

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: MARCH 11, 2025

The Fowler Village Council met Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM with President Vernon J. Thelen presiding.

ROLL CALL

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

VILLAGE PERSONNEL

Vern Feldpausch.

VISITORS

Zach Rudat - Clinton County Commissioner

AGENDA

Add: Loader tractor quote.

MINUTES

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

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schmitt moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 regular as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve payment of \$21,810.19 from the General Fund, \$3,054.80 from the Sanitary Sewer O & M Fund, and \$6,242.61 from the Water O & M Fund. Motion carried.

ZONING PERMITS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve Zoning Permit #RD 2025-01 submitted by Sierra Homes of Michigan on behalf of Tricia Goerge and #AB 2025-01 submitted by Randy and Brenda Antes. Motion carried.

No one present.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF

TREASURER REPORT

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Rhynard moved, supported by Trustee Schrauben, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Working on Comprehensive Develop Plan update.

PLANNING COMMISSION

DPW REPORT

Vern Feldpausch, DPW Supervisor reported on the following items:

- Meter replacement
- Cross connection program/inspections and pumping report per State of Michigan
- Consumers Confidence Report per State of Michigan
- GPS valves and hydrants
- Fink field bathroom upgrades and drinking fountain repair
- Catch basin repairs
- Lagoon treatment and first dumping event
- Door installation @ well house and sewer plant

RECYCLE SITE

Maple Rapids is closing their rural recycle site. This closure will likely cause additional traffic at the Fowler site. The site continues to experience improper recycling habits, requires staff to monitor activities and remove trash. Additional recycling options will be researched.

LOADER TRACTOR QUOTES

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schmitt moved, supported by Trustee Humphrey, to accept the loader tractor quote from Michigan CAT at a price not to exceed \$175,000.00. Motion carried.

GABRIDGE & CO. YEAR END CONSULTING SERVICES

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schrauben moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to accept the Gabridge & Co. proposal not to exceed \$7,000.00 to provide assistance with closing the 2024 books due to new accounting software. Gabridge & Co. will also complete several forms required by the State of Michigan. Motion carried.

PARKS ROAD PROPERTY

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Schmitt moved, supported by Trustee Schrauben, to table action on Parks Road Property. Motion carried.

CORNER LOT ACCESSORY
BUILDING AMENDMENT

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to adopt the following Zoning Ordinance Amendment as recommended by the Planning Commission:

Chapter 3

SECTION 3.2 ACCESSORY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- B. Detached Accessory Buildings and Structures – Residential Districts or Uses
 - 1. Detached accessory buildings and structures shall be located only in the rear yard and at the setbacks required for main buildings for the district in which it is located, except that in no case shall a detached accessory building be closer than six (6) feet from any lot line, as measured from the closest point of the building. In addition, no detached accessory building or structure shall be located upon a rear yard utility easement.
 - a. Detached accessory buildings on corner lots shall be allowed to be located in the side yard at the setbacks required for main buildings for the district in which it is located, except that in no case shall a detached accessory building be closer than six (6) feet from any lot line, as measured from the closest point of the building. Motion carried.

ZACH RUDAT – CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

- In December, CCPO hired a new Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (APA), and they still hope to fill another APA opening as soon as possible.
- Drain Commissioner Phil Hanses' request to appoint Mark Powell as Remonumentation Grant Representative was approved along with his recommendations for peer group members, and a resolution assisting in improvements to the Kidd Drain in Ovid Township.
- The Facilities and Project Management Director's request for \$6 million for the Maintenance Building Expansion Project was approved.
- I requested that the Board discuss the county's liability insurance rates for the fairgrounds, particularly for the rodeo. The current rate is based on recommendations from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, and the Board wishes to remain consistent with those recommendations. However, I'd still like to see the Rodeo return this year, so I hope to partner with organizers and help raise private funds to cover the insurance costs.
- The Clinton County Department of Waste Management offers two special collection events in 2025 (one on May 3rd and another on September 27th.) The Board approved a property use agreement for the September collection, information for both can be [found here](#).
- The Board approved hiring two road patrol candidates for Clinton County Sheriff Department at higher salaries than the entry-level rate, based on their years of experience.
- We received a presentation from the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). Last year \$115k was budgeted for a year-long contract with LEAP, which will expire later this year. I have serious concerns about renewing that contract on three fronts: LEAP's involvement with the Eagle Megasite effort, Clinton County's investment and ROI from LEAP compared to neighboring counties and the underlying approach to economic development. Philosophically, I don't believe government should be picking winners and losers in the private sector with tax dollars.
- The Board also adopted the updated utility-scale wind energy ordinance, as recommended by our Planning Commission, that sets a lower permissible decibel for nighttime.
- Last month I discussed the ongoing conversation regarding the county jail and the possibility of an extensive remodel or rebuild of the facility. I toured the jail with Sheriff Dush to assess the building's condition. Its age is causing issues throughout, but a greater concern is that the current setup leaves multiple weak points an inmate could exploit, putting the staff and our community at risk. Changes with the jail's current setup are necessary and we're holding an Infrastructure meeting on March 17th at 9 am at the Courthouse to dive into this matter in greater detail as a Board.

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10 MINUTE OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Rhonda Feldpausch, Village Clerk