Cemetery Commission Meeting

January 30, 2008 **DRAFT**

PRESENT:

Betty McGahey
Cathy Morrison
Joyce Stevens
Gerald Monger
Rupie Nicholson
Lee Dearing/Council Rep
Albert (Bill) Davis
Chairman
Charlotte Shifflett
Town Personnel

Absent:
Scott Baugher

Guests:
Gene Kite
Marty Shifflett
Councilman Sigafoose

Chair Davis called the meeting to order. Charlotte Shifflett opened with a brief prayer.

D. Gene Kite:
Councilman Kite requested permission from the Chairman to address the Cemetery Commission. He presented his views regarding hiring a full-time cemetery/maintenance worker. The job description would require 6 months as a cemetery caretaker with the other 6 months being spent working with maintenance personnel. Salary and benefits costs would play a major role in any change. He pointed out both pros and cons and asked the Commission to give careful consideration for any decision relative to this issue and do what is best for the town.

Mr. Kite continued by expressing gratitude to the Commission for the time and effort they spent recently resolving an unexpected request to place a mausoleum within Elk Run Cemetery. An area was designated for any future requests that may be presented. He reiterated the fact that Council does consider recommendations voted on and forwarded to them by members of commissions. Keep up the dedicated, hard work!

J. Marty Shifflett:
Town Superintendent Shifflett attended the meeting to discuss a quote given by Anderson & Associates that would place Elk Run Cemetery on the GIS web site. Currently, the Rockingham Historical Society has our cemetery available on the internet but records do not match our map which uses blocks rather than rows for identification. Anderson's quote would require some surveying and new technology to make this work.

Marty also emphasized that current maintenance personnel and Charlotte, Cemetery Director have developed a good working relationship and the crew is responding to Work Orders as they are submitted.

Steve Sigafoose:
Councilman Sigafoose will look into an old issue regarding the theft of a banjo case from the Cook Family grave sight. The item was found later along Bloomer Springs Rd in McGaheysville. The Elkton Police Department was involved in initiating a report.

Councilman Sigafoose had a question "Is Mr. Merica currently working under a signed contract?" The reply was "no".

Mr. Davis continued the meeting by reviewing the quarterly minutes from the September 19, 2008 meeting.

Old Business:

- Street signs will be posted.

Code Updates: Charlotte needs to check with the attorney.
Pathforward:
- Lauri Sigler will be looking at these codes and getting them written into the by-laws.

Headstones:
Pathforward:
Bill is waiting for Hazel Hammer Simmons to contact him; her family may do this project themselves.

Fence:
Charlotte presented quotes for continuation of the fence. She may request the Daily News Record to do an article with the anticipation that some relatives may read the article that do not have access to the Valley Banner.

Cathy Morrison made a motion that we make a recommendation to Council that we move forward with the fence project. Joyce Stevens seconded the motion.
Voice Vote 6-0
Motion Carried

Trees:
A family submitted a request to have the Walnut tree, located in Section 12 removed. If a decision is made to remove this tree and other existing Walnut trees a quote should be obtained from at least two vendors.
Pathforward:
Bill Davis will check with Charlotte and see how many family plots will be affected.

Bill Davis, Chairman moved that we go into closed session at this time (7:00 pm)

The following issue was discussed in closed session:
Mowing Contract:

New Business:
Following the closed session a committee was appointed to write a Job Description to be presented with the Caretaker Contract. Lee Dearing will act as Chairman with Cathy Morrison and Gerald Monger as representatives

A motion was made by Betty McGahey to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rupie Nicholson. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for March

Submitted by:
Charlotte Shifflett
Acting Cemetery Director

Bill Davis/Chairperson

Charlotte Shifflett/Admin. Secretary