

Special Board Meeting
May 18, 2022
Kawkawlin Township Board

Call Meeting to Order—Supervisor called meeting to order at 2:06 pm with the pledge to the flag.

Roll Call of Officers—Present: Davidson, Petrimoulx, Klass, Campbell
Absent: DeShano

Communications—Trustee DeShano sent in her submission to the record for the Special Meeting held May 18, 2022. Supervisor Davidson read her submission aloud, in its entirety, as requested by DeShano. A copy of letter is attached to Meeting minutes.

Clarification was then given by Davidson about some of the issues brought up in DeShano's letter. He agrees that on December 6, 2021 the full Board agreed upon new cemetery prices. But now, with the hiring of a new sexton, some prices had to be increased to cover the sexton's cost in the new contract.

Public Input- Lisa Eurick asked who oversees the work of the sexton

New Business

- A. Cemetery Pricing- Trustee Campbell suggested that Board should approve new pricing as a line item by line item. Motion made by Davidson/Petrimoulx to approve new cemetery pricing, line item by line item. Prices Effective June 1, 2022.
- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| #1 Burial Site/Lots | Twp Residents | \$750.00/Lot |
| Yes: | Petrimoulx, Davidson, Campbell, Klass | Passed |
| #2 Burial Site/Lots | Non-resident | \$1500.00/Lot |
| Yes: | Davidson, Campbell, Klass, Petrimoulx | Passed |
| #3 Burial Site/Lots | Right of Second Interment | \$250.00 |
| Yes: | Campbell, Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson | Passed |
| #4 Interments | Vault-Adult (M-F) Resident | \$900.00 |
| Yes: | Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson, Campbell | Passed |
| #5 Interments | Vault-Adult (M-F) Non-resident | \$975.00 |
| Yes: | Petrimoulx, Davidson, Klass | Passed |
| | No: Campbell | |
| #6 Interments | Vault-Saturday Res & Non-resident | \$300.00 |
| Yes: | Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson, | Passed |
| | No: Campbell | |
| #7 Cremains | (M-F) | \$375.00 |
| Yes: | Campbell, Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson | Passed |
| #8 Cremains-Saturday Add | | \$100.00 |
| Yes: | Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson, Campbell | Passed |
| #9 Disinterment | Adult (w/in house Reinterment) | \$1800.00 |
| Yes: | Petrimoulx, Davidson, Campbell, Klass | Passed |
| #10 Chapel Rental | | \$75.00 |
| Yes: | Davidson | Did Not Pass |
| | No: Campbell, Klass, Petrimoulx | |
| #11 Foundations | Length x Width= Sq inch | \$.50/Sq Inch |
| Yes: | Campbell, Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson | Passed |

B. Resolution for new Cemetery Pricing- Motion made by Davidson/Campbell to approve resolution to adopt new cemetery prices.

Yes: Klass, Petrimoulx, Davidson, Campbell

Passed

Public Input (3 min. not Q & A session)- Charles Campbell spoke of need to pay sexton. Davidson explained that Trustee Campbell approved paying Sexton but Trustee DeShano did not. Sexton can not be paid without approval of both Trustees.

Lisa Eurick concerned about the condition of Old Kawkawlin Rd.

Adjournment—Motion to adjournment was made at 2:56pm by Petrimoulx/Klass **Passed**

May 18, 2022

Trustee DeShano's submission to the record for the Special Meeting announced May 17, 2022 at 11:48 AM, to be held May 18, 2022 at 2:00 PM. Please read entirely within the meeting and add to the record in its entirety.

I would've liked to attend this meeting, however, I have a work webinar that was scheduled and paid for by my employer more than six weeks ago. Had I been given the chance, I would've happily provided my availability to do my part to represent the people of Kawkawlin Township, as I was elected to do.

Early last fall, a special meeting was held and attended by all board members, in which we discussed increasing the cemetery prices. We reached a consensus on a reasonable increase that would keep us competitive but still provide the service to our community and to our surrounding communities, albeit at a slightly higher rate. After reviewing the current ordinance, it was determined that we needed to seek legal counsel to ensure we could make the price changes within the existing ordinance framework, although the entire ordinance is outdated and needs to be reworked to take into account the pending changes to the new section that has been surveyed (e.g., grave sizes), changes in the last decade in the cemetery industry, and burial preferences overall (e.g., increased inurnments). This needed change has been delayed despite multiple conversations, including at the work session that took place on December 6, 2021, during which the Supervisor stated he would be inquiring with the attorney about that very matter.

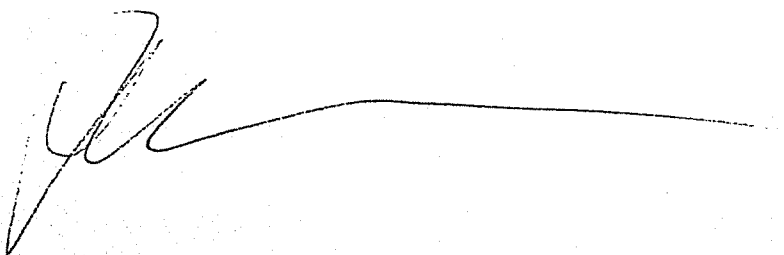
More than six months later, this is now SO PRESSING that a Special Meeting must be held, during work hours, with minimal notice, and without the full board, to complete the work that has been repeatedly pushed into the forefront for many months by both trustees.

At the regular Township Board Meeting just last week, these price increases were discussed (as recalculated at a work session held during the day and attended only by three board members – also discussed at the meeting last week). We were then informed, by legal counsel, that we would have to have a public hearing to change the ordinance. Now that our legal advice has been changed to require a resolution, this is being rushed through, with an effective date nearly six months later than was first discussed by the full board.

Specific to the proposed changes:

- 1) Making such large increases in one fell swoop is highly likely to discourage business in our cemetery, leading to the exact opposite effect sought. Incremental increases are a smarter business model, especially as the cleanup from years of improper management continues. Once the changes take effect, the correction is not as easy as a sales event at reduced prices.
 - a. The earlier agreed upon increase was 25% for residents (plot and interment) whereas this new proposed pricing is a 37.5% increase.
 - b. The earlier agreed upon increase was 25% for non-residents (plot and interment) whereas this new proposed pricing is a 33.4% increase.

- c. For weekend burials, the new proposed pricing is a 50% increase for residents and a 42% increase for non-residents.
 - i. So, these new proposed prices DISPROPORTIONATELY apply to our own residents.
 - d. The proposed pricing also includes increases for foundations and use of the chapel.
- 2) I have been consistent in my argument that we should not charge for the use of the chapel, especially given that its last update was in 1968. We have been pushing for new chairs to replace the rickety ones and, at the very least, an overall refresher to the chapel for nearly a year. Thankfully, the 2022-2023 budget included monies for that purpose but no progress has yet been made.
- 3) We voted to enter "contract negotiations" with the new sexton on February 16, 2022. As of today's date, there is still no approved contract. The contract was added to the agenda of the April Board Meeting and (as noted in the approved minutes) was promised to be completed and ready for a vote at the May Board Meeting, which it was not. The new sexton has been working diligently since March 1, 2022 to clean up the existing mess in the cemetery with no pay and is now submitting bills (without an agreed upon contract). As such, this price increase is being considered as a knee-jerk reaction to larger bills when the more prudent path would be to approve a contract so that our expenses could be better forecast going forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive name that is difficult to decipher. The signature is written in a fluid, continuous stroke.