

## **Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2015 at 7 PM**

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all the Board Members present except Councilperson Spilman. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Justice Paul Lamson, Vicky Cappellino, James McGregor, Herbert Fuller, Debbie Tupper, Mike Macaulay, Randy Durham, Lisa Durham, Tami Gale, Stephen Gale, Kathy Moses and Michelle Durham and Peter Devine from the St. Lawrence Housing Council.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 July 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes and the July 14, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Michelle Durham, from the St. Lawrence County Housing Council, reported that the Town of Fowler was awarded a \$400,000 housing rehabilitation grant. They are hoping to be able to rehabilitate 14 to 15 homes. They have received over 50 applications so far. She stated that there were 5 mobile homes that were eligible for the grant but the new regulations state that any mobile home over 10 years old is no longer eligible for a rehabilitation grant. However, she did state that there may be ways around this. She will look into this matter further. She also stated that there was another grant that will be available starting in September and the Town of Fowler is interested in applying for this grant as well. The town will need to set up a public hearing for the next round of grant money. Peter Devine, from the housing council, went through the process as to what will take place with the grants. He hopes to have all homes inspected and work write ups completed before October. They will send out letters to those that have applied and didn't receive the grant at this time. He also stated that they are looking for local contractors to work these projects. If we know of any contractors that may be interested please contact Peter Devine.

Councilperson Simmons read Dog Control Officer Jeremy Bowser's letter of resignation which was effective 8/1/15. She also gave the dog report which consisted of 1 dog picked up and adopted out to Friends 4 Pound Paws, two complaints and one dog that had been lost for 2 weeks had been found. A motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to accept Jeremy's resignation. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford issued 14 permits for the month of July. He has been working on the drainage system in the town hall parking lot. DEC had been here to test the soil for contamination. CEO Whitford reported that three doors in the barn had some safety issues and they have been repaired.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she had licensed 43 dogs, and issued a few marriage licenses in July. She reported that she had issued fishing licenses. Also, she stated that hunting licenses will go on sale August 10, 2015 and Deer management permits will be available at that time.

Councilperson Simmons reported for the Beaver Control Officer stating that he killed one beaver on the Shantyville road and that he has been chasing one on the Stone road.

Justice Paul Lamson stated that he needed a resolution passed to apply for a court grant. He is hoping to use the money from the grant for a new air conditioning unit for the town hall. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to approve Resolution No. 12 of 2015. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney stated that the paving of the Chub Lake road is on Barrett's agenda for August 14 and August 17, 2015. The town will supply two flag men from the highway department. The road will not be closed but there may be a 10- 20 minute delay. Two culverts have been put in and some ditching has been done at Kilkarney Courts. Superintendent Sweeney said he had spoken to Mrs. Totten about the brush on the side of the road. She stated her husband would take care of it. Superintendent Sweeney also spoke with Sandy Bates about June Kelsey's flowers overflowing into the road. Mrs. Bates said she

would relay the message to Mrs. Kelsey's landscaper. The mowing has been done once for the entire town. There was a culvert that caved in on the Country Club road that needs to be addressed. The highway department has been using the grader that we got from OGS for the past 2 to 3 weeks and they are very happy with it. They stated it had been working great. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that the excavator rental is up on August 9, 2015 but he would like to keep it a little longer. Councilperson Newvine asked how many hours they have used it so far. He also wanted to know if they had enough work to keep it for another month. Highway Superintendent Sweeney was not sure how many hours they had put on it but stated they could find work for it if they had it longer. Councilperson Newvine stated that he checked the hours and it had only been used 161 hours in the past 3 months. The consensus of the board was to keep using the excavator.

Councilperson Bishop asked Highway Superintendent Sweeney if we purchased the sand and salt right now would it be any cheaper. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that he can't order until September 17, 2015.

Councilperson Newvine asked why the highway department ordered gravel from French's in Russell and did not buy from a local vendor. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that the price was better from French's. Councilperson Newvine also stated that he had met with the Ethics committee and commended the 5 volunteers for their great civic duty. He stated that no one should be afraid to ask the committee any questions. Chairman Randy Durham stated that there were two kinds of complaints, a formal and an informal complaint. A formal complaint would be submitted in writing to the committee and the person would get a reply. An informal complaint is where the person would talk to an Ethics committee member and then the Ethics Committee would go to the town board with the complaint and recommendations on how to handle the matter.

Councilperson Newvine reported that he had been to the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Intermunicipal Infrastructure Committee. They met with SLIC and discussed them providing broadband service to the area. SLIC has better and faster internet service. He stated that there is a possibility that Hampshire Paper Co. could provide electricity to some areas depending on the annual usage. The

Intermunicipal Infrastructure Committee meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6 PM in Gouverneur.

Councilperson Newvine stated that there had been an issue on the Doane road one weekend. He contacted Deputy Highway Superintendent Lyle Bishop who went and tended to the problem but never punched in. Councilperson Newvine suggested that we pay him for 2 hours for that day.

Councilperson Newvine reported for Councilperson Spilman stating that there had been 1,018 people at the beach since July 1, 2015.

Councilperson Simmons reported that there was an old dead tree down on the Sylvia Lake Road just past the mines. It is on the edge of the road and could be a traffic hazard. Highway Superintendent Sweeney said that they would take care of it.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that the Judge found in favor of the Town of Fowler in the Beach lawsuit. He also stated that a few members from the Gouverneur Volunteer Fire Department came and helped the highway department with the drain issue in the Town Hall parking lot. He suggested that we make a donation to the Gouverneur Fire Department Explorer program.

Vicky Cappellino had spoken to a couple on the Chub Lake road who voiced concerns about a drop off on the road. She wondered if the highway department was going to put up guard rails in that area. Highway Superintendent Sweeney will check into that spot.

Kathy Moses spoke about how her son, Steve Moses, who is on the CBS show Big Brother. She stated that he has helped with the Kiwanis Backpack group and that there is a store set up online that sells Steve merchandise and some of the proceeds go toward the Kiwanis Backpack group. She stated that CBS will be coming to Gouverneur soon for the show and they are hoping to have a party in the park when they do come.

The Democratic caucus will be held on August 12, 2015 at 7PM. The republican primary will be on Thursday, September 10, 2015.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #249-#283 with a total of \$44,664.16.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 7 PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons at 8:42 PM to adjourn the meeting.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Natalie Spilman; Councilperson

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk