

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: SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

The Fowler Village Council met Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 PM with President Vernon J. Thelen presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum reported.
Present: Dan Schmitt, Brad Rhynard, John Rademacher, Melissa Humphrey, Codi Schrauben, and Rhonda Feldpausch. Absent: Rick Fink and Mike Porter.

VILLAGE PERSONNEL

Vern Feldpausch

VISITORS

Zach Rudat - Clinton County Commissioner and Scott Clarke – Clinton County Sheriff Department

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve payment of \$29,246.52 from the General Fund, \$48,085.99 from the Local Street Fund, \$2,070.99 from Major Street Fund, \$2,195.09 from the Sanitary Sewer O & M Fund, and \$1,210.57 from the Water O & M Fund. Motion carried.

ZONING PERMITS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Schrauben, to approve zoning permit #AB2025-06 submitted by Mike and Bev Schaefer, AB2025-04 submitted by Brad Rhynard, AB2025-07 submitted by Brian Sullivan and #AB2025-05 submitted by Jacob and Kathryn Rademacher. Motion carried.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Scott Clarke – Clinton County Sheriff Department was present to answer questions. He also reported on staffing issues and drone usage.

TREASURER REPORT

A Treasurer's report was not provided to the Council. A revenue and expenditure report was made available.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Working on Comprehensive Development Plan update.

DPW REPORT

Vern Feldpausch, DPW Supervisor reported on the following items:

- Tree trimming
- Lagoon sampling and dumping
- Leaf and cement removal
- Hydrant and valve work to begin in a month or two
- Correct water and sewer inspection deficiencies
- Meter readings for third quarter
- Catch basin and water box repairs
- Lift station pump replacement cost is approximately \$17,000
- Water low temp alarm and motor control replacement cost is approximately \$12,000

RECYCLE SITE

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

CLINTON AREA AMBULANCE SERVICE AUTHORITY ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schmitt moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve the Clinton Area Ambulance Service Authority Articles of Incorporation as amended to allow for 2/3 board approval instead of 100%. Motion carried

ZACH RUDAT – CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Zach Rudat – Clinton County Commissioner, reported on the following issues:

- Inmate Medical Services: The County Sheriff's Office currently utilizes "Advanced Correctional Healthcare" (ACH) for inmate nursing and medical services. Ongoing staffing issues and rapidly escalating costs prompted the Sheriff's Office to seek a new provider, and they've identified Around The Clock (ATC) as an alternative. ATC provides improved staffing at the same availability as ACH at a much lower cost, projected to save the county \$20,000 for the remainder of 2025 and over \$100,000 annually thereafter.
- The board approved the termination of the existing contract with ACH and the execution of a new agreement with ATC.
- Credit Card Policy: The Board amended the County Credit Card Policy, increasing the credit limit from \$5,000 to \$20,000 at the request of our County Administrator. The \$5,000 credit limit was initially adopted in 2014, and since that time more vendors that the county utilizes have switched to electronic means of payment exclusively. The County only owns one credit card, which is housed in the Administrator's office and only used for budgeted items.
- Planning and Zoning: The Board approved 5 petition recommendations; with one notable petition I wanted to highlight.
- Procedurally, when a property owner seeks a zoning amendment through the county, that request goes to our Planning Commission for approval or denial, then comes to our County Board of Commissioners for approval or denial. Typically, these requests get unanimous approval or denial.
- A recent rezoning request in Duplain Twp. was denied by the Planning Commission on a 4-3 vote, but approved by the County Board of Commissioners on a 7-0 vote. The rezoning request was opposed by Duplain Twp., but the request was in line with the County's Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map.
- September Meeting Changes: Our full Board Meetings are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month at 9 am. For September, our full board meeting will be held a week earlier, Sept. 23rd, to accommodate the Michigan Association of Counties Annual Conference. Our Ways & Means and Human Resources Committee Meetings will be on the previous Thursday, Sept. 18th.
- We'll be hosting an additional Ways & Means meeting Sept. 11th at 9 am, where our Administrator will be presenting us with his budget recommendation for the next fiscal year.

None.

- Becker Furniture Grand Reopening event
- Fowler Market – September 17

CORRESPONDENCE

10 MINUTE OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Rhonda Feldpausch, Village Clerk