

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
HOWARD BARTON, JR. CONFERENCE ROOM**

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Board Members Present:

Brett Sanderson	Lou Gabranski	Herb Van Guilder
Bob Brandt	Bruce Schmidt	

Staff Present:

Scott Murphy	Doug Sheehan
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1. Call to Order

A. Brett Sanderson called the meeting at 5:01.

2. Consideration of Changes, Additions or Removal to the Agenda

A. Scott Murphy said none are necessary.

3. Comments from Citizens

A. There were none.

4. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

A. Brett Sanderson said that the minutes to be reviewed are from September 21, 2022.

B. Motion by Bob Brandt and seconded by Herb Van Guilder to accept the minutes from September 21, 2022 as presented.

5. Sexton's Reports

A. Scott Murphy noted that the report included in their packets had been amended and the amended report is on the table.

B. MOTION by Herb Van Guilder and seconded by Bob Brandt to approve the amended Sexton's Reports for September st as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Buildings & Grounds Reports

A. Herb Van Guilder said that he is concerned about the brush cutting, they are falling behind. He said that he has spoken to Kevin MacPherson and asked him to try to get the bank brush cleaned

up. Kevin suggested bringing in a backhoe to cleandown the ruts, then it can be kept clean. They didn't do it last year

- B. **MOTION by Bob Brandtr and seconded by Bruce Schmidtt to accept the report from Buildings and Grounds. Motion passed unanimously**

7. **FY2024 Budget Discussion**

- A. Herb Van Guilder said that he can't believe that the number (\$28,250) in for LABOR is good. We usually have 4 people. They can tend to the brush.
- B. Scott Murphy said that this is just a proposed budget and that is the current year. The staff is seasonal and spans 2 fiscal years. The proposed labor amount is \$35,312.
- C. Herb Van Guilder asked about MISCELLANEOUS.
- D. Scott Murphy said that is interdepartmen and was only \$1,200 last year. This year to date it is \$53.00 (beginning July 1st.) He said that Kevin works through November 11th. He's also there in the off-season and doesn't get paid for it. We can increase that. Scott Murphy suggested that we pay Kevin per-diem pay during the off season.
- E. Brett Sanderson said that Kevin watches out for the water issues up there during the off-season.
- F. Bruce Schmidt voiced his concern that this budget reflects a 26% increase. If we add items, what do we take out?
- G. Herb Van Guilder said that he doesn't have a problem with the increase. People are happy with the cemetery
- H. Bruce Schmidt said that we can put in something for that employee, but when he goes up there, there are things that he's not doing. Is this person being paid correctly?
- I. Herb Van Guilder said that this is our budget - strictly cemetery and no other department can intercede. We have to be concerned strictly about the cemetery, even if we use other town employees.
- J. Bruce Schmidt said the cemetery should hire someone to do what that person does, but they don't want to. We are adding 26% increase and the increase in labor is 25%.
- K. Scott Murphy said that last year the Cemetery commissioners approved an underbalanced budget to drop down the Capital account. The expenses were more than revenue.
- L. Herb Van Guilder said that we never had a deficit and he doesn't want one now. All costs are going up.
- M. Scott Murphy said that we were trying to get the Capital Account down. It was about \$112,000 last year and about \$70,000 this year, but he doesn't have the exact number because Ulla Cook is on vacation. He said that they increased Gas/Oil by \$350.00, based on the increase in prices. We have spent \$841.00 year to date. He said that Tools/Equipment is up a little.
- N. Herb Van Guilder asked why Tree Work/Stump Removal/Brush was lowered.
- O. Bob Brandt said they had done a lot of work last year.
- P. Scott Murphy said that Kevin doesn't think we will need as much work done. He added that Kevin had suggested putting in a split rail fence on both sides of the entrance. He said that people have been parking on the grass. The estimate is indicated \$1,500.00. We also want to get new signs.
- Q. Herb Van Guilder said that parking on the grass is not a big issue.
- R. Bruce Schmidt said this would be off High Street and not in the cemetery. He said the neighbors park there.
- S. Herb Van Guilder said that is a rarity to see someone parked on the grass.
- T. Louie Gabranski said they only do it when the gates are closed.

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- U. Scott Murphy said that Kevin's biggest question is the mower/tractor. He said that the town bought a blower attachment for the leaves and we have been using the town's. Kevin thought that the cemetery should have one.
 - V. Bruce Schmidt asked can't they use the town's.
 - W. Scott Murphy said certainly.
 - X. Herb Van Guilder said that he agrees, it saves labor. He said that the Sexton's report said there was a problem with one of the flag poles.
 - Y. Doug Sheehan said the Electric Department fixed it. They have fixed it twice this year.
 - Z. Bob Brandt asked about compensation for the Sexton, FY 2024 \$18,000.
 - AA. Scott Murphy said that he is not seasonal and is on track for \$18,000 - \$19,000.
 - BB. Bruce Schmidt asked why the increase was so high this year.
 - CC. Scott Murphy said the software work. He added that if we do the South Hill and other cemetery, Doug Sheehan will have to do the additional work for the software for that.
 - DD. Bob Brandt added that there were a lot of burials this year.
 - EE. Herb Van Guilder said that he can't believe that the maintenance costs for South Hill were only \$250.00. He said that he is really concerned about the brush and trees getting out of control. It will ruin the fence. We share the bank with Okemo and cleaned it up about 4 years ago. He said that he had called Okemo and they had an engineer come down and said we can cut any brush and trees down to the water. If we damage the fence, we fix it.
 - FF. Scott Murphy said that was the former owners.
 - GG. Herb Van Guilder said he will talk to the new owners. We own over the bank. We had it surveyed.
 - HH. Scott Murphy said not down to the water.
 - II. Bruce Schmidt asked if there was a chance that labor for South Hill was being included with the regular cemetery labor.
 - JJ. Scott Murphy said yes, and we should pull it.
 - KK. Bruce Schmidt asked about Sand/Top Soil/Gravel.
 - LL. Scott Murphy said we rarely use it and lowered it. He added that for Legal/Engineering/Survey, you never know when you are going to need legal, but he hates to take it out.
 - MM. Herb Van Guilder asked did we ever finish the survey.
 - NN. Doug Sheehan said no.
 - OO. Herb Van Guilder said they had a line dispute with Okemo and asked if we could buy the part we thought was ours, but it was theirs and it cost us \$2,200.00.
 - PP. Scott Murphy asked if they want to add funds for that.
 - QQ. Bruce Schmidt suggested taking it out of Capital.
 - RR. Scott Murphy said yes.
 - SS. Louie Gabranski asked why there are no markers where the lines are. That should be part of the survey.
 - TT. Herb Van Guilder said we want to know exactly where the property lines are.
 - UU. Louie Gabranski asked why the lots in the new part that were sold were spaced way apart.
 - VV. Doug Sheehan said he was trying to be accommodating. That's what the buyers wanted.
 - WW. Scott Murphy said he will make the changes discussed tonight for the next meeting.
 - XX. Herb Van Guilder asked when the fire department will be up there to clean up the brush.
 - YY. Scott Murphy said he will check.
 - ZZ. Bruce Schmidt questioned the 26% increase, labor increase of 25%, noted the decrease in Miscellaneous Labor and the increase in Sexton by 80%.
 - AAA. Brett Sanderson said that Land Site Work and Fencing can come out of Capital.

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- BBB. Bruce Schmidt said that we are responsible to the taxpayers and he doesn't think most people will understand a 26% increase. He said that maybe Scott Murphy can explain it. He said he is not in favor of buying a blower, since the town has one.
 - CCC. Scott Murphy said he will make the adjustments for the next meeting.
 - DDD. Louie Gabranski asked about a bathroom for the upper level.
 - EEE. Herb Van Guilder said he has never seen a board that couldn't explain the budget. You have to have a realistic budget. I'll defend the budget. The taxpayers will approve whatever we need and won't have a problem with a 26% increase.
 - FFF. Bob Brandt said inflation is 9%.

8. Other Business (not on agenda)

- A. Estate Situation
 - i. Bruce Schmidt said that a citizen asked him about a situation. They had a family plot and the father died. The mother remarried. When she died, she was buried in a different plot. The family wants the new husband to give the plot back to them. They asked if there is anything we can do.
 - ii. Doug Sheehan said it would go to the woman's closest heirs.
 - iii. Bruce Schmidt said he will tell the family to contact Doug Sheehan.
 - iv. Herb Van Guilder said in the past, we told them they would have to work it out with an attorney.
 - v. Doug Sheehan said that the deeds say that the heirs inherit the plots.
- B. Herb Van Guilder Recognition
 - i. Scott Murphy presented Herb Van Guilder with plaques honoring his years of dedicated service to the town and also his initiation of the swap shop at the transfer station, his proudest achievement. The plaques are signed by the Senate President, the Speaker of the House and the clerk.
 - ii. Herb Van Guilder thanked all of the people who have supported him over the years..
 - iii. The board all congratulated Herb.

9. Set Date for Next Meeting

- A. Next regular meeting - Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

10. Sign Warrant Orders

- A. The warrant orders have been signed.

11. Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal Issues

- A. Scott Murphy said an Executive Session is not needed.

12. Adjourn

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- A. MOTION by Bob Brandt and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisha Klaiber

Brett Sanderson, Chairman

Bruce Schmidt

Bob Brandt

Herb Van Guilder

Lou Gabranski