

Town of Fowler Meeting Minutes for December 1st 2015

The regular Meeting for the Town of Fowler was held on the above date with all the Board Members present. Also present were Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford, Bookkeeper Gary Higgins, CDBG Representatives Michelle Durham and Brad Charlton, Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer, Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale, Laurina Greenhill, Mike Crowner, Penny Miller, Dalton Fayette, Dave Spilman, Mark Deavers, Sherry Geer, Shelly Dodds, Andy Miller, Debbie Tupper, Bonnie Seaman, Randy Durham, Lisa Durham, Lillith Griffith, Barbara Cross, Dustin Fayette, and Vicky Cappellino.

Supervisor Cappellino called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 minutes from the November 5th meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED. Another motion was made by Councilperson Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Spilman to approve the minutes from the November 12 Special Meeting. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Michelle Durham from CDBG reported that Albany had received the important grant paperwork and that the Environmental Review has been completed. Release of the grant funds should now happen very quickly. Michelle has not heard anything about the Town of Fowler's new application for another grant of \$500,000 that was previously submitted.

Debbie Tupper asked if letters have gone out to the people who have been approved. Michelle Durham stated that if you did not receive a letter then you are on the "to go" list. Once the funds are formally released by New York State, a final assessment will be completed by Brad Charlton, followed by a final determination made for each of the sixteen homes on the list.

Councilperson Newvine asked Michelle Durham what was holding up the release of funds. Michelle stated that the Environmental Review as well as important paperwork that did not have the original signatures, was what had been holding the process up. CDBG had mailed the 1st set of this important paperwork and

Albany never received it. The second set of the important paperwork was then sent from the Fowler Town Clerk's office and Albany did receive it.

Councilperson Newvine stated that Supervisor Mike Cappellino and Town Clerk Kelly Harmer had to do a lot of extensive paperwork that was not required of them to complete on the last grant. Michelle Durham responded that the contract states the Environmental Review is the responsibility of the applicant and not the responsibility of CDBG.

Councilperson Newvine asked Michelle Durham what had changed. Michelle Durham replied that all of the time spent by the Housing Council on the Town of Fowler on this grant, before it is granted, will not be reimbursed. Supervisor Mike Cappellino told Michelle Durham that the Town of Fowler appreciates all that she has done.

Supervisor Cappellino asked about the sewer project at Charles Bowman's in Balmat. Brad Charlton stated that his work is not a part of this grant. Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford stated that his work is not completed yet – as no further work can be started until the funds are released. Michelle Durham added that the work left to be done at Mr. Bowmans' is coming out of another funding.

Brad Charlton asked the board if Jason Fuller knew about the work that was going to be done. Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford replied that Mr. Fuller is drilling a new well. Brad Charlton stated that the old well should be filled in. Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford stated that there is another well between the two. Brad Charlton recommended filling both existing wells in.

Michelle Durham stated that they have a list of approved contractors with 2 well drillers. The 1 bid, that is preliminary – was bid by the foot – the estimate is over \$10,000, if it is over 265' deep.

Mr. Charlton stated that the Housing Council has paid an engineer \$1900.00 already on this well. It is money that was taken out of a General Fund that they can't re-coup from the grant money. He explained that it is the same money that

pays the Housing Council wages and that all of the time and the money that has been spent will not be reimbursed.

Supervisor Cappellino thanked both Michelle and Brad for coming to the meetings, and expressed the Town of Fowler's appreciation for all that they have done.

Dog Control Officer Dan Moyer reported that it has been quiet – no complaints. One dog was picked up by a resident who believed the dog was a stray. The dog was already licensed, so it was returned to his rightful owner. The kennel remains on low heat to keep the pipes from freezing.

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Whitford reported that he has issued five building permits in the month of November. He has been working with FEMA on getting several properties up to date that are in designated flood zones.

Deputy Town Clerk Tami Gale reported for Town Clerk Kelly Harmer that the office had issued one marriage license, licensed 43 dogs, gave out 5 building permits, and collected \$35.00 in kennel fees for the month.

Councilperson Karen Simmons reported for Beaver Control Officer Paul Cappellino that 0 beavers were killed in the month of November. He has been busy removing debris. Councilperson Simmons stated that the position of Beaver Control Officer will be put out for bid in January.

Town of Fowler Historian Karen Simmons stated that she has been busy working on 3 genealogy projects, and the research was coming along.

Councilperson Rick Newvine reported for the Highway Department. He stated that the guys are doing pretty - well, they have been waiting on the snow and struggle a little with the chain of command in the absence of Highway Superintendent Sweeney. Lyle Bishop is stepping up as the Deputy Highway Superintendent. Councilperson Spilman asked about the absence of Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney. Councilperson Simmons asked who has possession of the Highway Department phone. Councilperson Spilman stated that the Deputy should have it. Kathy Moses asked if the Town Board had considered

asking Highway Superintendent Sweeney to resign early. Supervisor Cappellino and Councilperson Newvine both stated that they would call Highway Superintendent Mike Sweeney to ask for the Highway Department phone to be brought to the Highway Department Deputy.

Bookkeeper Gary Higgins reminded the Town employees to watch costs and spending, and to get all bills into the clerk as soon as possible. He added try not to buy anything that can wait until January. Bookkeeper Higgins stated that the budget is in good shape. Bookkeeper Higgins is hopeful that the contractors will begin work on the Town Hall and Town Barn so that partial billing could be paid out of the 2015 budget.

The budget transfer meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 29th, 2015 at 5PM for the closing of the books, budget transfers, and to vote on repealing the Tax-Cap Override.

Bookkeeper Higgins reported that we have received 25% of the State share of last years' Emergency State Fund, in the amount of \$3,100, and that the Chips Money is expected soon.

The Board and Citizens took a break during the meeting to honor outgoing Councilperson Natalie Spilman and retiring Bookkeeper Gary Higgins. Supervisor Cappellino presented plaques of appreciation to both for their service to the Town of Fowler.

Councilperson-Elect Dustin Fayette stated concern about the wood deck on the Emeryville Rd. Bridge and questioned if there was any action that could be taken concerning the matter. Councilperson Newvine stated that it was likely that it had sustained some damage when the county had installed and removed the temporary bridge. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he would make a call concerning the matter.

Kathy Moses of the Gouverneur Kiwanis Club thanked the Town of Fowler for their continued generous support each month for the Wildcat Backpack Program. She also stated that NAPA and Gouverneur Savings & Loan both contribute \$100.00 a

month to the program, which has an annual budget of \$29,500 and serves 200 children a week.

Gouverneur Volunteer Rescue Squad Director Mark Deavers presented the new contracts to the Board. He stated that 10.47% of the calls received were in the Town of Fowler. Bookkeeper Higgins reported that the Town had included an annual raise in the amount of \$351.00 in the 2016 budget for the Rescue Squad, and the new contract should be changed to reflect the increase.

Supervisor Cappellino congratulated Sherry Geer on her new Assessor Position with the Town of Fowler.

Andrew Miller asked the Board if there was any update on the Beach. Supervisor Cappellino replied that there has not been any further news on the beach.

Councilperson Spilman stated that there is going to be a hearing held on January 13, 2016 over the County appealing ownership of the Emeryville Bridge.

Councilperson Newvine stated that there will be a GADC meeting on December 16th, 2015 at the Village Offices that is open to the public. The new Cambray Housing is expected to be 14.9 million. The Zinc Mine has asked for 10 mega watts of power. Councilperson Newvine also stated that there have been no Infrastructure Committee meetings lately.

Councilperson Newvine stated that he had called the Federal Railroad Commission to notify them that the recent railway repairs were “good”, but not “great.”

Councilperson Spilman complimented Councilperson Newvine on staying on top of the Railroad Tracks, and for his efforts in finding a contact with the Railroad for the Town. Councilperson Spilman also thanked everyone, saying that she has enjoyed her time on the Town Board, and will continue to help in any way that she can.

Councilperson Bishop stated that he was happy with the new bridge by Debbie Tupper. Councilperson Bishop asked where Safety Joe has been. He stated that the Town has paid him \$1800.00 and have seen him twice. He was under the impression that he was going to make safety checks on the highway workers at

their jobsites. He stated that the contract ends at the end of the year and feels that the new Highway Superintendent-Elect should call him. Councilperson Bishop asked if any of the surplus equipment was sold.

Bookkeeper Gary Higgins stated that the Town should now wait until spring to have the surplus sale. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he will get the sale planned for the spring possibly with an auction company out of Rochester. Highway Superintendent –Elect Randy Durham stated that we may want to give locals a chance to bid first.

Supervisor Cappellino stated that he had signed the paperwork for the new F-250 truck, and it had a new bed-liner installed as well as a new plow. Supervisor Cappellino stated that the Town had received a quote from NCC Systems for the key-less door locks for the front and back door and the Town Clerk's office. The bid was for \$5410.00. Supervisor Cappellino stated that he is waiting on a quote from Barkley's in Potsdam. Councilperson-Elect Dustin Fayette mentioned that Stat in Watertown could be another choice. Councilperson Newvine stated that they would like to stay in St. Lawrence County, but that they would go with the cheapest quote.

Supervisor Cappellino reported that the new bridge on the Emeryville Rd has a 3 Ton weight limit and a 7 foot Clearance. Supervisor Cappellino also stated that he had looked at the culvert on the Emeryville Rd and stated that it is wet in there. Councilperson Bishop stated that it would be ditched. Supervisor Cappellino thanked retiring Bookkeeper Gary Higgins for his service to the Town of Fowler since 2007. He told Gary that he had built a great Fund Balance for the Town and had a great insight on taxes. Councilperson Spilman agreed and stated that Gary has been a wonderful asset to the Town, very knowledgeable and has guided the Town well.

Bookkeeper Gary Higgins stated that the risk assessment from the State has been completed and the risk is 0.

Dave Spilman reported that there is an available apartment at Kilkarney Court in Hailesboro if anyone is interested. Mr. Spilman also stated that Kilkarney Court

had installed new locks on their doors last year if the Town wanted to inquire with their installer. Vicky Cappellino stated that she could find this information out.

The bills audited for the General and the Highway Fund were #404 - #439, with a total of \$120,319.46.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday December 29th, 2015 at 5PM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Newvine and seconded by Councilperson Bishop to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM. All in Favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Michael Cappellino; Supervisor

Natalie Spilman; Councilperson

Lynn Bishop; Councilperson

Rick Newvine; Councilperson

Karen Simmons; Councilperson

Tami Gale; Deputy Town Clerk