

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SANDUSKY CEMETERY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018 AT 4:00 P.M.
IN THE CHAPEL AT OAKLAND CEMETERY
SANDUSKY, OHIO**

PRESENT:

Members: Chairman Darden, Andy Martin, Dennis Murray, Harrison Smith, Steve Toft and Deb Voltz.

Also present was City Commission Liaison Member Greg Lockhart, Cemetery Manager Dan Hedberg, Finance Director Hank Solowiej, Facilities and Properties Supervisor Todd Gibson and Administrative Assistant Melissa Vassallo.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 P.M. by Chairman Darden.

**MINUTES OF THE
PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the July 25, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion made by Mr. Toft, seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Finance Director Hank Solowiej spoke about the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Solowiej said revenue is staying up at 12%. Expenses are also up 13%. The expenses are up due to the maintenance II employee that was hired. The end of September balance is healthy at \$643,581.69. Mr. Smith motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Mr. Toft.

**CEMETERY MANAGER'S
REPORT:**

Cemetery Manager Dan Hedberg reported that six (6) trees have recently falling within the Cemetery. Five (5) of which are still down. They will be taken care of by the Forestry Division as soon as their other work slows down a little. Trimming and mowing is still going on. The grass is still growing. Mr. Smith asked if any leaf pick-up happens there. Mr. Hedberg answered no, now they mulch them all. Chairman Darden inquired if the cherry tree complaint was handled. Mr. Hedberg stated that yes, it was taken care of.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Hedberg reported on the status of the security system. He let the members know they were not able to submit an

application for grant money from Mylander due to money already being in place for other City projects. Also, they have not heard any prices back yet from Stu. Mr. Hedberg said there is around \$10,000 saved now and his goal is \$20,000. He will look further into other grants, maybe Wightman-Wieber, this winter.

Mr. Smith asked if anything happened regarding the previous incidents. Mr. Hedberg stated one (1) man was caught for an earlier occurrence but for the most recently when 5 more urns taken in Block 112, no one had been caught.

Mr. Hedberg told the group Section Y, which is the SW corner, is good to be used. There are 1,480 graves spaces in this section.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Hedberg asked the members if they would have any objections to a lady named Roxann Goss putting in a 6 foot steel cross. It would stick out of the ground about 4 1/5 feet. It will be behind two (2) grave spaces. She will also be purchasing a couple foundations as well. Mr. Toft questioned if the cross would infringe on any other grave space. Mr. Hedberg assured him it would not. Mr. Smith said there are crosses all over the Cemetery so there shouldn't be a problem. None of the members were against the cross being placed.

Mr. Hedberg proposed an increase in Cemetery fees. He gave the members a handout that listed the current costs, costs with a 6% increase and costs with a 9% increase. Mr. Hedberg told them even increasing the costs 9% would only bring Oakland Cemetery to 6th highest priced cemetery in the area. This increase would keep us in line with other cemeteries. The increase would be for across the board with the exception of the Garden Mausoleum Crypts and the Columbarium Niches because they were just raised in July this year. Mr. Hedberg said this increase, if approved, would be effective January 1, 2019. Mr. Toft voiced that prices were raised 10% three (3) years ago. The motion to approve the 9% increase was made by Mr. Martin and was seconded by Mr. Murray. Mr. Toft recommended not raising the Saturday fee due to it was double the last time it was raised and it is already on the high end of the scale. Mr. Lockhart suggested making an amendment to raise fees but exclude Saturdays. Mr. Gibson told the members the cost to rent a backhoe to dig is \$325/hr. Mr. Murray explained that having a Saturday

burial is an election. He elaborated that the Oakland Cemetery is a very attractive and well-kept cemetery. Chairman Darden asked for the motion again and Mr. Martin motioned for the 9% increase across the board and it was again seconded by Mr. Murray. The members voted and the motion was approved after a 4-2 vote.

Mr. Hedberg also spoke about the Cemetery Chapel and how it does not receive any funding. He said the paint is peeling and other items need done. He asked members their thoughts on charging a small fee (a resident and a non-resident fee) for the use of the Chapel, so they will have funds available to make these improvements. He told them that some cemeteries charge anywhere from \$140 to \$240 to use their chapel. Chairman Darden said that the Chapel should be offered at no cost. Mr. Murray thought the use of the Chapel is a mutual benefit, both of the Cemetery and the families. Questions were asked: How many people use the Chapel opposed to not use the Chapel? What amount do surrounding cemeteries charge? Dan said he could find those items out. The motion to table the discussion until the next meeting was made by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Harris and Ms. Voltz.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, and upon motion by Mr. Murray, seconded by Mr. Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 P.M.

The next meeting of the Sandusky Cemetery Board will be held **Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 4:00 P.M.**, at the Chapel at Oakland Cemetery.

Melissa Vassallo, Acting Secretary