

FOWLER VILLAGE COUNCIL

President
Vernon J. Thelen
President Pro-Tem
Mike Porter
Trustees
Codi Schrauben
Brad Rhynard
Dan Schmitt
Rick Fink
Melissa Humphrey

Treasurer
John C. Rademacher
Clerk
Rhonda Feldpausch
DPW Employees
Vern Feldpausch
Brad Smith

DATE: OCTOBER 14, 2025

The Fowler Village Council met Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM with President Vernon J. Thelen presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum reported.

Present: Brad Rhynard, John Rademacher, Rick Fink, Codi Schrauben, and Rhonda Feldpausch. Absent: Dan Schmitt, Melissa Humphrey and Mike Porter.

Vern Feldpausch

VILLAGE PERSONNEL

Zach Rudat - Clinton County Commissioner

VISITORS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schrauben moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

AGENDA

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Rhynard moved, supported by Trustee Schrauben, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

MINUTES

BILLS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schrauben moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve payment of \$36,474.09 from the General Fund, \$7,000.00 from Major Street Fund, \$5,800.93 from the Sanitary Sewer O & M Fund, and \$2,355.88 from the Water O & M Fund. Motion carried.

None.

ZONING PERMITS

No one present.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF

TREASURER REPORT

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Fink moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve the August and September Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Working on Comprehensive Development Plan update.

Vern Feldpausch, DPW Supervisor reported on the following items:

- Tree trimming
- Lagoon sampling and dumping
- Sidewalk patching
- Hydrant and valve work to begin in a month or two
- Hydrant replacements
- Wash and wax equipment
- Prepare parks for winter

Discussions continue with Granger and Clinton County Waste Management regarding options.

RECYCLE SITE

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Fink moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to move the November meeting to November 18, 2025. Motion carried.

NOVEMBER MEETING

RESCHEDULE

RECREATIONAL AREA COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schrauben moved, supported by Trustee Fink, to adopt the following resolution to establish a Recreational Area Committee:

WHEREAS, the Village of Fowler has a rich history of providing welcoming recreational spaces to residents of the Fowler area (i.e. parks, public gathering areas, playgrounds); and

WHEREAS, there are opportunities to enhance our public recreational places through granting agencies such as, but not limited to, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, a community developed recreation plan is required for access to grant resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fowler Village Council to appoint a Recreational Area Committee for the purposes of:

1. Completing an assessment of current recreational areas (both owned and/or maintained by the village).
2. Performing public outreach as to recreational amenities desired by the community.
3. Creating a 5-year Recreational Plan to be presented to the Fowler Village Council not later than January 13, 2026.

Yea: Schrauben, Rhynard, Fink, V. Thelen Nays: None

Absent: Porter, Humphrey, Schmitt

ZACH RUDAT – CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Zach Rudat, Clinton County Commissioner, provided the following information:

- **County Budget:** This Month, our County Administrator presented county budget recommendation for the 2026 fiscal year to the Board of Commissioners. Please note this is a recommendation, not the official budget. Below are some notable highlights:
 - **Revenue:** Property taxes account for 75% of our county's revenue. There's no change in our county millage rate but increases in county taxable value are projected to increase tax revenue by 5.4% next year.
 - State and federal dollars account for 10% of our revenue; since the state budget is not yet finalized, our Administrator's recommendation is built on the presumption that state dollars will be at the same level next year. It's our expectation that a state budget will be passed before we formally adopt a county budget, giving us firm numbers to work with and adjust as needed.
 - **Expenditures:** Our Administrator's budget recommendation totals \$31.3 million, a 5.2% increase from the current fiscal year. Some notable changes compared to our current budget include:
 - Personnel: total staffing is recommended to increase by a net of 2.05 full-time equivalent positions (FTE). A total of three new FTEs were added (1 in Pre-Trial Services, 1 in the Treasurer's Office, and 1 in Animal Control), but other proposed fractional changes/consolidations result in the lower 2.05 proposed net change.
 - Circuit Court: This budget recommendation includes the use of opioid grant funding for the Journey and Veterans Treatment Court specialty programs spearheaded by Judge Schlegel. The Journey Court program seeks to reduce drug-related recidivism rates, and the Veterans Treatment program collaborates with the VA to connect veterans to resources specifically for them. Utilizing grant funds allows the county to provide these programs without using county tax dollars.
 - **Please Note:** Under our Administrator's recommendation, you will see \$100,000 budgeted for contracted services with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership. Clinton County currently has a contract with LEAP that expires at the end of 2025. Since our board has not yet discussed future intentions with that contract, our Administrator recommended including this line item for now, and if the board does not renew the contract, those funds would be absorbed into the general fund balance.
 - **Public Input:** We will host a Budget Hearing at the Courthouse on Tuesday, September 14th, at 6 pm.
 - **Fairgrounds:** Clinton County owns our County fairgrounds, and over the past few months, county staff have been developing a project scope for a new fairgrounds master plan.
 - **Administrator Contract:** This month, the board approved extending our contract with Administrator John Fuentes for a 3-year period.

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

10 MINUTE OPEN DISCUSSION ADJOURNMENT

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schrauben, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Rhonda Feldpausch, Village Clerk

