

Special Meeting Felch Twp Board January 19, 2022

With the absence of the Supervisor the clerk called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm all in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call: Members G. Wille, D. Dixon and D. Oman were present. Absent was M. Steinbrecher and R. Mattson. Also attending was Mrs. Rebecca Pollack, Cemetery Sexton.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the cemetery.

Green burials were discussed. Some of the ideas we discussed were; Where would we allow them? Do we designate an area of the cemetery, or allow them anywhere within the cemetery? Should we establish a minimum burial depth of the grave? It was agreed that Mrs. Pollack would contact area cemeteries that currently allow green burials and obtain a copy of the ordinances from those municipalities so we can compare what other local cemeteries are doing.

Sign for the cemetery. Mrs. Pollack would like to see a sign installed on the Calumet Mine Road that directs visitors to the cemetery. D. Oman mentioned that we also need a fire number sign. We need to provide an address from time to time and there is no Fire Number Sign. D. Oman will order a sign for the road. Supervisor Mattson orders the street number signs and installs them. He will also know the correct address number to use. We also discussed having landscaping completed at the cemetery entrance along with a sign as part of the landscaping and we reviewed the previous drawing of such a project. D. Oman will get budget figures for such a project.

Lot sizes were discussed. Currently we sell lots as a whole lot or ½ lot. A full lot provides space for 8 traditional vault and casket burials. And a half lot allows for 4. Mrs. Pollack suggests that we consider changing the current policy and allow for single lots to be sold.

Prices of lots. We should review what we are selling lots for including the new proposed single lots. And what the cost is for a resident, or non-resident. Should property owners be permitted the same sale price if they are non-residents?

Will the township allow for multiple burials in the same lot? For example, grandpa is buried on a lot with grandma aside of him. A granddaughter is cremated and wants to be buried on the same lot as grandpa. Will we allow this. Is there a depth requirement for the cremains? Is there room for a second headstone? Will we allow two headstones for the same lot? Who makes that decision to permit or deny? What about other kin of the same grandparents if they object?

Reclaiming of unused lots? We have lots that still have empty graves. Most of those cases the original owners are deceased and there is no record indicating who would be permitted to be buried on the original owners' lots. This problem would somewhat be resolved by selling lots individually and there is a process we can take to reclaim the lots that are unused. Mrs. Pollack will attempt to find a document that lists the procedures that would need to be taken should the board decide to pursue this.

Possibility of creating what is often referred to as a "Scatter Garden" several municipalities already have them and are normally some sort of building, or gazebo or pavilion with benches around the building and surrounding areas. Some of them contains gardens, and waterfalls, or creeks. It is an area that

people can scatter cremains and then inside of the building or gazebo or pavilion style building a means for people to fasten a memorial plaque for their loved one. D. Oman will see if he can obtain pictures of these types of gardens from municipalities that already have them. Along with any rules, regulations, policy, or ordinance that they may have related to the garden.

It was agreed that we should continue to have special meetings to discuss findings from this meeting. We should establish a date at least a month after this meeting.

No further discussion being offered, D. Dixon made a motion to adjourn, supported by G. Willie, all voted in favor, no one opposed the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Darrell Oman,
Felch Township Clerk.