

## **Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2016 at 7PM**

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, CEO Rick Whitford, Dog Warden Dan Moyer, Assessor Sherry Geer, Herbert Fuller, Mike Macaulay, Dalton Fayette, Robert Ordway, Bob Buddenhagen, Larry Allen, Andy Miller, Connor Bishop, Candace Brown, Laurina Greenhill, Legislator Joel LaPierre, James Hidy from Mohawk Networks, Kathy Moses, Michelle Durham and Brad Charlton from St. Lawrence County Housing Council.

Councilperson Newvine asked everyone to take a moment of silence for several Fowler residents that had recently passed away (Marjorie Farr, Jane Dyer, Jim Fuller, Bonnie Fuller, and Marjory Fuller).

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

After discussion, Councilperson Newvine stated there was a mistake on the January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes concerning the price of the backhoe. It was printed as \$19,000 and it should have been \$9,000. It was noted and will be corrected. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the January minutes. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

James Hidy, from Mohawk Networks in Massena, gave a presentation on broadband internet, cable and phone services. The company is trying to secure funding from the Governor's Office to bring better internet services to the North Country. He asked the town to submit a

non-binding letter stating that the Town of Fowler is interested in bringing broadband to the North Country.

There was one beaver bid submitted by Dan Moyer, however the bid was not bid correctly according to the ad we had in the paper. The board decided to re-advertise the bid to come in at the March meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to pass Resolution #2 for 2016 which is the Procurement Policy. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to pass Resolution #3 of 2016 which is the Holding Harmless Resolution for the County. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

St. Lawrence County Legislator Joel LaPierre stated that they ordered the steel for the Bay Road Bridge. He said that the County hopes to get started on the bridge in early spring. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had gotten a letter from Attorney Henry Leader stating that there should be a decision on the Emeryville Bridge within the next 30 days. He stated that when they removed the temporary Emeryville bridge they damaged the boards and there are a lot of nails sticking out of them.

Michelle Durham, from the St. Lawrence County Housing Council, reported that she has been notified that the 2014 grant funds have been released and that they are ready to move forward with the grant work. She has also received confirmation of receipt for the 2015 grant application. She recommended that a subcommittee be formed to discuss and decide what we want to do with the applicants that have a

conflict of interest such as a relative of a board member or a relative of an employee of the Housing Council. CEO Rick Whitford, Councilperson Simmons and Supervisor Cappellino will meet with Michelle Durham and Brad Charleton on February 5, 2016 at 10 AM in Canton. Mrs. Durham stated that the town needed to appoint someone as the Section 3 Coordinator for the grants. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to appoint Michelle Durham as the Coordinator. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Brad Charleton, from the Housing Council stated that they were waiting for lead reports to come back for the grant work. He stated that they are looking for more contractors to do the grant work. The contractors can stop at the town hall and pick up an application from the town clerk.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she did 42 dog licenses for the month of January. She has collected 57.85% of the tax warrant.

Dog Control Officer Daniel Moyer reported that he picked up a dog on the Glasby Road. After posting it on Facebook the owner called. He then came and picked up the dog from the kennel. He said there was a dog running at large in Balmat but he was unable to find it. There is a dog that has been missing from a residence on the California Road. He met with Janet, from the Department of Ag and Markets, to review paperwork. Everything was fine.

Historian Karen Simmons stated that she had a couple people come in on Monday, January 25, doing research on their family history. She has been busy the last few weeks. Supervisor Cappellino mentioned getting in contact with the late Marjorie Farr's family to see if they would like

to donate the historical items that she had collected over the years. Historian Karen Simmons stated that she would welcome that.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford reported that he had issued 2 permits for the month of January. He stated that the Contractors working on the Town Buildings were back today and that hopefully they will be done in 2 weeks.

Highway Superintendent Durham said he had completed the inventory of equipment for Fuller Insurance. He ordered 3200 tons of salt of which 2600 tons have been delivered. He stated that the price of blacktop is down. He has gotten a few estimates on the road work he is planning on doing this year. The estimate is for 2.68 miles on the California Road, 1.3 miles on the Doane Road, and .58 miles on the Gulf Road. Councilperson Bishop suggested doing Mill Street in Hailesboro. Andrew Miller stated that the Hull Road is in bad shape. Councilperson Newvine suggested that we should inquire into getting an updated road count. Highway Superintendent Durham presented the board with pricing on a new backhoe. Milton Cat gave a price of \$74, 366 after trade-in. Nortrax gave a price of \$71, 281.56 after trade-in. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to purchase the new backhoe from Nortrax. Cappellino- yes, Simmons- yes, Fayette- yes, Newvine- yes, Bishop- no. MOTION CARRIED. Highway Superintendent Durham looked into buying a new dump truck. After some discussion, Councilperson Fayette stated that we should wait until later this year because the International trucks will be coming out with better engines. Councilperson Newvine questioned Highway Superintendent Durham about plowing on Martin Luther King Day. The plows were not out until 7 am that day and the Smith Road was not done until 9:30 am. Councilperson Newvine stated that just

because there is no school the roads still need to be plowed early for people going to work. Councilperson Fayette stated that he thought the highway employees should have planned vacations. The board stated that it is Highway Superintendent Durham's decision when they take their vacation. Mike Macaulay asked why the highway employees have not been pressure washing the trucks. Highway Superintendent Durham stated that it is an environmental issue.

