

Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2017 at 7 PM

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all Board Members present except for Councilperson Newvine. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Randy Durham, Assessor Sherry Geer, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Bookkeeper Barb Finnie, Darren Colton, from the Real Property Office, Vicky Cappellino, Richard Clement, Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press, Debbie Tupper, Mike Macaulay, Rick Whitford, Johnny Lafaver, Albert Wallace, Dan Fifield, Pat Langevin, Andrew Miller, Shelly Dodds, Donna Brown, Tami Gale, Stephen Gale, Lillith Griffith, Jeff Andrews, Jim McGregor, Dave Spilman, Daniel Whitton, Sid Harmer Jr., Brian Walton, Kermit Rice, Gene and Carol Bigarel, Annette Bowman and Lauren McGrath from St. Lawrence County Housing Council, Earl Klock Jr., John Kreider, Phyllis Shaw, Cynthia Carr, Pat Morrow, Mr. Hamilton and Wanda Fayette.

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to approve the March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Darren Colton, from the St. Lawrence County Real Property Office, came to explain to the tax payers the difference in having 1 Assessor versus 3 Assessors and the options that go with that. Mr. Colton went over the qualification differences between appointed and elected Assessors. He stated that if you go to one Assessor whether it be elected or appointed they would be in office for 6 years. Whereas, three Assessors are elected for four year terms. Mr. Colton answered several questions from the tax payers and the Board. After much discussion, the majority of the people expressed an interest in keeping three Assessors. Mr. Colton expressed that the data collection needs to get done.

There were 7 mowing bids opened.

Johnny Lafaver (Johnny's Cleanup Crew Lawn Care)- \$9,710 with a non-collusive bidding certificate

Albert Wallace (MARW Landscaping)- \$9,975 and \$75 more each time with a non-collusive bidding certificate

Danny Fifield- \$11,400 with a non-collusive bidding certificate

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Fayette and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to accept the low bid of \$9,710 from Johnny Lafaver.

Simmons- yes, Fayette- yes, Cappellino- yes, Bishop- no. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino asked for a motion from the Board to accept the resignation of Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford. Councilperson Simmons stated that she would like to know why he was resigning. Supervisor Cappellino said "He is right there, ask him". Mr. Whitford stated that 90 % of the reason was due to the lack of his involvement with the St. Lawrence County Housing Council. He felt that he could not efficiently do his job when he was not notified of projects getting done. Mr. Whitford felt that Supervisor Cappellino was not keeping anyone informed with what was going on with the Housing Council. Town Clerk Kelly Harmer stated that the grant agreement with the Housing Council was signed by Supervisor Cappellino without a prior vote from the Board. She stated that there was supposed to be changes made to the agreement to have CEO Whitford more involved in the grant procedure and that no changes had been made. Mr. Whitford felt that if something happened to one of these homes that had been rehabbed that he and the Town would be liable. Annette Bowman, from the Housing Council, stated that she is now the Assistant Director and she feels that this new grant will go a lot smoother than the last grant. She stated that she was having a meeting with all the Contractors on Friday, April 14th to discuss the contractor's duties and responsibilities. She stated that the Housing Council is doing their job and that they are not responsible for getting the CEO to sign off on the project after it is finished. After much discussion, the Board did not accept any of the resignations from Rick Whitford as CEO, Maintenance Worker, Custodian or Planning Board Chairman. The board decided that they would look into this

agreement with the Housing Council more and try to see if they could come up with a way to get Mr. Whitford to stay.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to reappoint Carol Woodcock as Court Clerk until 12/31/17. All in Favor.
MOTION CARRIED.

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham thanked the Gouverneur Fire Department for their help with the sluice pipe in Hailesboro. He also wanted to acknowledge Town Employees Larry Allen and Fran Cole. They had spotted a fire at a garage on the Gulf Road and helped pull a trailer and a tractor away from the burning garage. Mr. Durham stated that the County wanted to know an estimate on how much Storm Stella cost the Town. He stated that he had given them the figure of \$12,088.78. Mr. Durham asked the Board for permission for Sid Harmer Jr to get his Class A license at the expense of the Town. Mr. Durham stated that he was down to one driver that has a Class A license. It was consensus of the Board to reimburse Mr. Harmer for the cost of the license. Mr. Durham wanted to remind drivers to slow down through construction sites. He stated that people are driving too fast through them. Councilperson Bishop suggested putting more signs up. Mr. Durham stated there was an OGS auction on May 10 in Binghamton and also one on May 23 in Poughkeepsie. He stated that he would like to go and try to find a Boom mower, loader or some kind of track hoe. It was consensus of the Board to wait until next month to see what is going to be at these auctions before going. Mr. Durham stated that he may be able to get some help from Senator Ritchie's Office to help redo River Drive. Mr. Durham stated that the new lock system had been installed that day.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to advertise for Bids for the paving of the Hull Road, Island Branch Road, Bay Road, Main St.- Hailesboro Road, and the Jones Road to be opened at the June Meeting.

Councilperson Bishop asked Superintendent Durham if the guard rails have been put back up on the Battle Hill Road. Superintendent Durham stated that they had not been. Councilperson Bishop stated that Mr. Durham should be putting in

some winter- mix in the cut outs where the culverts were out on the Island Branch Road.

Dan Moyer, Moyer's Wildlife Control, reported that he had been working on getting beavers on the Sylvia Lake Road. He had gotten 2 beavers already but there are still more there. He stated that the water is high there right now. He will continue to work on it.

Dan Moyer, Dog Control Officer, reported that the heat in the dog pound had been turned off. He stated that the dog that had been in the kennel a few weeks ago, had been adopted out. He stated that he had received a complaint on the River Road about some dogs on someone else's property. He talked to the dog's owner and they are supposed to be getting the dogs licensed.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had collected 82.77% of the tax warrant. She stated that 2nd notices for taxes have been sent out. She reported that she had issued 41 dog licenses, a marriage transcript, 2 kennel fees and a fishing license. She stated that there are a few building permits that she received that need to be completed as soon as we get a Code Enforcement Officer. She stated that she had contacted a company and got a proposal to do an air quality test in the building because of the black mold in the basement. She stated that she was going to get a couple more quotes.

Assessor Sherry Geer stated that the Tax Roll has been taken over to the County so the changes can be made. She will be posting the times that she can sit with the roll and meet with people. She also wanted tax payers to know that they can make an appointment to meet with her at time other than the times listed.

Councilperson Fayette stated that he would like to schedule a work session for the Board to discuss some of the issues that were stated earlier in the meeting, also to discuss the fund balance and the drainage system in the Town Barn.

Councilperson Simmons wanted to thank everyone for coming to the meeting and voicing their opinions.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had received one application for the CEO position. He also wanted the public to know that the Gouverneur Rod and Gun Club and the Gouverneur Central School have started a Trapping league. He stated that they had 26 kids sign up for the NYS Clay Target League. He also stated that the public is welcome to come to the Rod and Gun Club at 6 PM every Tuesday, to shoot clay targets.

Resident Andy Miller asked if the Beach Lawsuit was still going on. Supervisor Cappellino stated that it was still in litigation.

Resident Mike Macaulay stated that he will be resigning from the Variance Board, also from the Fowler Family Day's Committee.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #98 - #136, with a total of \$25,446.40.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on May 2, 2017 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Fayette and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk