

Town of Fowler Directory 2023

Assessment Review Board

Chair: Donna Brown315-287-2949
Candace Brown315-287-2144
Rich Weaver.....315-286-2696

Assessors

Kathy Besaw.....315-276-5987
Robert Theriault.....315-345-4952
Timothy Thomas315-767-1576
Assessor's Office.....315-0045 Ext 2

Code Enforcement

Glen Besaw.....315-323-0761
CEO Office315-287-0045 Ext 4

Custodian

Rosalee Thornton..... 315-287-0045 Ext 1

Town Bookkeeper

Barbara Finnie.....315-486-1075

Maintenance

Byron Woodward.....315-287-0045 Ext 1

Dog Control

Dan Moyer.....315-528-7988

Ethics Board

Marcia Cleveland.....315-854-0420
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503
Alex Mackinnon.....315-778-1287
Chair Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753
Vivian Goodman.....315-287-2369

Health Officer

Dr Eric Putman.....315-287-2192

Highway Superintendent

Randy Durham..... 315-286-8664
315-222-6797
Hwy. Dept.....315-287-0045Ext 5

Historian

Karen Simmons315-287-4753
315-854-5517

Justice Department

Justice Tim Knowlton.....315-287-0045 Ext 3
Fax #315-535-4300

Court Clerk: Irma Ashley ...315-287-0045 Ext 3

Town Supervisor

Ricky W. Newvine.....315-287-4098
315-771-2194

Town Board Members

Karen Simmons.....315-287-4753
Lynn Bishop.....315-955-2929
Jeff Andrews.....315-287-0587
Scott A. Cleveland.....315-778-5358

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Tami Gale.....315-287-0045 Ext 1
Fax #.....315-535-4094

Deputy Town Clerk

Debra Tupper..... 315-287-0045 Ext 1
Kim Reed.....315-287-0045 Ext 1

Town Facilities

Use of Town Hall.....315-778-5358
Public Beach/Sylvia Lake.....315-287-4098
Hailesboro Ball Field.....315-287-4098
Use of Pavilion/Playground.....315-778-5358

Town Planning Board

Chair Stephen Gale.....315-287-1408
Leo Knight.....315-528-2440
Roger Refici.....315-323-5994
Dan Kingsley..... 315-816-7531
Vicky Cappellino.....315-287-3503

Town of Fowler Newsletter 2023

Assessment Review Board

There are three seats on the Board of Assessment Review. Currently, the Chairman is Donna Brown. Other members are Rich Weaver, and Candy Brown. The Board of Assessment Review holds Grievance Day on the fourth Tuesday of May from 4:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Fowler Town Hall.

Residents who disagree with their assessment are urged to meet with the Town Assessors to discuss their assessments **PRIOR** to presenting their grievance to the Board of Assessment Review. To make arrangements to meet with an assessor at the Town Hall, please call the **Assessors at 315-287-0045 Ext 2**.

After meeting with the assessors' residents who still wish to grieve their assessments may do so at the date and time previously outlined. The Board will review grievances and then make a decision to either lower the property owner's assessment or leave the assessment the same. Residents who have filed a grievance are notified of the outcome by U.S. Mail.

Justice Department

Tim Knowlton is the Town Justice for the Town of Fowler. Town Court is held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 12 PM upstairs in the Town Hall. Fines may be paid at that time or sent in the mail. Individuals who wish to make payments to Fowler Town Court using credit and debit cards may do so through **allpaid.com**. Go to www.allpaid.com and use the Pay Location Code (**PLC a0026f**). The Court does not accept checks. Irma Ashley, Court Clerk is at the Town Hall on Mon. Tues. and Wed. from 9:00 AM to 3:00PM to answer questions and collect fines. If you need to contact the court any other time, please call **(315) 287-0045 Ext 3** and leave a message or fax us at (315)535-4300.

Town Board

In the year of 2023, the town board meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm except for the months of October and November. Special meetings will be advertised in the Gouverneur Tribune Press and/or the Watertown Daily Times newspapers and on the town's website. www.fowlerny.com

The 2023 Town Board consists of Supervisor Ricky W. Newvine, Deputy Supervisor and Councilperson Karen M. Simmons, Councilpersons Lynn Bishop, Jeff Andrews, and Scott A. Cleveland. Day to day operations at the Town Hall continue to be handled by Town Clerk Tami Gale. Barbara Finnie will serve as our bookkeeper for 2023.

The Town Board would like to invite all town residents and visitors to attend our monthly meetings in person or via teleconference by contacting the Town Clerk's office for the phone number and PIN number. Visit our website (www.fowlerny.com) to view and download newsletters and other information about the Town, including the minutes past and present. This year's funds from ARPA, the American Rescue Plan Act has provided monies to our HAP (Home Assistance Program) and SOS (Support our Seniors) to ensure their solvency. Monies also will be used to close in the roof of the Herbert V. Whalen and Family Pavilion. A propane fueled generator has been ordered with ARPA money and we hope to have it operational by winter 2022, to provide a fully functional emergency center at our Town Hall when necessary.

Sylvia Lake Public Beach 29 Old Beach Road, Gouverneur NY 13642

The Public Beach is owned and operated by the Town of Fowler with guidance from the NYS Board of Health (Canton Office). The beach is open seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August. Certified lifeguards are on duty during the posted hours of operations. (10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.) Handicapped and public parking is located in relative proximity to the beach entrance.

The beach has a picnic area with tables and charcoal grills for public use. Changing rooms, rest rooms, and a handwashing station are also on site.

We have a great group of lifeguards led by Claire Knowlton, who met the needs of all who visited the beach in 2022.

We encountered some unforeseen regulations with regards to installation of steps for our seniors and smaller children. We are working with the NYS Board of Health to provide a safe entry to the lake for 2023.

If you have special needs, or are planning a special event, please contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315) 771-2194, or the Town Clerk's Office at (315)287-0045 Ext 1.

Historian's Office

The Historian's Office is located upstairs in the Fowler Town Hall. Historian Karen Simmons is in the office on Thursdays from 1-4PM or any time by appointment by calling (315)287-4753 or the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

If you are researching ancestors and/or working on your family genealogy, contact my office as I have some records on hand that may assist you in your search.

We would like to thank BOCES for making signs with the names of all of the cemeteries in the Town of Fowler. They are now posted at the entrances to each cemetery, making it easier to identify their location.

I am still looking for names of veterans who are from Fowler who served in the Korean Conflict as well as the Vietnam War.

Highway Department

The Town of Fowler maintains 56.25 Miles of Town Roads.

In the winter months the town plows 73.75 miles of roads which includes County Route 22 and 24.

Our phone number has changed. It is now 315-287-0045 Ext 5. Of course, you can always reach me on my personal cell at 315-222-6797.

We appreciate everyone's patience this past year during our busy 2022 construction season. We have been steadily working on my goal of upgrading the Town roads and equipment.

This year we purchased a new excavator, new bobcat, and a used crack sealer. We have also ordered a new Mack Plow Truck which should arrive sometime in late spring.

In 2022 we rebuilt 1.05 miles of the River Road, and the section of the Country Club Road between the State barn and the Hailesboro Post Office.

Next year we are planning on paving some of the smaller roads in Balmat and roads off of the California Road. The price of material will determine how many roads will be done.

I would like to thank John Walsh for his dedicated service to the Town of Fowler. He has announced he will be retiring on May 8th, 2023.

We have hired Terrell Ferrer as his replacement. Terrell is a graduate of the BOCES Heavy Equipment Course and has worked with the Town of Fowler through a St. Lawrence County jobs program previously. Please like and check out my Town of Fowler Highway Department Facebook Page to get current road conditions for our area during the winter months.

I would like to thank everyone for your support this year. It is your support that makes this team so successful.

Best wishes for a happy and safe new year in 2023 from the Town of Fowler Highway Crew: Randy Durham, Nelson Bice, Francis Cole, Larry Allen, John Walsh, David (Dennis) Travis, Anthony Sequin, and Terrell Ferrer.

Dog Control

The year 2022 was a busy year for dog complaints. Dan Moyer, Dog Control Officer, picked up several dogs that were returned to their owners or were adopted. We always try to find a home for the dogs that we pick up, we do not have dogs euthanized. Mr. Moyer would like to remind everyone, there is a leash law in the Town of Fowler along with other laws in the Town of Fowler governing dogs, such as **all dogs 4 months of age or older must have a rabies shot and be licensed in the Town in which they live.**

We had a very successful rabies clinic again in 2022. Watch for our free rabies clinic in August 2023.

If you have any questions, contact Dan Moyer at (315)528-7988 or (315)771-8103 or the Town Clerk at (315) 287-0045 extension 1.

Use of Town Facilities

The Town Hall is not available for parties or special occasions at this time due to the space needed to accommodate the food programs.

The Herbert V. Whalen pavilion is now available to be rented by individuals for special parties or special occasions from May 1st to November 1st. Applications for use of the pavilion can be obtained online at www.fowlerny.com or may be picked up at the Town Clerk's Office. Councilperson Scott Cleveland oversees the pavilion and playground and can be reached at (315)778-5358 with any questions. A security deposit of \$100.00 is due at the time of submitting the pavilion application and will be promptly returned upon satisfactory inspection of the pavilion after its use.

