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FIFE LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING -CEMETERY
APPROVED MINUTES
DECEMBER 17. 2019

Special meeting requested by Clerk Street, Treasurer Sorrow and Trustee Pearson regarding Cemetery Issues. See Attached

Forwerck called the Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. -Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Supervisor Linda Forwerck,-X, Treasurer Cathy Sorrow-X, Clerk Terry Street-X, Trustee Elizabeth Pearson-X, Dawn Zimmerman-X.
Quorum Established.

Also Present: Cemetery Committee Chairperson Anna Rowe Love via phone intercom. Ms. Love requested every one introduce themselves. Stan Patrick, Betty Ingersoll, Deb Newell, Linda Sangrel, Carol Rafail, Dar Zimmerman, Marie Voice, Ricky Newton, John Kelley, Nicole Precord, Robert Melancon and other EMS/Fire crew joined.

Fife Lake Village Members; Dave McGough, President, Gaily Burdzy

Approval of Agenda

Street made **Motion** to approve the Agenda, Sorrow Seconded, All in Favor, **Motion Carried.**

Conflict of Interest – None

Correspondence

Forwerck read draft pertaining to the background of the Cemetery Committee. The Fife Lake Township Supervisor, Jack Rawlings established the committee in 1989, as an advisory committee. Over seen by the past Supervisors including Dave Stremlow, Marianne (Toni) Larson, Fred Joles and Currently Linda Forwerck.

The maintenance has been handled by various methods including a crew from Camp Pugsley at one time. The Cemetery Committee was granted \$25,000 in the Fife Lake Township budget to operate and as needed including paying for maintenance, Sexton and as needed. See Attached.

The equipment being a capital expense is also used to maintain other Township properties.

In 2016 the Pugsley Correctional Facility closed. The Fife Lake Township will lose approximately \$45,000 dollars from this source impacting various line items including Cemetery on the budget.

A joint meeting of the Fife Lake Township Board and Cemetery Committee would be beneficial to the Townships future cemetery operation as well as transparent business on behalf of the constituents we represent.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Anna Rowe Love referred to a letter, see attached, she sent to the Township including the Sexton Lisa Palmondon. The letter asked about the production of ground imaging performed by Sexton Plamondon using Leased program/equipment purchased by the Fife Lake Township. The original data from the GTR studies belongs at the Township Hall. ie: See Proper Cemetery Recordkeeping.

Ms. Love reported she did not address herself as the Cemetery Committee Chairperson but as a concerned citizen on the where abouts are the images taken of the Fife Lake and Walton Cemeteries.

John Kelley reported that no Township/Cemetery property has been turned into him by Sexton Plamondon or other. He proceeded to educate the board of all the time he has donated including using his own equipment. Does not appreciate being accused of having said Township properties. Also concerned about damages to the water lines as they are very delicate. Anticipates broken lines come spring.

New Business

Discussion on Fife Lake Township Cemetery Committee Issues.

Sorrow requested the Cemetery Committee be dissolved based on a list of issues. Forwerck asked for this list. Sorrows concerns were about Anna Rowe Loves, Certified Letter to Sexton Plamondin.

Pearson concerned with follow up letter by Forwerck to Sexton Palmondin, See Attached. Question on who decided to get the sheriff involved on retrieving the Township properties including the keys to the Cemetery.

Zimmerman read the responsibilities and duties of a Township Supervisor from MTA's Rules. (Red Book)

Street added the importance of work ethics and being respectful.

Various remarks such as a simple phone call asking for the keys not involving the police for all said Township Properties. Fife Lake Township Board Meeting Minutes reveal motion made by Forwerck to retrieve Cemetery Keys from Nicole Precord as the Fall Season was complete. This was asked to be done before Mr. Street went out of town.

Forwerck sent an email to Nicole asking for the keys. Deputy Clerk Gifford and Zoning Administrator Rodriguez asked Nicole for said keys. Ms. Precord said had she received Supervisors email, which was lost due to spelling error in email address, she would have returned the keys immediately.

Debbie Rodriguez also on the Cemetery Committee reported the past Ordinance states Both Walton and Fife Lake Cemeteries close by November 1st. This is for the safety of snowmobilers and maintenance of Cemeteries. Fife Lake did not get closed until a week into December.

Meeting with Auditors and Accounting was canceled due to the holidays but then this meeting was scheduled.

Members of the Board meeting at the Credit Union could easily be considered violating the open meetings act.

Concerns on Tree bidding information going through the Credit Union and not the Township. Ms. Love contacted Helsel trees since there was no action taken yet.

McGough suggested Lone Wolfe, used by the Village.
The bids for concrete repairs were handled through the Cemetery Committee.

Second Citizen Comment

Deb Newell from Fife Lake stated the Cemeteries have always been closed by November First and the keys left at the Fife Lake Township Hall.

Most employers require any and all company property to be returned upon final paycheck.

Ms. Newell did not agree with the rehire due to disrespectful behavior.

While Sorrow is a Board Member she is not on the Cemetery Committee why not refer this information to the Township while working at the Credit Union.

Marie Voice asked about the trees. She also said the Cemetery Committee accomplished a lot of good for Fife Lake Cemeteries, but perhaps has served its purpose.

Ricky Newton suggested making another set of keys for the Township office this would have prevented the problem.

Forwerck made **Motion** to keep the Cemetery Committee in place, Zimmerman Seconded.

Other Discussion:

Pearson does not want to see the Committee making decisions that the Fife Lake Township Board should be making. Where is the Cemetery Policy? When is the next Cemetery Meeting?

Zimmerman said the Fife Lake Cemetery Committee policy can be viewed on the Website. All Township policies are being reviewed and possible new ones created through MTA.

Gail Burdzy and Pearson volunteered to help with policies.

Sorrow suggested maybe a smaller Cemetery Committee since monies are less available.

Zimmerman stated the Cemetery Committee consists of volunteers, since Sorrow and Forwerck are no longer on the Committee it has downsized.

It was suggested members; Anna Rowe Love, Jim Gifford, Carol Rafail, Debbie Rodriguez, Betty Ingersoll Marie Voice, as Committee Members.

No more discussion at this time

Motion and Second on the floor to Keep Cemetery Committee in place. Roll Call Vote Finds:
Zimmerman-Yes, Forwerck-Yes, Sorrow-Yes, Pearson-Yes, Street-Yes. 5-Yes, 0-No, Motion Carried.

Marie Voice asked about the trees in the cemetery that need cutting, Anna Love state she would be looking into this as well.

The board recommended Street look into getting bids.

Ms. Love reported the next Cemetery Committee meeting will be toward the end of April 2020.

Adjournment

Sorrow made **Motion** to Adjourn, Zimmerman Seconded. All in Favor, **Motion Carried.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 pm

RE- Draft Minutes Special Meeting December 17, 2019, Cemetery Issues, prepared by Leigh Gifford, Deputy Clerk