

## **Town of Fowler Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes for June 6, 2017 at 7 PM**

The Regular 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, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Vicky Cappellino, Rachel Hunter from the Tribune Press, Lisa Durham, Debbie Tupper, Mike Macaulay, Rick Whitford, Cynthia Carr, Dave Spilman, Richard Clement Sr., Richard Clement Jr., Jeff Andrews, Michelle Durham from the St. Lawrence County Housing Council, Wanda Fayette, Dustin Fayette, Phyllis Shaw, and St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre.

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 Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the May 2, 2017 meeting minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to approve the May 6, May 12, and May 18, 2017 meeting minutes. Councilperson Bishop stated that he refrained from voting to approve the minutes for the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting because he was not present. MOTION CARRIED.

Michelle Durham, from the St. Lawrence County Housing Council, went over a handout that discussed the purpose of the Public hearing. She stated that all funds for the 2014 grant needed to be expended within 24 months, which is June 26, 2017. She stated that the program is on target to meet that deadline. She reported that there was a balance of \$1,334 left to spend out of the 2014 grant. Town Clerk Kelly Harmer stated that her records show a balance of \$38,000. Mrs. Durham said that she wasn't sure why our records didn't match and that she would look into it. Councilperson Bishop asked if the homes were being inspected by our CEO. CEO Besaw said yes they have for as long as he has been here. Mr Bishop then asked how the income qualifications were being done. Mrs. Durham stated that they are done in their office by her and another person and that they

were qualified according to HUD guidelines. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to open that public hearing at 7:05 PM. After the discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to close the public hearing at 7:12 PM. All in FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he received a resignation letter from Councilperson Fayette. Councilperson Newvine asked Mr. Fayette if he would change his mind. Mr. Fayette stated that there wasn't a chance of that happening. Councilperson Newvine stated that he hated to lose him, and that he was the best Highway Liaison that we have ever had. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to accept with regret the resignation of Councilperson Fayette. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

There were 3 Bids for Road Work for 2017 opened.

Hanson Aggregates- Hull Rd- \$183,738, Island Branch Road- \$ 150,346.50, Bay Road - \$41,958, Main St. Hailesboro Road- \$112,322, River Drive- \$25,095.95, and Jones Road- \$68,930. A total of \$ 582,390.45. Their bid also included a Non-Collusive bidding certificate.

Barrett Paving- Hull Road - \$217,325.00, Island Branch Road- \$183,350, Bay Road- \$37,350, Main St. Hailesboro Road -\$ 105,780, River Drive- \$25,930, and Jones Road- \$76,170. A total of \$645,905.00. Their bid also included a Non-Collusive bidding certificate.

Sheehan- Hull Road- \$157,000, Main St. Hailesboro Road- \$98,000, River Drive - \$29,300, Bay Road- \$40,200, Island Branch Road- \$138,200, and Jones Road- \$60,900. A total of \$523,600. Their bid also included a Non-Collusive bidding certificate.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to accept the low bid from Sheehan and to accept it as is with the exception that Mr. Durham will work something out with Sheehan to possibly only do a top coat on River Drive instead of doing it all. This is because the tubes in the road need to be replaced and the County may help with the

planning and engineering. Mr. Durham also stated that according to Senator Ritchie's Office we have a good chance of getting a grant to repair that road. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre reported that the Legislators voted 11-4 against changing the age to purchase tobacco to 21 years old. He stated that the County's finances are slowly getting back to where they should be and that they have 6-7 million dollars in the Fund Balance. He also stated that he still keeps poking them about the Emeryville Bridge and that County Highway Superintendent Don Chambers is keeping his eye open for some used steel and decking to save for the Emeryville Bridge.

Highway Superintendent Randy Durham stated that the new truck had arrived. He stated that there was a little issue with the financing because the bank had been bought out by a different bank and the interest rates had changed. Town Clerk Harmer told the Board that Bookkeeper Finnie had suggested paying for it outright. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to purchase the truck without financing. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Durham also stated that he was interested in purchasing a tractor with a boom mower. The Board decided that they would decide on the mower at a later date. Mr. Durham stated that there were a lot of bad sluice pipes that he would like to scrap. The consensus of the Board was to get rid of the pipes and get the money for the scrap metal. Mr. Durham said that he would be going to Highway Superintendent school in Ithaca next week and that Fran Cole would be in charge.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer stated that it had been slow. He reported that there was a Labrador found on Highway 812 that was returned to the owner. He also stated that there had been reports of a really skinny, white dog on the Emeryville Road that had been wandering around. Mr. Moyer stated that he hadn't seen it the few times he had been up there.

Mr. Moyer reported for the Beaver Control. He reported getting 3 beavers on the Sylvia Lake Road, and 4 on the Shantyville Road. He reported taking 4 beavers out

of the Country Club Road site a few weeks ago, but this past week there had been no activity. He stated he will continue to keep track of it.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she issued 48 dog licenses, 6 death certificates, and \$180 in fishing licenses. She stated that she is no longer collecting taxes for 2017. She collected 93.07% of the tax warrant, \$1.9 million. She stated that her office will be closed on Friday's starting on June 9<sup>th</sup> until August 28, 2017.

Assessor Sherry Geer stated that it had been quiet in her office now that Grievance is done. She stated that Patricia, from the Real property office in Canton, will be here on June 13<sup>th</sup> to meet with her and Tami about the Data Collection.

Code Enforcement Officer Glen Besaw reported that things had been going well. He issued 12 building permits, received 2 complaints and one was resolved. He stated that he had been to CEO training for 3 days and that he will go again later in the month.

Councilperson Bishop stated that Johnny Lafaver had done a good job mowing the Town properties. Councilperson Newvine agreed, stating the Ball field looked great. Mr. Bishop asked Mr. Durham why the loader door is open over at the lot and told him that the loader should be kept in the garage. He also stated that the gate to the lot should be closed and locked at all times. Mr. Durham said he would talk to the guys. Mr. Bishop asked if Mr. Durham was going to take the grader on the Lamb Road. Mr. Durham said he would like to but it has been too wet out. Mr. Bishop wanted to let people know that Link Electric volunteered a lot of their time to put in the electrical outlets across the yard at the Town hall for the Fowler Family Day. Councilperson Newvine stated that they will be recognized at the Fowler Family Day.

Councilperson Simmons stated that Court Clerk Donna Brown would like to go to a class for Court Clerks in July and Mrs. Brown would like to know if she would be paid for the time that she is there. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to pay her \$10/hour for the time she is there. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Newvine stated that the Porta-potties at the Hailesboro Ball field got tipped over and have since been put back upright and cleaned. He also stated that the ball diamond and the dug-outs are dirty. Mr. Newvine got ahold of one of the guys in the league and they cleaned up the grounds. Mr. Newvine said that he couldn't get ahold of Kevin Gamble to replace the fencing at the Ball diamond. The wire is there and one of the guys in the league has experience with fencing and said he would do it if we bought the posts and other materials needed. Mr. Newvine said he had been up to the Beach and the water was down. He asked Highway Superintendent Durham to have the guys take the tables up and put in the dock and ropes. Mr. Newvine also suggested to Mr. Durham that the trees on the Sylvia Lake Road needed trimming as they were hanging in the road way. Mr. Durham said that he would have to get ahold of one of the other towns to borrow their bucket truck. Councilperson Newvine stated that the Playground equipment should be here on August 14. He said we will be needing volunteers at that time. Mr. Newvine gave an update about the Fowler Family Day. He stated that we were still looking for a food cart and was going to contact a few more people. He mentioned that Link Electric did a great job of putting in the power across the yard. They buried the conduit 18" and it should not be an issue with putting the playground in that area. He also suggested leveling out the yard in the future.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he had talked with Dave at Converse Laboratories about the mold in the cellar at the Town Hall. Service master is the company that was suggested to clean it up. They will be coming on June 7 at 9 AM to look at the basement and give us a quote for the clean-up.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to appoint Councilperson Bishop as the Highway Department Liaison to replace Councilperson Fayette. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Councilperson Newvine talked to the Real Property Office in Canton about the vacant store across from the Town Hall. Mr. Newvine said that it is a hazard and it needs to be taken down. Resident Debbie Tupper stated that she thought maybe the DEC would clean up the hazardous materials if it was owned by a municipality.

After some discussion, Mr. Newvine was going to do some more research on the property.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he contacted Dick Cutway to put the railings up, fix the loose boards and paint the back ramp at the Town Hall.

Councilperson Newvine asked the Board what we should do about filling the open position on the Board. After much discussion, it was decided that they would wait to fill the position until someone runs in the Fall. The Board then discussed advertising for a new Planning Board Member and also a Board of Appeals member.

Resident Rick Whitford asked why Mr. Fayette had resigned and if there was a resignation letter to be read. Supervisor Cappellino read the resignation letter from Mr. Fayette and asked Mr. Whitford if he was satisfied. Mr. Whitford replied yes.

The bills audited for the General and Highway Fund were #166- #211, with a total of \$34,413.38.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be on July 6, 2017 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk