

Cemetery Board Minutes: July 8, 2014

Meeting called to order at 5:30 at Red Lodge City Hall by Dan Gainer.

Members present: Polly Richter, Burt Douthit, Dan Gainer, Maryvette Labrie, Jim Bushnell

Members absent: Jim Hilderman

Meeting brought to order by Dan Gainer.

Minutes of previous meeting of June 23 were approved as submitted.

Polly Richter made a motion to pass the Cemetery Board by-laws on second reading. Maryvette Labrie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion of the repair work needed to be done at the mausoleum. Several suggestions as to the type of contractor needed to do the work were discussed. Jim Bushnell said the roof was redone within the past 10 years. The board will need to create a request for proposals (RFP) and send it out to any possible interested parties. This project is set as the first priority for the board. Jim Bushnell will be available to show the possible parties the mausoleum for the purpose of obtaining an estimate.

Other needs identified by the board are a sprinkler system. Currently, the pump is running. It was a difficult task to get it going this year and the system currently in place for watering the grounds is extremely labor intensive. A well would be ideal to make the watering more efficient. The last estimate for a sprinkler system was too high to consider at near \$300,000.00. This system would have had the capability to measure moisture and work in several zones.

Public Works is short-handed at the moment and has been unable to care for the headstones in the manner the department would like. The sinking graves are also a concern. Some of the larger headstones are difficult to straighten and need to be corrected with heavy equipment. Currently, there is one employee who takes care of the watering, mowing, trimming and other maintenance issues at the cemetery. The weed spraying is being done twice a year with some spot spraying included as needed. The old shed that is used for storing winter equipment needs to be removed. The budget is at the bare minimum.

The idea of creating a cemetery district was discussed. Red Lodge is the only cemetery not in a district and does not get enough funding to have the proper care.

There are a number of keys to the mausoleum, but there has been no record of who has these at the moment.

Gretchen Arndt is curious if there are any spaces available in the mausoleum. She has family in there and would like to volunteer to help care for the interior if the board and public works department would like the assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30. The next scheduled meeting will be August 12th, 2014.

Minutes submitted by Maryvette Labrie

Dan Gainer - Chairman