

Town of Fowler – Organizational Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2017 at 7PM

The Regular Organizational Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all board members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Assessor Sherry Geer, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Bookkeeper Barb Finnie, Dog Warden Dan Moyer, Vicky Cappellino, Mike Macaulay, Debbie Tupper, Wanda Fayette, Richard Clement, Stephen & Tami Gale, Herbert Fuller, Lillith Griffith, and Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM then proceeded with the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2016 and December 29, 2016 meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the 2017 Recommended Appointments and the 2017 Salary Schedule. All board meetings in 2017 will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, except for July and November, which will be determined later in the year. It was decided that the mileage would increase to .54 cents per mile. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to approve the 2017 appointments, 2017 salary schedule, mileage to increase to .54 cents per mile, and the 2017 board meeting dates. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to approve Resolution No. 1 of 2017 to authorize the payment in advance of audits of claims for public utility services, postage, freight, express charges and health insurance premiums. All such claims shall be presented at the next regular Town Board Meeting for audit. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve Resolution No. 2 of 2017 to adopt the Procurement Policy. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford stated that he had issued 1 permit for the month of December. CEO Whitford inquired about the \$500,000 grant from

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CDBG. He stated that if the St. Lawrence County Housing Council was going to administer the grant that he would like to be more involved to make sure they are complying with the code regulations. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there was going to be a meeting to address this issue.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she issued \$157.00 in hunting and fishing licenses, issued 2 death certificates and 25 dog licenses for the month of December. She stated that she started collecting taxes on January 3, 2017.

Dan Moyer reported for the Beaver Control that everything had been quiet. He stated that most everything is frozen. His term ended December 31, 2016.

Dan Moyer, Dog Warden, stated that he had issued a few tickets for unlicensed dogs and dogs running at large. He stated that he is still dealing with a dangerous dog case.

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham stated that at the present moment all trucks are running in good order. He stated that Sid Harmer and Larry Allen have been working on equipment which saves the town money because we don't have to send it out to be fixed. He stated that a truck was sent out a few weeks ago for a fuel injector, which is something that can't be done here. Councilperson Newvine asked Highway Superintendent Durham what time they went out New Year's Day and also asked if the trucks could be calibrated to put out more sand. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that he had them out at 7:30 AM on New Year's Day and that no the trucks could not be calibrated. Councilperson Bishop stated that all the trucks could be calibrated the same. Councilperson Fayette and Highway Superintendent Durham stated that there was no way to calibrate the town trucks to do that. Councilperson Newvine asked Mr. Durham if he had received a response back from the Department of Transportation regarding the request for help we asked for with River Drive. Mr. Durham stated he had not. Councilperson Newvine will send a follow up to the DOT. The board agreed to reimburse Sid Harmer Jr. up to \$165.00 for his work boots, same as the other highway employees receive.

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Councilperson Newvine stated that the Town should be receiving \$2,500 for the Recreation grant that the town applied for last year to help with the lifeguard salaries for the Sylvia Lake Beach. Mr. Newvine presented the board and the community with an outline to give everyone an idea as to what the playground will look like. The Playground Committee is waiting for the mid- January sale to see if we can get the equipment at a better price. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to appoint Debbie Tupper to the Fowler Playground Committee. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Karen Simmons asked Highway Superintendent Durham if he had heard back from the County about the request for a speed reduction on the California Road. Mr. Durham stated that he had received an email from them stating that the request needs to be a smaller portion of the road. Mr. Durham told the County that it went from County Route 22 to County Route 24. He has not heard anything back from them since. Councilperson Simmons asked Supervisor Cappellino if we had received a certificate of liability insurance back from the Fowler Baptist Church. Supervisor Cappellino stated that we had not.

Councilperson Simmons also asked Mr. Cappellino if he had called Dave Blevins about the issue with the basement. Mr. Cappellino stated that they have been trying to get in touch with each other but have not yet. Councilperson Simmons asked Bookkeeper Barb Finnie if she had drawn up a contract between the Town of Fowler and the Hailesboro Cemetery Association. Bookkeeper Finnie stated that she had not finished that yet. Town Clerk Kelly Harmer asked if we needed to do a contract with the Gouverneur Library and the Gouverneur Recreation Center as well. Bookkeeper Finnie will look into this matter.

Supervisor Cappellino presented the board with the Rescue Squad Contract and stated that it needed to be signed and notarized. The contract is for \$21,500 to be divided equally into four payments throughout 2017. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to accept the 2017 Rescue Squad Contract. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

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Supervisor Cappellino administered the Oaths of Office to the 2017 Appointees.

There was discussion about the Beaver Control. The board decided that they would discuss it at the January 10 meeting. Councilperson Simmons will get the figures together that we paid the past year.

Councilperson Bishop asked Highway Superintendent Durham if he thought maybe we should upgrade the fuel system. Mr. Durham stated that he would check to see if there was some kind of grant that we could get to do that. He stated that he is doing everything manually at the present time. He stated maybe we could get a key fob system. Mr. Durham will look further into this.

Supervisor Cappellino reminded everyone that there was a conference at JCC on 3/30/17, if anyone is interested in attending.

Debbie Tupper asked about getting a notice or something out to Fowler residents letting people know about the Veteran's Exemption on your land taxes. Supervisor Cappellino stated that maybe we could put something in the tax receipts that we send back to the residents.

Stephen Gale asked the Board if there would be a conflict of interest with Town Attorney Henry Leader becoming a County Legislator. Supervisor Cappellino stated that Mr. Leader assured him that there would not be an issue.

Debbie Tupper asked the Board how the new temporary judge is doing. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he is doing a good job but we need to find a replacement by the middle of March. The training courses start on April 1. We currently have 2 resumes and 2 others interested.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to go into executive session with all board members and Attorney Henry Leader at 8:54 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to close the executive session at 10:00 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Supervisor Cappellino stated that they discussed the CDBG grant and the St. Lawrence

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Housing Council. Supervisor Cappellino will set up a meeting with the board, Henry Leader and the Housing Council.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #1- #15 with a total of \$37,416.00.

There will be a Public Hearing on January 10, 2017 at 10 am to rescind the 2% tax cap. The next regular board meeting will be on February 7, 2017 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk