

## **Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2015 at 7 PM**

The Regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all the Board Members present. Also present were Town Clerk Kelly Harmer, Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, Justice Paul Lamson, Assessor Robert Fuller, Beaver Control Officer Paul Cappellino, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Vicky Cappellino, Randy Durham, Lisa Durham, Mike Macaulay, Tami Gale, Larry Allen, Lorraine Lambert, Nancy Fuller, Barry Smith, Bill Reddick, Frank Lallier, Dustin Fayette, Bob Buddenhagen, Robert Ordway, Shelly Dodds, Andrew Miller, Bill DeLorraine, Katelin Thayer and Diane Kelly.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Spilman to approve the minutes from the September 1, 2015 meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Another motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on September 8, 2015. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

The bids for the town hall and town barn renovation's were opened. The bids were from Continental Construction- \$65,450.00, North Route Development - \$54,150.00, A-1 Construction & Painting - \$123,673.00, and Northern Tier Contracting- \$75,400.00. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Spilman to accept all bids. It was decided to have another meeting to go over the bids and make a decision. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to pass Resolution #14 of 2015, which is the resolution to acknowledge ownership of listed roads. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

After discussion, a motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to accept the Town's Procurement Policy. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Dog Control Officer, Dan Moyer, reported that there were two dogs in the pound. He stated that the owner was notified but refused to claim them so they will be adopted on Thursday by Friends 4 Pound Paws.

Code Enforcement Officer, Rick Whitford, was not present but Supervisor Michael Cappellino reported for him. He stated that 14 building permits had been issued for September. There were two complaints that he has been working on. There is a septic issue that he is working on as well. Supervisor Cappellino stated that CEO Whitford is retiring from the State of New York, therefore he needed to resign from this position for a short period of time so he could get his retirement. A motion was made by Councilperson Spilman and seconded by Councilperson Newvine to accept his resignation effective 9/25/15. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to reinstate CEO Whitford as of 10/06/2015. Councilpersons Newvine, Spilman, Simmons and Supervisor Cappellino- yes. Councilperson Bishop- No. MOTION CARRIED.

Town Clerk Kelly Harmer reported that she took in over \$6,215.00 in hunting licenses. Of that amount the town will keep \$292.13 of it. She issued 14 death certificates, 44 dog licenses, and a marriage license.

Beaver Control Officer Paul Cappellino killed 2 beavers and cleaned the grates. There were a few dams that he kept pulling out and the beavers kept building them back up.

Justice Paul Lamson reminded all residents to keep their cars cleaned off in the winter. He stated that according to New York State riding ATV's on the roads whether they are town, county or state highways, is illegal.

Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney stated that it had been a busy month. The Chub Lake road has been completed. He is still trying to get answers from the county about the guiderails. The highway department put up 2 school bus signs, finished mowing and put the tractor away for the year, organized the surplus equipment, fixed two washed out shoulders, filled pot holes, cut brush on Dukey's Bridge, and replaced parts on the front end loader. Highway Superintendent

Sweeney stated that there were 6 trucks out for inspection, the sand and salt is being put up. Cooke's is hauling it in for \$40/load. Highway Superintendent Sweeney asked if he could buy parts from Canada. The board stated that they would look into it.

Councilperson Bishop asked Highway Superintendent Sweeney why a pick-up truck was used to level the shoulders on the Chub Lake road and not a grader. He also stated that the shoulders are varying from 2 feet to 5 feet wide.

Councilperson Newvine stated that spots of the road can be swept. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that the grader would've ruined the black top. Mike Macaulay stated the road is not going to last, and it feels just like a washboard while driving on it. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that the whole road was shimmed. Councilperson Newvine said that the shoulders seem hard.

Robert Ordway thanked the board and the highway department for the help at the Hailesboro Cemetery. He stated that Bookkeeper Gary Higgins mentioned that there may be funds available for them to keep the cemetery going. Mr. Ordway and the Hailesboro Cemetery Association are asking for \$2,000 to support the maintenance costs at the cemetery. The board agreed to the \$2,000 contribution.

Sylvia Lake resident Frank Lallier asked the board if the town could help out with plowing the private road that he lives on. Supervisor Cappellino stated that it is a state law that towns cannot use equipment on private roads. Mr. Lallier thanked the board for their service to the Town of Fowler.

Mike Macaulay asked Highway Superintendent Sweeney and the board why the F150 that the highway superintendent drives was not put in the surplus auction. He stated that Kelly Blue Book price stated that it is worth \$5,300 and we are only getting \$4,000 towards a trade-in. The board stated that even though KBB lists it at that price it doesn't mean that someone would pay that price at the surplus auction.

Mr. Macaulay also asked if the sawmill was going back to 100% assessment and lose the PILOT since it was closing and the contents were being auctioned off. The board stated that the county would be the ones to make that decision.

Kathy Moses, from the Kiwanis Backpack Program, reported that they have been feeding 174 kids. There will be a fundraiser on Friday, October 16, 2015 at the Gouverneur Recreation Center, where people will have a chance to meet Steve Moses, Big Brother winner. All proceeds will go to the Kiwanis Club.

Shelly Dodds asked about the status of the Emeryville Bridge by Tupper's and the Sylvia Lake Beach. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the bridge is expected to be completed by Thanksgiving. The beach is in appeal. The docks have been taken out but Henry Leader will still continue with the appeal for the town. There was a suggestion made that now would be a good time to put in a fence and gate at the beach since the docks have been taken out.

Councilperson Bishop questioned if Safety Joe had been going around to the work areas and the town barn checking for safety issues. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that he has only done two classroom sessions since January 2015. Councilperson Bishop asked if an exit door from the break room could be added into the bid for the town hall and town barn renovations. After some discussion, it was decided that next year they would look into adding on to the break room and an exit door would be added at that time.

Councilperson Spilman wanted to express sympathy to the Joyce Mills family. She was hoping that Legislator Joel Lapierre would be here tonight so she could express how important the need for the Meals on Wheels Program is for our seniors. She also wanted to talk to him about not cutting the Sheriff deputies because they are very important for keeping our communities safe. She said everything had been picked up at the beach for the winter.

Councilperson Newvine asked Highway Superintendent Sweeney what the status was of our employees in the highway department. Highway Superintendent Sweeney stated that Nelson Bice has an appointment in a couple weeks with his doctor to see if he can come back to work. John Walsh is back working 100%.

Councilperson Newvine suggested that maybe we should look for some part-time help. He also asked Highway Superintendent Sweeney what was the damage to the excavator that we rented. Mr. Sweeney stated that a tree branch hit and broke the mirror. Councilperson Newvine wanted to know when the highway department was switching back to 5 days a week. Mr. Sweeney stated that they will start on October 7, 2015.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that we will need to advertise for a public hearing at the next scheduled board meeting concerning the Best Value Policy.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Spilman to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:53 PM. The board returned back from executive session at 9:13 PM.

There will be a budget work session on October 22, 2015 at 6 PM. The next regular board meeting will be on November 5, 2015 at 7 PM. There will also be a public hearing at that time to discuss a local law.

The bills audited for the general and highway fund were #325-#366 with a total of \$25,769.04.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Natalie Spilman; Councilperson

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Kelly Harmer; Town Clerk