

Cemetery Council Minutes

The meeting of the Cemetery Council was called to order at 5:25 p.m. by George Baker, Council Chair 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
- George Baker, Ashland
- Harold Cote, Sacred Heart
- John Powers, St. Mary's
- Herm Lagassie, St. Mary's
- Gregory Plourde, St. Theresa
- Dan Lalonde, St. Louis
- Jim Pelkey, St. Louis
- Mike Tardif, Holy Rosary
- Bob Lablanc, Holy Rosary
- Dick Pelletier, St. Denis
- Herm Turcotte, Maintenance Supervisor

Missing from this meeting was: Mike Sandstrom, Betty Thompson, and Father Labrie.

Minutes of Junes Meeting were present and read. Motioned by John Powers and seconded by Bob Leblanc that the minutes be accepted as read. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL UPDATES:

FISCAL 2014 Close: Cemetery Financial Reports year-to-date were presented as follows
Cemetery account closed as of June 30th with an overall gain of \$47,266.68 for the fiscal year.
Of that gain \$45,837.33 cents was an increase in value of the Diocesan Investment Pool used for perpetual Care. Actual revenue versus expense showed a positive variance of \$1,429.65 for the year. Current assets are at \$504,214.02 of which \$432,190.07 are in perpetual care investments and savings. This leaves a balance of \$72,023.23 of unrestricted assets. Our liabilities at year end were a total of \$916.80 for accounts payable and a perpetual care liability of \$359,066.26 All Cemetery locations were in the black for the year with the exception of two Our Lady of the Lake and St. Theresa's Cemeteries.

JULY CLOSE (PERIOD 1) FY 2015: After one month in the current fiscal year we are showing a loss in cemetery accounts of (\$3,403.84). We are ahead of plan if compared to budget as we had planned to show a loss of (\$7,006.18) for Period. The variance of occurred in both revenue and Expenditure. We did show an overage of \$6,496.76 in revenue when actual is compared to budget. We also saw an overage of expenditures. Budget allowed for \$10696.19 and actual spending was \$13,590.61. \$1,000.00 of this was due to trees being blown down at the Presque Isle cemetery and they had to be removed.

BUSINESS UPDATES SINCE LAST MEETING: Since our last meeting we have found a contractor from Mapleton that will do interments in Portage and Ashland. As a result we have had to increase opening

and closing costs for these sites as there was a significant increase over prior interment contractor. We also have had a volunteer step up who will monitor burial rights documentation and marking of graves. Herm Turcotte updated the council that the monument foundations for about 20 lots in the New Holy Rosary Cemetery have been started and with good weather should be done within a couple weeks. Also we did have a parishioner file a complaint in Sacred Heart that the movers damage a family member's stone. We did look at the stone and had the mowing contractor involved and it will be fixed / replaced at the contractor's expense.

Mike Lagasse gave an update on the Stockholm cemetery and the Bittle's. They are willing to part with a small piece of land for \$1,500 and numerous written stipulations that would prevent us from doing certain things such as cutting trees. The price is more than we wish to pay and the Pastor wants nothing to do with these bidding stipulations so nothing will happen for this year.

We do have in writing from them we can use the access to the cemetery as long as there is no cutting that occurs. We will abide by that for this year and next spring will be looking for contract bid on building a new entry to connect to the current road but on our land.

UPCOMING TERM LENGTHS: During the October meeting we will be reviewing term lengths and the following members terms will expire. Mike Tardif, Holy Rosary, John Powers, St. Mary, Dan Lalonde, St. Louis, Mike Sandstrom, St. Theresa. We asked that you use the time between now and then to consider staying for another term of help in soliciting a volunteer to fill the seat being vacated. The executive committee term will also be up. Please pray and put some consideration as to who will fill these roles for the coming year.

NEW BUSINESS: As we move into October we will also be looking at the schedule of fees for the coming year. The following proposal was made to the council. We have seen throughout the year a \$50.00 difference billed by the interment contractors when cremations are buried within a vault. With that we need to look at increasing our open and closing cost for cremains or adding an additional fee to cover the difference if a vault is used.

No other business was presented at this time.

Next meeting will be October 9th, 2014 at the Holy Rosary Parish Center

The group was lead by Herm Turcotte for Closing Prayer

Meeting was adjourned early at 6:15 PM allowing members to attend 6:30 mass for Holy Day of obligation.

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