

FOWLER VILLAGE COUNCIL

Position	Name
President	Vernon J. Thelen
Treasurer	John C. Rademacher
President Pro-Tem	Mike Porter
Clerk	Rhonda Feldpausch
Trustees	Codi Schrauben
Trustees	Brad Rhynard
Trustees	Rick Fink
Trustees	Melissa Humphrey
DPW Employees	Vern Feldpausch
DPW Employees	Brad Smith
DPW Employees	Dan Schmitt

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2026

The Fowler Village Council met Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 7:00 PM with President Vernon J. Thelen presiding.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum reported.

Present: Codi Schrauben, Rick Fink, Melissa Humphrey, and Mike Porter. Absent: Brad Rhynard.

VILLAGE PERSONNEL

Vern Feldpausch, Dan Schmitt and Rhonda Feldpausch

VISITORS

Craig Simmon, Dean Schueller, Zach Rudat – Clinton County Commissioner

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Fink moved, supported by Trustee Humphrey, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 regular meeting and December 20, 2025 public hearing and special meeting as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Porter, to approve payment of \$34,135.43 from the General Fund, \$2,556.65 from the Sanitary Sewer O & M Fund, and \$2,289.16 from the Water O & M Fund. Motion carried.

ZONING PERMITS

None.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF

No one present.

TREASURER REPORT

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

Working on Comprehensive Development Plan update.

DPW REPORT

Vern Feldpausch, DPW Supervisor reported on the following items:

Lagoon O&M Manual

Consumers Confidence Report

Update all files

Equipment bids

Cross connection inspections & reports

Install doors at well house and sewer plant

Paint filter vessels in well house

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1/13/2026 Regular meeting

Minutes subject to approval

Fix meters registering “unhooked” and replace meters

ITC UPGRADE

West Wood Estates, LLC and other property owners along Tyler Drive will meet with ITC Friday, January 23, 2026 at 8:30 AM at the village office.

DEAN SCHUELLER – VFW POST 3373 COMMANDER

Dean Schueller – VFW Post 3733 Commander was present, along with pilot Craig Simmon, to request approval to land a helicopter at Fink Field the day of the car show in July. Craig Simmon will provide a Land Use Agreement for council to review. The VFW is also interested in erecting signs to promote new memberships.

UTILITY VEHICLE PURCHASE

BOARD ACTION: Trustee Humphrey moved, supported by Trustee Porter, to approve the purchase of a utility vehicle from Hutson, Inc. at a not-to-exceed cost of \$22,000.00. Motion carried.

DEDICATION PLAQUE

Council members are encouraged to present individuals to be added to the dedication plaque posted on the Village Hall exterior.

ZACH RUDAT – CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

In 2024, Clinton County won a \$15 million grant from the state of Michigan to expand broadband availability across the county. Frontier Internet was selected as the provider (before I was elected to the board), with installation beginning in 2025 and expected to finish in 2026. Over the past year, we’ve had ongoing issues with Frontier’s installation work crews prompting the County Road Commission to temporarily suspend Frontier’s permit for this project until Frontier creates and implements a new traffic control plan that provides better safety measures.

Our County has extended a contracted service with OHM Advisors through June 30th of 2026 to fill staffing voids in the County Planning and Zoning Office. The board requested a special meeting in February to talk about the future of Planning and Zoning, and requested the Administrator pause hiring for those vacancies until we have that meeting.

County Clerk Sutherland recently announced her retirement, creating a vacancy in the County Clerk position. State law permits Circuit Court Judge(s) in a county to appoint and decide the manner in which to select a replacement. For Clinton County, that would consist of Judges Cori Barkman, Shannon Schlegel, and Lisa Sullivan. The judges will be hosting a public meeting on January 13th at 4 pm at the County Courthouse to discuss a plan for

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1/13/2026 Regular meeting

Minutes subject to approval

selecting a replacement.

The Clinton County Waste Management team is looking for volunteers for their Spring and Fall special collection events in 2026. This is a labor intensive opportunity that'd be well-suited for able bodied individuals, and might be a good team-building opportunity for high school athletic teams. If interested, please contact myself or the Waste Management Office directly at WasteManagement@clinton-county.org

The County Board of Commissioners will be hosting an organizational meeting for 2026 on January 2nd at 9 am at the County Courthouse, where we'll be electing board leadership and setting our meetings schedule for the new year. All are welcome to attend!

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

10 MINUTE OPEN DISCUSSION

Trustee Fink will be resigning from the Ambulance Board

Reminder: public hearing and special meeting January 28, 2026 at 5:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Rhonda Feldpausch, Village Clerk