

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2013

Convened: 10:30 A.M. at the Township Office

Who Present: John Ollila, Bruce Petersen (acting as the Secretary), Jay Green & John Slivon (Green Cemetery Association), Marty Heikkila (Sexton) and Bill Bingham

Discussion Points:

- Went over the 19 resumes/applications that were received due to the newspaper advertisement for the new cemetery worker. He or she will be paid \$9.25/hr. The committee selected three from the applicant pool (Gary Dupuis, Lyndsey Aho and Steve Manninen) the Supervisor will call and ask three questions: 1.) Do you have a valid drivers license? 2.) Are you aware that this is an outdoor position? & 3.) What kind of equipment operational experience do you have? From those responses he was to offer the position to one of the three finalists. This had to be done in a expeditious manner due to the late cemetery opening this year and the large number of burials that need to be done by Memorial Day.
- Discussed the need for a shade tent during burials. Found out that the vault company has one plus the funeral homes offer this as a \$100.00 option but rarely are asked to use it.
- Jerry Green gave a “green cemetery” presentation. Largely the concept is: No vaults, the utilization of a bio-degradable container and no embalming. The cemetery would be left in a natural state. There are 3 green cemeteries in MI and 4 in WI mostly near large communities. Winter storage and early burial requirements could be a problem. So what is suggested is that green burials take place within a prescribed date range. The Committee took under advisement the green cemetery option.
- Employee numbers for this summer will be Marty plus two others.
- Sue Hellman Lines volunteered earlier to pursue funding for a rock wall in front of the cemetery – the Committee thought we should follow up and offer any kind of fund-raising assistance that we can as a Township.
- The MTU tree survey was completed last fall and it showed that there were 19 trees with a 50% or worst vigor rating that should be removed. The Comm. indicated that we should contact Chris Bonen who runs a tree service to see what cost it would be to just take down in pieces the 19 worst liability trees. The Supervisor will contact him and using the tree image data base done by MTU will identify the needed trees for removal and get a price quote to do the work.

- Marty will inquire about prisoner assistance this summer.
- Lastly, just about all the cards indicating who are occupying graves have been entered by Janie in to the BS& A Cemetery software. There were about 15,880 occupied graves in the cemetery which is one of 32 in Houghton County. It was found out from BS & A that there software could be upgraded to the tune of about \$2,500.00 plus a yearly fee to allow the Township to use it “on-line” in our new web-site so people can locate their buried relatives. The Comm. thought that that monetary amount was too high and if requested the Twp. Office can look in their BS & A software data base for locations.
- Will try to open the cemetery on or around the 8th of May.

Adjourned at 11:40am John made the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Petersen
Township Supervisor