Cemetery Commission Minutes September 17, 2015

Present:
Chairperson Lester Seal, Bill Davis, Betty McGahey, Karen Jones, Cathy Morrison, Gerry Comer
Excused:
Lee Dearing
Staff:
Charlotte Shifflett - Cemetery Director
Guests:
Harry Armbruster, Margaretta Isom, Mayor Printz

The meeting began at 6:00 pm and was called to order by Chairperson/Lester Seal. The group joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance; followed by Charlotte Shifflett leading devotions

Cathy Morrison made a motion to approve the minutes from April 23, 2015, seconded by Bill Davis.

Voice Vote: 4-0
Lester Seal, Bill Davis, Betty McGahey, Cathy Morrison
Motion Carried

Elkton Historical Society
Sunday, September 13, 2015 the Elkton Historical Society, hosted by Casey Billhimer, held a dedication ceremony in Elk Run Cemetery. At the request of their staff, the Town of Elkton reserved (2) lots on the east side of the property for burial of veteran soldiers, includes all wars, whose bodies may have been buried on foreign land or somewhere in America. They will have a memorial stone set in Elk Run in their memory.

Mayor Printz attended the ceremony, along with several council members and cemetery commission members. He relayed to members he felt all attendees enjoyed the ceremony and noted it was very impressive. A stone was dedicated in honor of Pemberton Shifflett with a brief speech given by Michael Gooden, great great grandson of the Confederate soldier, an Elkton {aka Conrad's Store} resident.

Old Business:

Money:
Chairperson/Lester Seal noted that the local auditors predicted in a recent report the Elk Run Cemetery risks running out of money to operate within the next (3) years. He crunched numbers and believes it will be more like ten years at the current rate of revenue collected from grave sales and interments.
Karen Jones arrived @ 6:15

Cemetery Applicants:
In response to a recent ad two applicants submitted applications to fill the vacancy on the Elkton Cemetery Commission. Members will cast a vote of recommendation and forward to the Elkton Town Council.

- Bootie Comer would like to see language included in the By-Laws which define "Vote to recommend" rather than reference the word "vote"
- Mayor Printz suggested he would like to see an Elkton tax payer have an opportunity to serve versus a county Tax payer.
- Several members expressed an opinion noting this would not be a good idea since people come from other states to make Elk Run their final resting place. They do not want to give an impression that Elk Run is for town residents only.
- Some conversation took place regarding hurt feelings between the former grave diggers and town personnel when the cemetery was placed under the care of town employees.
- The mayor agreed there is an emotional stigma attached to the selection of a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- The meeting proceeded with Harry Armbruster agreeing to count the votes of recommendations. Charlotte Shifflett suggested the selection be done in a manner in an attempt to avoid future conflict. Each person was given a blank paper and requested to write *yes* or *no* for Chuck Morris. After collection of ballots were submitted to Harry and counted, the procedure was repeated with the name of Ronnie Merica submitted to Margaretta Isom to be counted.

The results tabulated by Harry:

Chuck Morris	yes = 4	no = 1
Ronnie Merica	yes = 1	no = 4

The votes were in favor to recommend Chuck Morris to Elkton Town Council, to fill the vacancy. Bootie will advise the council.

Nominate a Vice Chairperson:

Lester Seal/Chairperson feels a need exists to nominate a Vice Chairperson.

Betty McGahey nominated Bill Davis. He gracefully declined and wanted another person to have a chance at a leadership role.

Betty McGahey then nominated Cathy Morrison, Karen Jones seconded the motion. Cathy accepted the nomination.

Voice Vote: 4-0

Lester Seal, Bill Davis, Betty McGahey, Karen Jones

Motion Carried

Revision of By-Laws

Lester Seal/Chairperson is a relatively new member of the Elkton Cemetery Commission and after reviewing the current By-Laws he felt the Commission needs to review them and make necessary updates. Each member received a revised draft copy as proposed by Lester and Charlotte and were requested to make suggestions. Our next meeting will be devoted to discussing and implementing new updates to the current By-Laws.

Bathrooms @ Elk Run Cemetery

Lester Seal led a brief discussion regarding bathrooms to be constructed in the cemetery. The plans need to include a vestibule for display of interments along with directional maps for visitor use when searching for specific grave locations.

Comparison Fees for Local Cemeteries

At the last meeting Charlotte Shifflett/Cemetery Director was advised to collect criteria from local cemeteries to compare the area fees relative to fees charged at Elk Run Cemetery. Although members feel there is not a justification to raise our rates they were each given a handout with details of costs paid at neighboring cemeteries.

Pet Cemetery

Rumors regarding a local pet cemetery were addressed by Town Manager/K Whitfield at our last meeting. The Mayor wondered if any discussion has been held that would designate a corner of the cemetery for pet burials.

Mrs. Nicholson

Cathy Morrison made a motion, seconded by Betty McGahey to recognize Mrs. Nicholson on as an Honorary Member.

Voice Vote: 5-0

Lester Seal, Bill Davis, Betty McGahey, Karen Jones, Cathy Morrison

Motion Carried

Cathy Morrison made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Betty McGahey.

Voice Vote: 5-0

Lester Seal, Bill Davis, Betty McGahey, Karen Jones, Cathy Morrison

Motion Carried

The next scheduled meeting will be for the 3rd Thursday in November, which will be November 19, 2015 at 6 pm in the Council Chambers located at 20593 Blue & Gold Dr.

Cemetery Commission Members

.....	Chairperson/Lester Seal
.....	*Council Repre. Gerry "Bootie" Comer*
.....	Bill Davis
.....	*Lee Dearing*
.....	*Karen Jones*
.....	*Betty McGahey*
.....	*Cathy Morrison*

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

Whereas: Lillian Nicholson has served as an active member of the Elk Run Cemetery Commission or the Town of Elkton for approximately ten years.

Whereas: Lillian Nicholson's health prevents her from being able to attend meetings.

Whereas: Lillian Nicholson has participated and been a voice for the Cemetery Commission, with the privilege to vote. As an Honorary Member she shall be entitled to attend any and/or all meetings of the commission, she will be allowed to join in discussions,, but her position will be that of a non-- voting participant and she shall not be counted as a part of a quorum at any scheduled meetings.

Whereas: Becoming an Honorary Member gives Lillian Nicholson an opportunity to mentor newly elected officials by providing mission, history, policies, and operating practices of the Elk Run Cemetery Commission, ifthey desire.

Whereas: Elkton Town Council has the recommendation from the Cemetery Commission members to appoint Lillian Nicholson to become an Honorary Member until her resignation.

Lester Seal
Chairperson

Charlotte L. Shepherd
Recording Secretary