

LEE TOWNSHIP Special Meeting

September 22, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 6:34 p.m. at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

Members Present: Trustee Black, Trustee Ferguson, Treasurer Lowery, Supervisor Miller and Clerk King.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss cemetery rate increases, wage increase of the deputy cemetery sexton, planting in the cemetery and benches at the cemetery. The meeting also covered paying the licensing fee for First Responders trainer as well as wage increases for the First Responders as well as the Director and Assistance Director of the First Responders.

The cemetery committee had previously researched and given recommendation of increases to the grave opening rates and rate increases for the purchase of lots. In their study of the rates in the surrounding cemeteries, it was discovered that the Township rates were far under the surrounding cemeteries. This has created a situation where some non-residents are purchasing lots just to get the lowest rates instead of purchasing to be close to family or friends. The rates increase suggestions were as follows:

Grave Opening Current Rates:

Residents	Weekday \$300.00	Saturday \$400.00
Non-Resident	Weekday \$450.00	Saturday \$525.00
Cremation	Weekday \$125.00	Saturday \$150.00 (resident)
Non-Resident	Weekday \$175.00	Saturday \$200.00

Proposed Changes are as follows:

Resident	Weekday \$350.00	Saturday \$425.00
Non-Resident	Weekday \$450.00	Saturday \$525.00
Cremation	Weekday \$175.00	Saturday \$200.00
Non-Resident	Weekday \$225.00	Saturday \$250.00

Lots

Current Rates:

Residents	\$50.00
Non-Residents	\$300.00

Proposed Changes:

Residents	\$100.00
Non-Residents	\$500.00

Motion was made by Lowery and seconded by Miller to increase rates for grave openings as presented by the Cemetery Committee with the exception of an additional increase to the Non-Resident burial opening of Weekday \$475.00 and Saturday \$550.00. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to publish changes to be effective in 30 days, published for 2 weeks and with amendments to be done to the ordinance.

Discussion took place regarding the reasons for only raising the residents' rates by \$25.00. It was discussed that residents' fees should not be change much so that an unnecessary hardship is not placed on our residents.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Lowery to raise the lot rate for residents from \$50.00 to \$75.00 and for non-residents to the proposed \$500.00.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to publish the rate increases for lots and grave openings with recommended minor changes. The ad will run for 2 weeks. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Ferguson to amend the ordinance to reflect the new rates for lots and grave openings. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the deputy sexton's wages. Janice not only keeps the records for the cemetery, she answers questions, meets with family when lots are purchased and helps the Sexton with many other tasks. This position is unique in that most townships have the Clerk keeping the cemetery records and selling lots. Due to the fact that the Clerk's position is not a full time position this was created to help with these functions. The committee has requested a \$75.00 increase to her salary.

Some concern was presented regarding the fact that the cemetery is over budget due to the maintenance and clean up that has taken place this year. There has been more mowing required and more clean up took place this year.

It was discussed that there should be more research done on what this position should be paid. The Clerk will try to research other townships the hours required to better determine what this salary should be. It was the consensus of the board to give a small increase now and make a decision later if more should be given.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to increase the deputy cemetery sexton's wages by \$25.00. This will be effective October 1st. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Some discussion took place on placing benches in the cemetery. Even though Menard's has benches on sale, it was decided that it is too late in the season to decide on this matter and it would be tabled for next spring.

Regarding the planting of bushes, all bushes planted will remain, but it was recommended by the committee to place more Rose of Sharon bushes at the North end of the cemetery and replace the Burning bushes at the entrance. The Burning bushes will be moved to another location in the cemetery.

Motion by Lowery and seconded by Black to give permission to relocate the Burning bushes and add more Rose of Sharon bushes as recommended by the Cemetery Committee. All voted "aye." Motion carried.

Discussion took place on the First Responders training instructor Mary Fry. In the past her services have been used with some problems. Those issues have been resolved and it is cost effective for the township to pay the \$1000.00 license fee in place of a per class fee of \$700.00 per year. This will secure training services for 3 sessions, one per year for the next three years.

It was requested by the board to have a contract signed by Mary to insure that services are rendered.

Motion was made by King and seconded by Lowery to pay the \$1000.00 license renewal fee for Mary Fry to secure training for the next 3 years for the First Responders' continuing education.

Lastly, the per call rate was discussed. First Responders currently are paid \$12.00 per call. The Director is paid \$100.00 per month, and the Assistant Director is paid \$60.00 per month. These positions have more paperwork to complete after each call and are now using a computer program that requires more work, but makes them grant eligible. It takes roughly 45 minutes to complete a report after each call.

Clerk King felt that they are extremely underpaid for their services. They are paid \$12.00 per call no matter the time of day or the length of time that the call takes. The director is paid only \$25.00 a week to be on call 24 hours a day as well as attend to administrative responsibilities. The Assistance director is paid only \$15.00 a week for many of the same duties and being on call.

Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Black to increase the per call rate to \$15.00 per call and to increase the Director's salary an additional \$100.00, making it \$200.00 per month and the Assistant's Salary from \$60.00 to \$120.00. These increases are to take place October 1st. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Black, Ferguson, Lowery, Miller and King. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Minutes submitted by
Jacquelyn Ann King, Clerk