



Fremont Cemetery Trustee
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Matthew Thomas at 4:03 pm in the basement meeting room of the Fremont Town Hall. Present were: Cemetery Trustees: Matthew Thomas and Jeanne Nygren, Cemetery Sexton: Shawn Perreault and Superintendent Bruce White.

Mrs. Nygren made a motion to approve the June 5, 2018 meeting minutes with no changes needed. Mr. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion was passed.

Mrs. Nygren printed out a more detailed budget to review the amounts in each line. Admin. and Loam/Seeding are going to be over budget. Fuel and equipment appear to be on target as long as the equipment doesn't need any big repairs. Mr. White seems to think the equipment should be good. Mrs. Nygren recommends moving the Spring/Fall clean-up of \$2,600.00 from the Project line to the Equipment hire line. This expense is now a yearly expense and she feels projects are a one time expense. Mrs. Nygren recommended that we increase the Electricity line because we still have expenses in the cold months. She also recommends that we need to increase the Project line and identify what those projects are and gather any costs we can. If we can identify them and get costs will can have better numbers for the Budget Committee. Heidi wants the numbers by August 6th. Mr. White stated that he would like to see an increase for the weed killer, seeding and insect defense. He will figure out the cost for the next meeting. The ants are killing the grass and if we don't take care of it now, it will become a bigger problem. Mr. Thomas hates to see the budget raised, however, we really have no choice. We have not raised the budget in a number of years, but the cost have continued to go up and the current budget just doesn't cover everything that needs to be done.

The Trustees were informed that Aron Lair has quit and we are looking for someone else. Mr. White has been doing all the mowing. He stated that he should be fine doing the basic maintenance right now. It is really May that he needs the biggest help because of Memorial Day. Mrs. Nygren wondered what the cost would be for having a company come in once a week to mow. It would probably be above our budget, however, maybe we should obtain some prices. Mrs. Nygren also brought up the idea of putting the ad at the High Schools. However, we don't know what the age restriction is for the equipment that is used. Mrs. Perreault is going to look into this and have the information for the next meeting.

Mrs. Perreault called surrounding towns to find out what they were charging for Cemetery Lots as well as their cremation burials done by the town. She supplied the Trustees and Mr. White with a copy of the results. We are pretty much in line with other towns. Some are lower and some a lot higher than us. The others all charge a separate fee to have a burial done on a Saturday, Sunday or Holiday. The other towns also charge a fee for burials done after a certain time. Mrs. Perreault recommended adding a fee for Saturdays. Mr. White is fine with no fee. He doesn't mind doing the Saturday and this fee is not for his time. Mr. White stated this is a small town and we don't have that many. Mr. White stated if we wanted to discourage Sunday we could add a \$50.00 fee. Mrs. Perreault also stated that most towns only allow 1 full burial and 3 cremations for each cemetery lot. They feel the spacing is too close otherwise. Some also allow people to plant a 1 foot plant, which accounts for the need to reduce the



number of cremations. We do not allow plantings. The Trustees are going to review the information and discuss this more at the next meeting.

The Trustees were informed that the Town has booked Mr. Steve Wood to be Abraham Lincoln for next years Memorial Day parade. He was scheduled to be in another town at noon and because we are able to guarantee a 10:45 departure, he is only charging us \$175.00. Mrs. Perreault provided a bio, picture and a copy of the contact to the Trustees for their review. Mrs. Nygren informed the board that she added the money into the Patriotic Purposes budget for Selectmen & Budget Committee consideration. It is the only increase to that budget and she is hoping it will be approved. She also made the increase a temporary increase for one year. If voters do not approve it, Mrs. Nygren stated we could take the money out of the flag budget.

Mr. Thomas has spoken to Cory West regarding the land for a new cemetery. Mr. West in concerned about the taxes. Mr. West asked about a tax break. Mr. Thomas informed him we couldn't do that. Mr. Thomas informed Mr. West that he would have to tell us what he wanted to sell the land for. Then it would be up to the Town if they wanted to buy it. He is still interested in doing something, but needs to discuss this with his siblings to find out what they want to do and how much they feel the land is worth. Mr. Thomas informed Mr. West that we would need to know within the next month in order to have numbers for the budget. Mr. Thomas stated another concern is the water table. We need to test it to make sure there isn't water 3 feet down. We would want to make sure we do this before we purchase the land and then find out we can't use it. Mr. Thomas stated that the land looks high enough, but there is a small gully at the entrance way where it does collect water. He is not sure if that is effecting the water table where the cemetery would be added. Mr. West has been very nice and did make the suggestion of testing the water table. Mr. Thomas will follow up.

Mrs. Nygren came up with a list of projects and stated we need to come up with dollar figures, so we can add it to the budget. 1) Remove Leavitt Wall; 2) Update the Village Well; 3) Increase Lot Price; 4) Leavitt Shed with additional equipment; 5) Water at Leavitt; 6) Restore/Repair Leavitt grave stones.

Leavitt Well – this has not been used in 40 years. Mr. White is going to take a look at it. He believes there is electrical, but he is not sure the lines were run. It might work having an old fashion hand pump.

Village Well – There is not enough water in this well. Mr. White stated we might be able to drill deeper to fix the issue.

Leavitt Shed – Mr. White is OK with moving the equipment around. Mrs. Nygren wondered if the blocks from the wall removal could be used as a base for the shed. Mr. Thomas and Mr. White did not feel this was an option. They stated the blocks would more than likely be to fragile and break during the removal process.

Restore/Repair Stones – There is an RSA that covers what we can do for grave stones that are no longer maintained by family. Danville hired someone recently to clean old grave stones and they look great. Mr. Thomas stated maybe we could add an amount to the budget to clean 10 stones a year until it was done. Mr. Thomas feels that some of these stones, due to their history or rarity really need to be restored. Otherwise we loss a piece of cemetery heritage, an example would be Mahitable Brown in



Leavitt who was known as a witch. Mr. Thomas and Mr. White stated that most of the stones just need to set back up.

Leavitt Wall RFP were opened by Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Nygren. There were a total of five bids:

1. Blue Sky – Deerfield, NH: \$5,500.00
2. BWP & Sons – East Kingston, NH: \$6,400.00
3. M.A. Bean Assoc. – Sanbornton, NH: \$8,000.00
4. Thomson Excav. – Orford, NH: \$14,800.00
5. S. Tomasz, Mason – Fremont, NH: \$27,000.00

Mrs. Nygren will scan all the bids and send them to the Trustees and Mrs. Perreault. Mrs. Nygren made a motion to go with Blue Sky with the conditions that the RFP was followed and that Mr. Harms agrees. Mr. Thomas seconded and the motion was passed.

Mrs. Nygren stated that Mrs. Perreault is going to try and come up with what supplies are still needed for her projects. There are still 3 ½ months that need to be covered by our current budget.

Mr. White recommends thinking about limiting the cremation to 3 like other towns. He feels that 4 is really close on space.

Next meeting was scheduled for August 7th at 4:00 pm.

Motion made by Mrs. Nygren to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Thomas. Meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawn Perreault
Cemetery Sexton

Approved: 8/7/2018