

Town of Fowler – Organizational Meeting Minutes –  
January 6, 2015 at 7 PM

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 Mike Sweeney, Justice Paul Lamson, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Assessor Robert Fuller, Doug Turner, Vicky Cappellino, Debbie Tupper, Richard Tupper, Randy Durham, Lauren French, Ray French and Mark Deavers.

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

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to approve the December 2, 2014 and December 29, 2014 Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

After some discussion, about filling the assessor's position that had been vacated by Timothy Geer in September 2014, Rick Newvine made a motion to appoint Douglas Turner for one year. The motion was seconded by Lynn Bishop. Mr. Turner will have to run in the November election. A vote was taken. Rick Newvine- yes Karen Simmons- yes Lynn Bishop- yes Mike Cappellino- yes Natalie Spilman- no. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino reported on the 2015 Recommended Appointments and the 2015 Salary Schedule. All board meetings in 2015 will be held on the first Tuesday of the month except for November, and it was decided the mileage would be raised from 49 cents to 50 cents per mile. After discussion, a motion was made by

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Councilperson Newvine to approve the 2015 appointments, 2015 salary schedule, mileage at 50 cents per mile and the board meeting dates. Motion was seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Gouverneur Central School Superintendent Lauren French gave a presentation on the school's capital project. She then answered questions from the public concerning the project.

Mark Deavers from the Gouverneur Rescue Squad was here concerning the budget. It was decided to leave the budget the same as last year. A motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine to approve the budget for this year. It was seconded by Councilperson Karen Simmons. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that Resolution #1 of 2015 to authorize the payment in advance of audit of claims of public utility services, postage, freight, express charges, and health insurance premiums needed to be addressed by the board. After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Rick Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Lynn Bishop to approve Resolution #1 of 2015. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino discussed getting a resolution in place to give only residents permission to use the town's sand and salt. He stated that there have been a few using it for Commercial use. Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney will write up a policy and put up signs.

Deputy Dog Warden Tammy Hooley reported that there were 5 complaints, 3 warnings, 0 tickets and that there had been 3 dogs in the

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kennel for the month of December. One dog was adopted out and the other two dogs were picked up by their owners.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford had nothing new to report. He is still waiting for his computer to be fixed.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she got a new computer and her BAS Software had been installed. She will have to go through online training for the BAS software before using it. She started collecting taxes on January 2, and everything had been going well.

Justice Paul Lamson reported that people should not drive with their 4-way flashers on. He stated it is very unsafe. He also stated that newer vehicles have the LED lights in them now and that the lights do not get hot enough for the snow to melt off of them. Everybody should be cleaning off their lights.

Historian Karen Simmons stated she had not been able to get up to the historian's office with the holidays. She hopes to get up there and get some things done soon.

Highway Superintendent Michael Sweeney reported that the crew has been out picking up brush, cleaning culverts and replacing road signs and markers. They have inspected all of the spring equipment. Plowed 15 times and sanded 5 times. He stated it has been nice having the public's eye to call and let him know about the road conditions.

Supervisor Cappellino had received compliments on how the roads have been. Highway Superintendent Michael Sweeney stated he is trying to save money but keep the roads safe and try to get people

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going. If the public have any ideas and concerns please call and kindly report. He stated that he has a very good, diligent work crew.

Councilperson Rick Newvine had reports from some concerned tax payers that the roads hadn't been plowed in a timely manner.

Debbie Tupper questioned if there was an audit done before the new Town Clerk took over. Supervisor Michael Cappellino said that it hadn't been done but maybe we should look into having it done.

Kathy Moses thanked everyone again for the donations and box of food for the Kiwanis Backpack Food Program. She also stated that she had been promoted to News Editor for the Tribune Press.

Councilperson Lynn Bishop brought up the issue of the foul smell in the parking lot of the town hall and asked CEO Rick Whitford to check into it.

Councilperson Rick Newvine discussed getting plaques to honor the service of former Highway Superintendent Gary Williams, former Town Clerk Sherrie Williams and former County Legislator Alex Mackinnon. The board thought it was a good idea.

Councilperson Rick Newvine wanted to know if there were any laws on noise restrictions as he had received a noise complaint from a concerned tax payer. CEO Rick Whitford stated that there were none. The board thought that this matter should be looked into.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that we had made a lot of progress in the past six weeks and complimented new Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney and new Town Clerk Kelly Harmer on doing a good job.

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Councilperson Natalie Spilman made a motion to go in to executive session at 9:41 PM and it was seconded by Councilperson Rick Newvine. The board returned from executive session at 9:54 PM.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #1-#11 and the amount was \$7,600.27.

A motion was made by Councilperson Natalie Spilman to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM and seconded by Councilperson Rick Newvine. ALL in Favor. MOTION CARRIED