

**Webber Township**  
**Special Meeting-Cemetery Issues/Sexton Agreement**  
**8/14/24**  
2286 W. Springtime St.  
Baldwin, MI 49304  
231-745-3471

**Call to Order:** 12:00

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance:** Dan Cousar-Here, Pat Williams-Here, Deb Hanes-Tardy-Joined at 12:46, Howard Campbell-Here, Kelly McCune-Here

**Approval of Agenda:** Changed order of agenda. Cub Cadet to be addressed first and Interview meeting date second. Motion to approve agenda with changes made by Dan with Support by Pat.

Pat read bid for Cub Cadet by Ed Beck. Discussion regarding the possibility of a bid already existing. Previous bid was word of mouth only and included contingencies. It was agreed to accept Ed Beck's written bid. Motion to accept Ed Beck's bid made by Dan with support by Pat. Roll Call: Dan-Yes, Pat-Yes, Kelly-Yes, Howard-Yes, Deb-Absent. Motion Carries.

Pat made a motion to set Maintenance position Interviews on 8/21/2024 beginning at 4:00PM with support by Kelly. 4 Aye votes, 1 Absent. Motion carries.

**Cemetery Issues:**

There was a discussion regarding who is responsible for looking up and keeping burial records. There are some records here in the office and some on old maps at the cemetery. Sexton claims it was never his responsibility to keep records. Many records have been misplaced in the past that's why we have the mess we do. Once existing records are corrected Bill has agreed to keep them up to date going forward.

Several issues identified: Remainder of cemetery needs to be surveyed. Laminated maps need to be placed in the marquee at the maintenance bldg. Burial sites in existing roadway per survey. Headstone placed in walkway by family without notifying Township.

Plan of action: Nikki will be given 10 Hrs/wk for 4 weeks at normal pay to work on cleaning up the old files. Cemetery files will be moved to conference room and Bill will be responsible to maintain them with assistance from Nikki in getting set up and providing support.

Pat made a motion to give Nikki 10 Hrs/Wk for 4 weeks to clean up old records at her normal pay with support by Dan. Roll call: Kelly-Yes, Dan-Yes, Pat-Yes, Howard-Yes, Deb Absent. 4 Yes votes, 1 Absent. Motion carries.

Bill accepts his revised Sexton Agreement.

Nikki believes we need to revisit the Cemetery Ordinance to be sure it is aligned with our current practices.

We need maps of all sections.

It was questioned how vets receive the VA bronze footstone. The funeral home normally takes care of it. Families can also go to a VA website and order them.

Deb joined meeting at 12:46PM.

There was a discussion regarding who is responsible to repair damaged foundations. There are some older and large headstones that are leaning due to damaged foundations. It is the Sexton's responsibility to make repairs and Twp must bear the cost.

Plowing in winter. Agreement states road will be plowed to the maintenance building. Per Bill the roads are too bad and narrow to plow them without damaging headstones that are close to the road. He will do his best to plow the main N/S drive. Kelly suggested looking into upgrading the roads within the cemetery.

The new fee scheduled proposed by the Sexton was discussed. Per Bill, his plan is that his fees will remain unchanged. The increase in fees will go to the Township to provide some income from the cemetery. Deb asked for confirmation that his current fee will remain unchanged and anything above that will go directly to the Township. Bill did confirm this info.

The township will obtain a cell phone for the Sexton.

Get prices for a safe to be placed in the conference room to hold cemetery documents.

Pat made a motion to accept the Sexton's Agreement with changes discussed with support by Kelly. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Howard-Yes. 5 Yes votes. Motion carries.

**Public Comment:** Discussion regarding decorating graves, what is allowed and what isn't? Many graves don't have headstones. Would be nice to have something to mark the graves. Must be sturdy so the weed whipper doesn't damage it. Will look at changing rules to allow a sturdy urn to be placed where a headstone would be.

Suggestion that the entire cemetery should be surveyed. Get price. Reach out to other cemeteries to see what they do. Nikki already did this.

There was a discussion regarding headstone placement. Is name facing toward the casket or away? Currently varies. Needs to be standardized.

Motion to Adjourn made by Pat with Support by Howard.

**Adjourned:** 1:35PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L Hanes, Clerk