

**Cemetery Council Minutes**

The meeting of the Cemetery Council was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Business Coordinator Mike Lagasse at the Holy Rosary Parish Center. The group said an Our Father to open the meeting.

The following were in attendance:

- Michael Lagasse, Business Coordinator
- John Powers, St. Mary's
- Gregory Plourde, St. Theresa
- Jim Pelkey, St. Louis
- Mike Tardif, Holy Rosary
- Dick Pelletier, St. Denis
- Herm Turcotte, Maintenance Supervisor

Absent from this meeting: Fr. Labire, George Baker, Mike Sandstrom, Harold Cote, Betty Thompson, Bob Leblanc.

No minutes were provided of last months meeting by the Secretary who was not present at this meeting.

**BUSINESS UPDATES SINCE LAST MEETING:** Since our last meeting we have had letters of resignation come from the volunteer folks in Ashland pertaining with cemetery care. George Baker will no longer do full body burials. Pat long will no longer do Cremain burials and Gladys Craig will no longer do cemetery documentations. Staff has taken on responsibility of documentation and marking graves. We have had a commitment from Reno Corriveau for this year that he will do the burials at the same rate as Caribou plus \$50.00 for fuel for travel. As a result we have accepted those terms and changed the schedule of fees to reflect those cost. We are currently looking for volunteers in the Ashland community to assist with these responsibilities.

St Theresa property purchase is on hold. Mr. Bittle wants a larger than acceptable amount of money. He is taking 2 to 3 thousand based on what he says it would cost us to move the road. Mike Sandstrom who was not present is gathering a cost figure for us as to what the cost would be to move the road. We will then go to Mr. Bittle and say this is what we will pay and why and then the deal will be done or over with and road maintenance will commence. Greg Plourde was asked to remind Mike we are waiting for those costs.

**FINANCIAL UPDATES:** Cemetery Financial Reports year-to-date as of June 11<sup>th</sup> were handed out by Mike Lagasse, reviewed and discussed.

Currently this year we see the cemetery currently with a gain of \$31,428.61. Of this gain \$35,500.12 dollars is an increase in asset value of the Diocesan pool investment s for Perpetual Care.

If we overlook these gains as we can't use the monies we are left with a loss of \$4,071.51 year to date. All scheduled expenses for June are posted. Unless unexpected bills come in this should be close to end of year number. On the income side we have accounts receivable due of \$1310.00 for burials and a cemetery collection scheduled for last weekend in June. This gives us the opportunity to close the year without a loss on the cemetery books.

We are currently carrying an AP total of \$10,940.00 for the month of June with a check book balance of \$20,672.11.

We will in the future as we are doing on the church books be combining all of the cemetery savings accounts into one Parish account. This is general savings not Perpetual Care. These must remain separate due to legal requirements for perpetual care.

Perpetual care for the cemeteries sits at an all time high with \$421,853.58 in assets with a Liability of \$358,506.26. We are at a ratio of 117.67 % of our responsibility.

It was mentioned by Mike Tardif that we should look at how we report the financial status of the cemetery in the bulletin. The information does not reflect the loss we mentioned earlier. That is because the Investment gains are reported as income and many parishioners don't understand that and see the cemetery as have a lot of money and are probably holding back their support. Mike Lagasse will look at this and change the reporting format in the future to a simpler read.

**PRESENTING FY 2015 BUDGET NUMBERS:** 2015 Fiscal year budgets for cemetery are complete. Using a rolling 12 total and incorporating known increases for salaries, insurance premiums and lawn care we were able to almost match this past year income. We came up short about 2500.00 which was added to miscellaneous income to balance budget. Communities will have to work through the year to either increase collections or do special events to raise the difference. Budget did have \$1000.. programmed in it for St Theresa land purchase/road construction and \$5000.00 for Holy Rosary for construction of new foundations. These two items will be paid from Savings money. The Parish finance council has approved a parish budget and has implemented a spending freeze for the coming year. No spending will occur on item or projects that are out of the scope of day to day operations unless they comprise safety or cause a shut down that is an immediate need for operations. A few projects were grand Fathered as they were promised last year prior to this. All the church projects will have been completed as of the end of June so these two cemetery project will carry over and have been approved for FY 2015. Cemetery Budget for 2015 along with individual cemetery site budgets were distributed to those present.

No new business was presented at this time.

Next meeting will be August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Holy Rosary Parish Center

Closing prayer was said by the group

Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

Minutes submitted by Michael Lagasse, Business Coordinator in the absence of Betty Thompson Council Secretary.

