Cemetery Commission Meeting
April 16, 2009

DRAFT

PRESENT:

Charlotte Shifflett
Raymond Mowbray
Joyce Stevens
Albert (Bill) Davis
Lillian Nicholson
Betty McGahey
Lee Dearing/Council Representative

EXCUSED:

Gerald Monger Cathy Morrison

The meeting was called to order by Bill Davis/Chairman. Charlotte Shifflett led the group in prayer.

New Business:

Lee Dearing was given an opportunity to open the meeting because he had a prior commitment and requested to be excused early.

- Members reviewed a map which displayed the Downey property that is up for sale.
- He relayed the approximate total in the Real Estate funds; $300,000.00
- Members expressed enthusiastically they wished to purchase the property and reserve it for future generations.
- It was reiterated to commissioners that the Cemetery Commission is written in the deed as the group that controls Elk Run Cemetery. If this were to become an issue in the future, there would need to be a Court and/or Judge to get this deed revised.
- An interest was expressed that we need to approach the issue of splitting funds into different accounts and establish reasonable percentages since a real estate fund should not be needed for several decades, at least.0
  - $100 to R/E
  - $200 to P/C
  - $300 to Operating funds
- Once purchased, the property may still be used for livestock grazing since the need to develop is not urgent.

Fence:

The proposed budget allots $12,000.00 for continuation of the fence up Newtown Rd. and possibly placing it on the property line of adjacent property joining North Street. neighbor.

At this point Mr. Dearing was excused and the meeting continued.

Liaison Appointed:

Raymond Mowbray made a motion to allow Lee Dearing to meet with Dr. Downey and the realtor to negotiate the purchase of ~~8.4~~ 10 acres acres of land for future expansion by Elk Run Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Betty McGahey.

Voice Vote = 5-0

Motion Carried

New Business:
Minutes:
The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and Raymond Mowbray made a motion to accept them, seconded by Joyce Stevens.
Voice Vote = 5-0
Motion Carried

Land Purchase:
A brief discussion followed relative to land purchase. Betty McGahey made a motion to purchase the land, ~~8.4~~ acres, and negotiate the price. Raymond Mowbray then seconded the motion. 10.4
Voice Vote = 5-0
Motion Carried

Mower:
The group was informed that a new 48 inch cut mower has been purchased and assigned to the cemetery.

- Personnel have been instructed to attempt mowing and weed eating to the height specifications.
- Our routine will be to mow from front to back rather than spot mowing lots.
- An ad was placed in the Valley Banner advising lot owners to make the Cemetery Director aware of the fact they will mow. Each owner will then be given some purple flags to mark their lot and **this will be a clue not to mow.**

New Mowing/Grave Opening
It was noted that there have been 8 spaces opened by town personnel which totaled $3,200.00 in funds. No problems have been reported.

Public Works Director, drafted help to complete all the mowing before Easter weekend. It rained several days and no mowing could be done until things dried out a bit. Hopefully, this routine will not continue throughout mowing season---but we are prepared to handle an emergency. Actually, some part time mowers have been hired and Billy Shifflett will have someone with him as needed.

Most of the feedback I have heard since the Town took over has been positive.
Curbs:
A complaint was submitted advising the Cemetery Director that a recent grave is being run over by cars. The curb in section 11 is very sharp when turning from the main drive to go right on Nicholson Rd.

Pathforward:
Charlotte will get assistance form Public Works to order curbing and pour cement.

Price Increase:
Some rumors have circulated there is an intent by Council to raise prices on lot sales and the digging; especially since the purchase of land is an item.

Some discussion occurred if it was feasible to charge higher rates for opening and closing graves on the holiday and/or weekend? Members objected to any type of increase at this time. Raymond noted that we should forget about additional charges on the weekends and/or holidays since it is no one's choice when they die. Raymond made a motion that no prices be raised, seconded by Joyce Stevens.
Voice Vote = 5-0
Motion Carried