The Sylvia Lake Beach is open to the public seven days a week from the end of June to the end of August in compliance with guidelines from the Department of Health. For more information call Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, (315)771-2194. We are always in need of certified lifeguards who are the age of 16 or older. If you would like to apply, call the Town Clerk at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

Groups interested in using the Hailesboro ball field during the summer should contact Rick Newvine at (315)287-4098, or (315)771-2194.

Ethics Board

The Fowler Board of Ethics Committee consists of five members, Marcia Cleveland, Vicky Cappellino, Chair Karen Simmons, Alex Mackinnon, and our newest member Vivian Goodman, who was appointed in January 2022. Each member serves a four-year term. Any person may file a concern or complaint in writing to the chairperson who in turn will set up a meeting with the other committee members to address the issue. The committee may request an interview with the party or parties involved to discuss the situation further to reach a decision or solution. After the discussion, the committee notifies the party or parties of their decision in writing. There were no complaints in 2022.

From the Assessors

*******Office hours Tuesdays from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and by appointment.*******

Assessors Kathleen Besaw, Robert Theriault, and Timothy Thomas make up the Assessor Department.

VETERANS:

If you are a **Veteran** or **surviving spouse** of a Veteran with an **honorable discharge** you may be eligible for one of the following exemptions:

Alternative Veterans Exemption (form RP-458-a) available only on residential property of a veteran who has served during a designated time of war or received an expeditionary medal.

Cold War Exemption (form RP-458-b) available only on residential property of a veteran who served during the Cold War period.

You must apply by March 1, 2023 for the 2023-2024 Assessment Roll. Please call our office at **(315) 287-0045 Ext 2** and we will mail you the necessary application to complete and return with necessary documents. For more information you can reference the following link: <https://veterans.ny.gov/content/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>

STAR EXEMPTION INFORMATION:

If you are currently receiving the basic or enhanced star exemptions NYS Tax department will be doing the yearly qualification for these exemptions. If more information is needed you will receive an information request in the mail directly from the NYS Tax Department office. If you have questions or need assistance, please feel free to call our office and we will try to help you all we can.

If you currently have the **BASIC Star Exemption** and **at least one** of the homeowners **turns 65 before December 31, 2023**, you can still apply for the Enhanced Star Exemption with your **local assessor**. You will need to complete the required application and submit proof of age and income. **Income limit for 2023-2024 Enhanced star exemption is \$92,000 or less.** If you qualify you would be able to continue to receive the **exemption** on your school tax bill. **Please contact our office 315-287-0045 Ext 2 if you believe you may qualify for this exemption.** We will mail you the required application to complete and return to local assessor office. This will need to be done by **March 1, 2023, for the 2023-2024 Assessment Roll.**

NEW HOMEOWNERS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE BASIC OR ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTION. NEW HOMEOWNERS MUST APPLY FOR **STAR CREDIT** WITH NYS TAX DEPARTMENT. WITH THE STAR CREDIT YOU RECEIVE A CHECK FROM THE TAX DEPARTMENT TO APPLY TO YOUR SCHOOL TAXES. **You can apply for Star Credit by calling 518-457-2036 8:30am to 4:30pm or online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.tax.ny.gov/star This number is a good number to call with any questions on STAR CREDIT.**

Senior Exemption is eligible for seniors 65 or older upon age, ownership & income qualification. You must earn **below \$17,699** per year to qualify for this. **If you believe you qualify, please contact your local assessor at 315-287-0045 Ext. 2** and we will mail you the necessary application for this exemption.

HOMEOWNERS TAX REBATE CREDIT QUESTIONS CALL 518-453-8146.

Our office is currently working on updating property record cards for the Town of Fowler as mandated by NYS Office of Real Property. Data Collection is needed to value each parcel of property located within a specific assessing jurisdiction. It is very important that the data be recorded as accurately and consistently as possible as it will serve as the basis of all future appraisal activity in revaluation programs and ORPS market survey process. Not only will this information provide the specific elements needed to value each parcel of property, it will also become a valuable record of information for future use by the assessor's office. If the data collector comes to your property and no one is home a notice will be left so you know we were there. If you could please call the phone number left on the notice that would be greatly appreciated. We might be able to confirm any information needed over the phone and or can set up a time when it would be best to return to your property. This is a work in progress and your help would be greatly appreciated!!!!

Town Planning Board

The Planning Board consists of five Fowler residents Chairman Stephen Gale, Dan Kingsley, Roger Refici, Vicky Cappellino, and Leo Knight. There are no zoning laws in the Town of Fowler. In 2021, the planning board made 2 amendments to Local Law 2 of 2020, Land Use Laws and Regulations of the Town of Fowler, changing setback requirements and providing for the regulation of Solar Energy Facilities.

