

REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL GROUNDS/CEMETERY COMMISSION February 10, 2022

Meeting of the Municipal Grounds/Cemetery Commission was held in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

Members Present: John Awdycki Chairman; Brian LaRoche; Denise Merriam; Christine Harty Administrative Assistant

Attendees: Dean Meunier, Foreman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson, John Awdycki called the meeting to order at 7:48 am.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting. There was no one present taping the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion made by Denise Merriam second by Brian LaRoche to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2021, meeting as written. All in favor motion carries.

ORDINANCES, GENERAL LAWS, AND SPECIAL ACTS

CORRESPONDENCE

Jacob Cormier is present on behalf of Boucher Funeral Home for discussion of welfare burial fees. Brian LaRoche discloses fact that though Jacob is a friend, he can be objective, without bias, in the given situation.

Brian: Jacob had reached out inquiring on special circumstance funerals/lack of families & funds. Was looking to find out if we were able to assist in any way financially? The state allots minimal amounts, which are applied for by the funeral home. The applications/request for assistance can be turned down by the State. Placing the funeral homes in situations of financial loss.

Jacob: recently had a funeral for a homeless individual. No ability to contact any family, did have a few friends in area. The deceased could not be cremated due to lack of signature from legal family member. Boucher FH covered all the expenses upfront including City burial fees. The last funeral of this type was in 2019.. Typically occurs at an average of 1 in every five years. Was looking to see if City could provide special provision for these circumstances.

John: Informs Jacob the members will discuss the request and be in contact soon with a decision.

Jacob Cormier exits meeting.

Dean: Though City has special burial sections for these types of funerals, the costs are the same as any other funeral. City owned cemeteries are only ones performing funerals/breaking ground in winter and is why we were contacted for bural. Though Catholic will provide these funerals free of cost, in the winter it would have required

embalming/storage, as cremation was not option with no contact with family. Opening the lots on the City property can take hours, digging through ledge, etc.

Committee briefly discusses request. Decision must be across the board, black and white, not on a situational basis, cannot pick and choose, there can be no gray area. It is stated that though would like to help, the occurrences of this are very far and few between and the City's cost to perform these funerals are just as costly as the others. Question is raised of reduction in fees? It is not a question of wanting to help but that the City still bears the same costs for burial.

Motion made by John Awdycki, second by Denise Merriam to leave fees as is. Brian LaRoche opposed. Can visit request again in the future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: REPORTS FROM AUDITOR

Motion made by Denise Merriam second by Brian Laroche to accept the financial statement, all in favor motion passes.

STATUS OF FACILITIES

Dean: Everything is going well. Cemeteries/Parks are still covered in snow and ice. Burials have been moving forward with no issue. Green Bower Cemetery needs some work, and Wildwood Cemetery needs a bit. Had discussed with Dane paving main entrance of Crystal Lake Cemetery, road is in rough condition, and creating a parking lot at Crystal Lake. Would need to remove some trees, etc., however for funerals and visiting the parking lot would be beneficial. It would remove cars off the roads within (eliminating congestion) and make entering and exiting much easier. More discussion at next meeting with Director, Dane Arnold.

Denise: There is a catch basin in need of repair at Crystal Lake Cemetery.

Dean: If we pave the road entering Crystal Lake Cemetery, we could raise the structure at that time to complete the repair. Otherwise, all is good within Department(s). We have 5 new weed whackers on order at \$230.00 each. Have waited 8 months for a chainsaw from vendor, unsure if it will be in by spring.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD UNDER COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION

Department head, Dane Arnold is not available today.

NEW BUSINESS

Denise: Bandstand Committee update, bands are ready to start in June. There are 11 concerts scheduled, first is June 18th, and continuing through end of August. We tried to keep the pricing of the bands hired of equal amount. Looking to have portable handrails installed this spring. Cost will be covered by the bandstand funds.

Dean: Vendor, Dean Paige could make and install the handrails. Could bolt rails, make permanent. Will contact the vendor for pricing.

The next meeting scheduled for May 12, 2022, at 7:45 am.

Motion made by Denise Merriam second by Brian LaRoche to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 am. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant

All documentation mentioned at the meeting may be viewed at the DPW Office at 50 Manca Drive