 to #478 with a total of \$183,426.62.

SET YEAR-END TRANSFER MEETING DATE

Supervisor Newvine discussed the board needed to set a date to hold the yearly end of the year transfer meeting and stated bookkeeper Finnie asked it to be held on either the 28th or 29th of December. After some discussion the transfer meeting date was set for Wednesday, December 29, 2021, at 3:00PM. Supervisor Newvine discussed not every board member needed to be there as long as there was a quorum of 4 members it would be fine according to bookkeeper Finnie. Supervisor Newvine stated the meeting should only take 5 minutes unless something came up to discuss. Town Clerk Tami Gale asked the board if they wanted to take care of the yearly appointments, administering oaths of office and other business at the transfer meeting as they had done last year. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the board to include these items in the transfer meeting.

Supervisor Newvine announced there will be a Special Meeting & Public Hearing held on Cannabis Regulations, and Proposed Local Law #5 of 2021, at the Town Hall on Monday, December 20th, 2021 at 3:00PM.

The next Regular scheduled board meeting will be held on January 11, 2022.

With no further business, on a motion of Councilperson Cleveland, seconded by Councilperson Andrews the meeting was adjourned at 7:02PM. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Tami Gale; Town Clerk