Assessor Sherry Geer stated that she has been coming every Thursday and training with Assessor Bob Fuller. She will be taking some Assessor courses soon and is hoping to get the Assessor's lap top working.

Robert Ordway and Bob Buddenhagen, from the Hailesboro Cemetery Association, asked the board if the donation to the cemetery had been approved because they need tree work and general maintenance done as soon as possible. The board stated that they should be receiving the funds in a few days.

Councilperson Simmons stated there will be an Ethic's Meeting on February 15, 2016 at 1 PM. She stated that the Ethics Board has a couple of people who are interested in joining. She has spoken with Derek Vanhouse, from Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, VanHouse, & Co., about doing the audit on all the Town departments. They would not be able to do it until after April 15<sup>th</sup>. Councilperson Simmons also told the board that she found some info on the old Home Day's in the Historian's Office.

Councilperson Newvine stated that National Grid has been very hesitant to give the Intermunicipal Infrastructure Committee information on the power usage. He asked the Board if they had any issues with past Councilperson Spilman staying on the Intermunicipal

Infrastructure Committee. The Board did not have any issues with this. Councilperson Newvine suggested getting the email addresses for all property owners in the Town of Fowler so we can keep them informed with what is going on in the town. He also suggested dedicating the Hailesboro Ball Diamond in memory of Marjorie Farr. He thought it would be nice to dedicate it at the Home Day's in July. Councilperson Newvine expressed his disappointment in Kathy Moses' article in the Tribune Press concerning the Ethic's situation in the Town of Fowler. He stated the article was very one-sided because it did not include the response from the Board on this situation. Kathy Moses apologized.

Councilperson Bishop stated that the Town should look into mosquito spraying because of the Zika Virus. He presented the board with a quote and information from Duflo Spray-Chemical, Inc. out of New Bremen, NY. It stated that it was safe for people and the environment. The average price per acre would be \$4. He thought maybe we could look into doing the swampy areas. Andrew Miller stated that maybe there would be grants out there that would cover this. The board stated that maybe we could have the owner of the company come and talk to the town about it. Councilperson Bishop also stated that he is still working on getting some information on solar panels.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that we received 3 quotes for the new lock system on three of the doors at the town hall. Barkley's Safe and Lock, Canton, had the lowest bid. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to accept Barkley's Safe and Locks bid. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino received a quote from Jenkins Heating & Cooling for a yearly service contract for the 3 furnaces. M & M Heating stated

that they did not think that we needed to have a service contract. They gave us an hourly rate for the cost of cleaning and servicing the furnace as needed. M & M Heating also gave us a quote on a new point of use hot water heater for the town barn. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would contact Jenkin's and get an hourly rate from them for the cost of cleaning and servicing.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Fayette to appoint Candy Brown to fill the vacant position on the Board of Assessment Review board. All in Favor.  
MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Cappellino spoke to the board about having the mowing bids come in for the April meeting. He also stated that CEO Whitford, Highway Superintendent Durham and himself have been talking about getting some figures to see how much it would cost to put an addition on the town barn for a wash bay and also for storage.

On Site Testing sent the Town a letter stating that the Federal Law stated that you only have to do 25% a year for random testing, not 50% as we do now. The Board decided to direct them to do the 25%.

The board received a letter from Mallory and Luke Gates asking the town to extend the maintenance of the Firefalls Road 3/10 of a mile and to bring year round service to them. They would like to put in a new home up there. The town will have to put a turnaround spot further down the road.

Zachary Risk Management (Safety Joe) sent a contract in asking for \$1,800/ year. Highway Superintendent Durham will set up training with

him for the highway employees. The board would like Mr. Zacharek to commit to some kind of training at least once a month.

Henry Leader contacted Supervisor Cappellino and stated that he had attended an appeals meeting and we should be getting the results back on the Emeryville Bridge shortly.

Highway Superintendent Durham gave the board a list of the surplus equipment.

Kathy Moses, from the Kiwanis Backpack Club reported that the program is now feeding 230 kids/week between the ages of 4-10.

Andrew Miller asked if there was anything new with the beach lawsuit. Supervisor Cappellino stated that there wasn't anything new.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #27-#47, with a total of \$34,350.92.

The board audited Town Clerk Kelly Harmer's books.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on March 1, 2016.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to end the meeting at 9:50 pm.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Dustin Fayette; Councilperson

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk