

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: NOVEMBER 18, 2025

The Fowler Village Council met Tuesday, November 18, 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, Dan Schmitt, and Rhonda Feldpausch. Absent: Melissa Humphrey and Mike Porter.

VILLAGE PERSONNEL

Vern Feldpausch

VISITORS

None

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

**BOARD ACTION:** Trustee Rhynard moved, supported by Trustee Schmitt, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS

**BOARD ACTION:** Trustee Schrauben moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to approve payment of \$37,946.55 from the General Fund, \$1,507.30 from the Local Street Fund, \$713.78 from Major Street Fund, \$25,953.46 from the Sanitary Sewer O & M Fund, and \$3,450.89 from the Water O & M Fund. Motion carried.

None.

ZONING PERMITS

No one present.

CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF

TREASURER REPORT

**BOARD ACTION:** Trustee Schrauben moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, 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:

- Store summer equipment and install winter equipment
- Lagoon sampling and dumping
- Clean building
- Install sewer plant and well house doors
- 2026 Budget
- Wash and wax equipment
- Clear cement from brush pile area

ITC UPGRADE

ITC is upgrading 15 miles of power lines which includes the line located north of Tyler Drive. They have marked several trees for removal including the pines in the island at the entrance of Tyler Drive. All three of these trees will be removed and used for Christmas trees, including one for the Village Tree Lighting. A connection will be made with developers of West Wood Estates, LLC if they'd like a meeting with ITC.

TREASURER POSITION

**BOARD ACTION:** Trustee Fink moved, supported by Trustee Rhynard, to accept John Rademacher's resignation as Village Treasurer effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried.

**BOARD ACTION:** Trustee Rhynard moved, supported by Fink, to appoint Dan Schmitt as Village Treasurer effective January 1, 2026. Motion carried.

DECEMBER PUBLIC  
HEARING DATE

The council will meet on Wednesday, December 30, 2025 at 11:00 AM for a budget meeting.

## ZACH RUDAT – CLINTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

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

- Clinton Area Transit will provide free rides to Clinton County residents to all food banks, pantries, and commodity pick-up locations for the month of November.
- Currently, new concealed pistol license applicants are required to apply in person in the County Clerk's office and must be fingerprinted within 45 days at the Sheriff's Office. To streamline the application process, the Board authorized the Clerk's office to purchase a fingerprinting device, allowing residents to complete both the application and fingerprinting in a single visit.
- Clinton County currently has a contract with the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) to provide economic development services to businesses in the county. The contract is set to expire at the end of the year, and a proposed renewal contract was up for consideration in the Ways and Means Committee this past month.
- The proposed renewal contract failed to advance on a 3-3 vote, though our full board chair voiced support for the contract if given the chance to vote for it. Procedurally, only 6 of our 7 County Commissioners get to vote in committees. Our full board chair is an ex officio member of committees and doesn't vote but does vote in full board meetings.
- I was a no vote on the renewal contract, I would be a no vote on a one-year contract, and I would be a no vote on a contract like this with any economic development entity, largely because I believe it's beyond the scope of what county government ought to be.
- I believe the best way to spur economic growth in our county is by keeping taxes low, taking care of the basics, and streamlining everyone's interaction with the county government.
- A few months ago, I covered a split re-zoning decision from our county planning commission, which was ultimately approved by the County Board of Commissioners. As a reminder, the planning commission recommended denying a 5-acre rezoning request, but the County Commissioners approved it on a 7-0 vote.
- At our last Ways and Means Committee, there was a proposed resolution of reprimand against the 4 planning commissioners who recommended denying the rezoning request. That proposed resolution was removed from the agenda and ultimately replaced with a vote directing the county administrator to coordinate training for the entire planning commission, which passed. I was a no vote on that directive, and would have been a no on the resolution had it been up for a vote. I disagreed with the 4 planning commissioners' rezoning denial recommendation, but I don't believe the disagreement warranted any additional action by the County Board of Commissioners.

None.

## CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## 10 MINUTE OPEN DISCUSSION

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

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Rhonda Feldpausch, Village Clerk