

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 15, 2012**

**Board Members Present:**

Herbert VanGuilder, Brett Sanderson, Nataile Gruber, John Paige and Ludwig Gabranski

**Others Present:**

Joshua Adams, Sexton

**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

**Approve Meeting Minutes:**

- a. MOTION by John Paige and seconded by Brett Sanderson to accept the minutes of July 18, 2012 as presented with one correction regarding the Chairman's Expense Report, item A. the budget monies carried over was \$12000.00 not \$20000.00. So voted.

**Comments from Citizens:**

- a. None present.

**Old Business:**

Herbert VanGuilder noted the following:

- Chairman's Report will be presented during next meeting.
- Since the last meeting, some confusion exists within the Chairman and the Sexton who are not sure of the direction that the Commissioners want the Chairman and Sexton to work towards.
- During the past 5-6 successful years, there have been many much needed updates accomplished by the commissioners. Included in those updates is the budget along with various articles, which has helped to bring our cemeteries in line with the changing needs of modern day cemeteries, as well as the successful working relationship with other Municipal Departments, the addition of a very useful computer system (thanks to the Municipal Staff), and the updating of equipment which included labor saving equipment and a new office building, just to name a few.
- These updates along with many others have been completed by the Commissioners and Cemetery Staff by the changing of management style to the system that we have today, which allows the Chairman and Sexton work together to be aggressive on completing many necessary projects.
- The Chairman and Sexton feel that, since last month's meeting, the Commissioners may have a change in their philosophy as to how they now wish to operate the cemeteries.
- The Chairman and Sexton would like to ask the Commissioners if they would define their wishes and issue some statement on their thoughts for the future of the Ludlow Cemeteries.
- He would prefer the Commissioners to have a progressive philosophy, similar to the last 5-6 years, as there are still many projects to be completed.
- He would like the Commissioners to allow the Chain of Command System, that was previously adopted by the Commissioners, to be utilized going forward.
- If the Commissioners prefer to go back to the mow & trim philosophy style, then he would prefer that someone take over as the Chairman, as Herbert VanGuilder strongly feels he could not represent the Board as Chairman under that style of philosophy and he would graciously relinquish his Chairman's seat.

## Sexton's Report

- 19 Burials to date and 11 new gravesites have been completed.
- Stonewall, along the Okemo property line, has been completed at a cost of \$1205.93.
- 53 Veteran monuments have been cleaned.
- Grading, leveling and improvements to the upper level, proposed future cemetery, is nearing completion.
- The cemetery tent service study has been completed and has proved to be very successful. One more tent will be purchased to complete the tent service. Josh presented breakdown reports on the tent study, cremation /grading project/and stonewall costs. Sexton also presented an overview on the fuel purchases to date.
- Sexton noted the he has a good working relationship with the chairman and encouraged the cemetery commissioners to allow the current system to continue, as it has been the most productive with regards to the most needed improvements having been completed since he has worked at the cemetery.

### **New Business:**

After much discussion by the Board concerning the philosophy and operation of the cemeteries, Brett Sanderson made a motion that the Chairman completes the year moving forward on the present and future projects under the present system. Second by Ludwig Gabranski. So voted.

The commissioners noted that they felt that the Chairman was doing a good job. They also noted that they want Sexton Josh Adams to learn all of the many aspects of the Cemetery Operation. Chairman, Herb VanGuilder, noted that the present system was a big asset to the current Sexton and that the Sexton has and is learning the many 'ins' and 'outs' of today's requirements. Herb also noted that hopefully this is the year that many of the cemetery's projects will be complete and after next year, he believes that our Sexton will be one of the best Sextons in the State, which is one of the Chairman's priorities, along with having one of the nicest cemeteries for our Veterans and all the folks who choose our cemeteries as their final resting place. This is also the desire of the current Sexton and cemetery staff.

### **Adjourn:**

- a. MOTION by Nataile Gruber and seconded by Brett Sanderson to adjourn. So voted.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ludwig Gabranski  
Clerk

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Herbert VanGuilder, Chairman

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Nataile Gruber, Vice Chair & Flowers Chair

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Ludwig Gabranski, Clerk

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John Paige

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Brett Sanderson