ELK RUN CEMETERY COMMISSION

March 31, 2010

Present:
Bill Davis/Chair
Lee Dearing/Council Representative
Charlotte Shifflett/Cemetery Director
Cathy Morrison
Raymond Mowbray
Rupie Nicholson
Joyce Stevens
Gerald Monger
Betty McGahey

Guests:
Bobby Morris Jr
Casey Billhimer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis @ 6:00 pm. Cathy Morrison opened the meeting with a brief prayer.

Old Business:

- **Price Increases**
  - **a.** The Valley Banner recently printed an article which noted that a suggestion had been made to increase the price of lot sales to $1,000
  - b. In the minutes dated April 16, 2009 the Cemetery Commission voted unanimously (5-0) that no increases be implemented at this time.
  - c. The Commission would like to confirm that they still stand by that vote. Due to the downturn in the economy a price increase is not feasible.
  - d. If Council is adamant regarding a price increase—it should occur over a period of time.
  - e. The Cemetery Commission would like to go on record as "not being in favor of a price increase". $600.00 is a fair price.
- **Debt to Town**
  - **a.** Members are unhappy that the town is attempting to collect a $38,000.00 debt when they have been purchased and given 10 acres of land for future lot sales ; which will increase revenue in the future..
  - b. When a burial occurs a $400.00 fee is paid to open/close the grave. A Work Oder is written which allows $100.00 to be placed in the Public Works Account. The remaining $300.00 should be applied to operating costs.
- **Cemetery Commission**
  - a. The issue has been rejuvenated again regarding the Cemetery Commission's role of authority in decision making. The recommendation to hire a full time person for the cemetery was ignored because no money was budgeted for an employee. The Town Manager does the hiring for the Town of Elkton, However, a member noted that the deed allows the Commission control of the cemetery and once again it shall be reiterated that a full time person be hired for the cemetery and report to the Commission. In this instance the person would be paid out of cemetery funds. Contact shall be made with Lauri Sigler, Town Attorney and give her an opportunity to give her interruption. The Commission feels the ruling made by Nathan Miller in 2005 is not what the forefathers had written at all!

beginning in January of each year and run through December 31 of each year. Betty McGahey seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: 7-0

Bill Davis, Raymond Mowbray, Gerald Monger, Betty McGahey, Rupie Nicholson, Joyce Stevens, Cathy Morrison

Motion Carried

Charlotte Shifflett, Cemetery Director, will type up a set of rules Mr. Morris will be required to follow. A contract will be drafted and Mr. Morris will be required to abide by the rules.

With no more business to discuss, the meeting adjourned. The next meeting shall be scheduled the latter part of June, to coincide with the fiscal year's ending. A tentative date of June 24, 2010 at 6:00 pm will be recorded.

Submitted by:
Charlotte Shifflett

Bill Davis/Chairperson

Charlotte Shifflett/Admin. Secretary

Gerald Monger made a motion to approach Reid and request to hire a full time person out of cemetery funds. This motion was seconded by Cathy Morrison.
Voice Vote: 7-0
Bill Davis, Raymond Mowbray, Gerald Monger, Betty McGahey, Rupie Nicholson, Joyce Stevens, Cathy Morrison
Motion Carried

- **Road**
  Gerald and Charlotte will proceed with quotes for the re-construction of the old road in front. Plans are to have the road paved.
- **New Entrance**
  Charlotte was advised to go ahead and order the "Veterans Drive "sign and place it at the new entrance on North Street.
- **Adam Miller Statue**
  The Welcome Center Committee has selected April 11, 2010 as the date to dedicate the statue. It will be placed at the free spot west of the front entrance.
- Casey Billhimer attended the meeting to submit a request to members for permission to locate 12 or 13 markers in the cemetery. These would be placed in memory of Confederate Soldiers. His remains may or not be buried in Elk Run.
- The Blue Ridge Garden Club has been requested to give the commission permission to remove and or trim back the overgrown shrubbery located around the memorial sign. Once this has been accomplished, the sign shall be pressure washed and beautified to look presentable to visitors.
- **Department of Historic Resources Form**
  Charlotte and JMU intern, Alison Muldoon, are submitting a preliminary information form to nominate Elk Run Cemetery for the State Historic Registry.
- **Website**
  Charlotte has been able to place a spreadsheet on line displaying records for internments in the Elk Run Cemetery through the year 2009. A map has been placed online for your convenience which will guide you to the grave space. You may login Elktonva.Gov" A cost savings of $13,000.00 should be noted. That is the total sum quoted by Anderson & Associates in 2008 to get the data on the internet.
- **New Acreage Rental Contract**
  Mr. Bobby Morris, formerly the renter of the Downey property, attended the meeting to express to the Commission that he would like to be able to continue rental of the recently acquired Town cemetery property. He had in his possession a letter written by the Town Manager and dated March 17, 2010. This correspondence advised Mr. Morris to remove all equipment and evidence of farming by April 7, 2010. It has been too wet to get this task performed and he apologized. In addition, he requested an extension of several weeks until the ground is drier.

  After expressing a desire to continue harvesting the hay crop he was asked by Chairman Davis if he minded to leave and allow members time to discuss the issue privately?

  After discussing alternatives, guidelines, etc. Raymond Mowbray made a motion to allow Mr. Morris to make hay free of charge, and he would be given a set of rules suggested and enforced by members. This contract should be written for a full year