

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING  
HEALD AUDITORIUM**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Board Members Present:**

Brett Sanderson	Lou Gabranski
Bob Brandt	Bruce Schmidt

**Members Absent:**

Herb Van Guilder

**Others Present:**

Doug Sheehan

**1. Call to Order**

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

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

A. There were none.

**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 August 19, 2020.

B. Bob Brandt noted the following corrections:

- i. Page 3, Item 9U – should read \$250
- ii. Page 3, Item 9W – should read mausoleums, not monuments
- iii. Page 4, Item 9II – should read Gendron.

C. **Motion by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Bob Brandt to accept the minutes from August 19, 2020 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Sexton's Report**

A. Doug Sheehan referring to his report, asked about Mrs. Pisaniello's request. The foundation of the grave is chipping and she wants it repaired. He advised that we did not install the foundation. It was installed by Austin (no longer in business.)

- B. Lou Gabranski requested that this item be tabled until the full board is present.
- C. Doug Sheehan said that he has done research and other cemeteries do allow mausoleums as long as there is room. They do charge burial prices.

**6. Building & Grounds Report**

- A. Lou Gabranski asked who has to approve it if someone wants to dig someone up and move them.
- B. Doug Sheehan said the family makes the decision. He added that for the recent disinterment, we did have a funeral director present, although he was not needed. He said we have no choice if a family decides to move someone. However, if the family is split on its wishes, we have to post it in the papers for 2 to 3 weeks and then wait 45 days.

**7. Possibly Approve Cemetery Rules & Regulations**

- A. Lou Gabranski suggested that the board table this until the full board is present.
- B. Bruce Schmidt said at point we have to approve these regulations. We said, at the last meeting, that we would approve them at this meeting. We need to have direction. If we are going to change the rules regarding mausoleums, we have to let the people know. We have been debating this at every meeting. We need to move forward. He wants this on the record, that we must get this done.
- C. Item tabled until the next meeting.

**8. Review & Possibly Approve Cemetery Rates**

- A. Doug Sheehan advised that our rates are higher than most of our surrounding communities. The only rate he changed was to add \$10 for recording fees, because our costs increased.
- B. Lou Gabranski asked about grass foundation markers.
- C. Doug Sheehan said they are about 3 – 4 inches thick. We dig a hole so they are level with the ground. Sometimes there is a bronze plaque set in cement.
- D. Bruce Schmidt said that the rates were proposed by Doug Sheehan and even though we may be higher, we are competitive.
- E. Doug Sheehan said that he researched other cemeteries' rates and submitted them to the board last fall. The rates are the same as they have been for years, except for the recording fees. He said that Veterans do not get the 50% discount on recording fees or cornerstones.
- F. Bruce Schmidt asked if a person buys 4 grave lots, their cost would be \$2,390.00, they would then also pay burial fees.
- G. Doug Sheehan said yes.
- H. Bruce Schmidt asked if someone buys a lot (or lots) ahead of time, do they pay a different burial rate.
- I. Doug Sheehan said the rate would be the same.
- J. Bruce Schmidt asked the board to consider that if a person buys a lot (or lots) ahead of time, could we give them a 25% discount on the burial fees. He noted that Veterans receive a 50% discount.
- K. Brett Sanderson said it is not a bad thing to consider.
- L. Doug Sheehan asked if that would only apply to the person who purchased the lot.

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- M. Bruce Schmidt said just the person who bought the lot. He said we should give a 25% discount to someone who had lived here all of their lives. He said if someone purchases 10 lots, we should give the discount for each lot. He said that our residents pay a lot for the cemetery and he would like to do something for them.
  - N. Doug Sheehan said that many of the people, who are buried in the lots, are not the people who purchased the lots.
  - O. Bruce Schmidt said we need to think this through.
  - P. Lou Gabranski said we need more accurate figures of our costs.
  - Q. Doug Sheehan said we don't lose money on burials. It takes a couple of hours to dig the hole and more to fill it back up.
  - R. Bruce Schmidt said we are using labor and equipment. He added that we don't give residents many breaks. Bruce Schmidt noted that we charge for perpetual care and asked if that goes into a separate account.
  - S. Doug Sheehan said yes. He said it goes to taking care of the grounds. He said prior to 2006, perpetual care included taking care of the graves, but it was removed from deeds around 2006.
  - T. Bob Brandt said we also need to include burial fees for mausoleums in the price chart.
  - U. Brett Sanderson said the board can do that separately.
  - V. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Bob Brandt to accept the fee chart as presented by Doug Sheehan and to add to interment charges that if a person has pre-purchased a lot (or lots), they will receive a 25% discount off interment charges.**
  - W. Bruce Schmidt said if the board accepts this, they will leave it up to Scott Murphy and Doug Sheehan to prepare the wording for the list. The lots would have to be purchased before burial arrangements.
  - X. Doug Sheehan asked if this is just for residents.
  - Y. Bruce Schmidt said anyone who buys a lot.
  - Z. Lou Gabranski said this would give out-of-staters a break.
  - AA. Doug Sheehan said that most of the lots that he sells are to locals or people who have lived here before.
  - BB. **MOTION passed, 3 in favor, Lou Gabranski against.**

9. **Possibly Consider Rates for Perpetual Care for Mausoleums**

- A. Bruce Schmidt suggested that they wait on this until Scott Murphy can be present
- B. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Lou Gabranski to table this until the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

10. **New Business**

- A. Lamere Square Footbridge Dedication
  - i. Brett Sanderson advised that on Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., the Select Board will meet at the Lamere Square Footbridge, located on Andover Street, in Ludlow, VT, to dedicate the footbridge in honor of Robert Gilmore. All attendees are reminded to wear a face mask and maintain social distancing.

11. **Other Business**

- A. Crumbling Foundation

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- i. Doug Sheehan asked what he should tell Mrs. Pisaniello.
  - ii. Brett Sanderson said that we are waiting until the next meeting.
  - iii. Bob Brandt said that if someone else installed the foundation, we are not responsible for it.
  - iv. Brett Sanderson said he agrees. We can offer to fix it and charge her for the repairs.
  - v. Doug Sheehan suggested it may run around \$350, but he would have to check. They would have to use a jackhammer. He would have to measure the stone. The woman now lives in Manchester.
  - vi. **MOTION by Bob Brandt and seconded by Bruce Schmidt to offer to repair and charge her for the repairs. Motion passed unanimously.**

12. **Set Date for Next Meeting**

- A. Next regular meeting - Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

13. **Sign Warrant Orders**

- A. The warrant orders have been signed.

14. **Possible Executive Session/Personnel/Contracts/Legal Issues - Possibly Approve FY2021 Wage Increases**

- A. Brett Sanderson said an Executive Session is not needed.

15. **Adjourn**

- A. **MOTION by Bruce Schmidt and seconded by Bob Brandt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisha Klaiber

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Brett Sanderson, Chairman

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Bruce Schmidt

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Bob Brandt

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Herb Van Guilder

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Lou Gabranski