The Planning Board makes its decisions and submits them to the Town Board according to the Town's Land Use Law. You may view a hard copy of the Land Use Law at the Town Clerk's Office. Or you may view or print the policy from our website: www.fowlerny.com.

Planning Board meetings are held, when necessary, in the Fowler Town Hall. Meetings are advertised in the local newspaper and on the Town of Fowler website.

Code Enforcement Officer

Building permits are required for demolition of buildings, renovations, structural changes on your home or buildings, roof replacement, pools, buildings over 144 sq. ft, and septic systems.

Building and use permits are still required for any construction to enlarge, repair, move, demolish or change the occupancy of any building or structure as well as changing or installing any electrical, gas, mechanical or plumbing system.

Effective January 1, 2021, Building Permit applications and fee schedules were updated, to be more compatible with surrounding Towns. Building Permits and Fees can be viewed and downloaded from the Town website: www.fowlerny.com. It is the responsibility of the **homeowner or contractor** to fill out the building permit and call Code Enforcement Officer **Glen Besaw, at 315-323-0761** with any and all questions pertaining to a building permit before it is turned in to the Town Clerk's office with payment.

If residents or contractors have any questions, they need to call **Glen Besaw, Town of Fowler Code Enforcement Officer at 315-323-0761**. Glen will make every effort to get any requested information as quickly as possible, which will prevent the possibility of any work stoppage or delay.

If you have any questions about code regulations or concerns about unsafe or unsanitary conditions within the Town, please call Glen Besaw (Code Enforcement Officer) at (315)323-0761.

ANY PERSON STARTING WORK WITHOUT A BUILDING PERMIT WILL BE CHARGED AN ADDED FEE OF \$50.00 NO EXCEPTIONS.

Town Clerk and Tax Collector

Starting January 9th, 2023 evening hours on one day a week during tax-collection season, will be added for the convenience of the public. Our office is open Monday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to **6:00PM**, and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:00AM to 12:00PM and 1:00PM to 4:00PM. This office issues dog licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, marriage licenses and disabled parking permits. Voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and building permit applications, are available at this office. Both Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper and Deputy Town Clerk Kim Reed are returning to their appointed office in 2023. Town Clerk Tami Gale and Deputy Town Clerk Debra Tupper are Notaries. We will start collecting land taxes on January 2, 2023. Taxes may be paid with cash, check, money order, and credit /debit cards. There is a 2.65% fee added if paying by credit/debit cards. To avoid physical contact there is a drop-box at the rear of the Town Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Town Clerk's Office at (315) 287-0045 extension 1.

2023 Town Board Meeting Dates

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6PM at the Town Hall

<i>January 9, 2023</i>	<i>July 10, 2023</i>
<i>February 13, 2023</i>	<i>August 14, 2023</i>
<i>March 13, 2023</i>	<i>September 11, 2023</i>
<i>April 10, 2023</i>	<i>October (TBD)</i>
<i>May 8, 2023</i>	<i>November (TBD)</i>
<i>June 12, 2023</i>	<i>December 11, 2023</i>

Town of Fowler Online

A local Fowler business, Rainbowtech Designs, created and manages the Town of Fowler's website. You can find minutes of meetings, a business directory, and other information about Fowler. Everything on the site is searchable. www.fowler.com.

Fowler Family Day

Fowler Family Day returned in 2022 and was a huge success. Local merchants and manufacturing facilities stepped up big to fund this event. Matune Creek Band provided entertainment under the pavilion for all to enjoy. Family Day gets bigger and better each year, and we expect 2023 will live up to that billing. A big thank you to all who volunteer for this all-important Town of Fowler event.

SOS (SUPPORT OUR SENIORS) PROGRAM

Through donations from individuals, we have been able to buy and deliver care packages to senior citizens 65 years and older with the program continuing into its 2nd year. The program began during the COVID-19 pandemic, as an idea Supervisor Newvine initiated to give back to the senior citizens in our community. This program has grown to serve nearly 100 seniors in the Town of Fowler.

HAP PROGRAM

In February 2021, we started a new food program, HAP (Hometown Assistance Program) at the Fowler Town Hall. The program is open to all residents of the Town of Fowler. On Thursdays from 9-12 and 1-4 people can come into the Town Hall and choose from the variety of foods available. Thanks to Dave Spilman Jr., Kinney Drugs, and the many local residents, including Joan Shove, who has held a rummage sale at her residence located at 1591 County Route 22, during the month of May, with all proceeds being donated to our food program, and to Councilperson Karen Simmons for her administrative guidance.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Karen Simmons at (315)287-4753 or Tami Gale at (315)287-0045 ext 1.

* NOTE: There is a Drop box located by the back entrance to the Town Hall that is checked twice a day on business days.