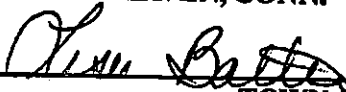


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**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2022**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a special meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2022 (meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm but due to technical difficulties, it did not begin until 7:35 pm) virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Melanie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Roll Call was taken a quorum was present.

Present: Chairperson Melanie Johnson, Commissioners Judy Ruggiero, Arlene Hackbarth, Robert Sand, and Barbara Buonome. **Absent:** Marcia Federico.

Discussion of contract with Garden of Eden Landscaping:

Chairperson Johnson asked Board if anyone had heard from Fred, owner of Garden of Eden Landscaping, concerning the fact of his not mulching the leaves. No one had heard from him and he hadn't returned Commissioner Sand's phone call since last meeting.

Chairperson Johnson stated since Fred hadn't been doing the job as asked, why would the Board keep him as landscaper. Commissioner Sand stated they could write the contract in a generic fashion and go out to bid for another landscaper. Commissioner Buonome pointed out that Garden of Eden Landscaping was the only bid that was received when the Board went out to bid for last contract.

Commissioner Sand discussed the Performance Clause mailed out to members by Commissioner Ruggiero. It was a 3-year clause but Commissioner Hackbarth and Chairperson Johnson would like a shorter time frame, between 1 to 2 years.

Commissioner Ruggiero stated she received an invoice from Garden of Eden Landscaping for mowing and mulching of leaves on ground on November 10, 2021. Fred was asked to make sure he cut the grass and mulched the leaves prior to November 11, 2021 (Veteran's Day) because of the ceremony honoring the Veterans that would be taking place on November 11, 2021 by the Town. Unfortunately 80% of the leaves were still on the branches at this time and Fred had not been back to clean them up before it snowed in December 2021.

All Commissioners agree the work performance of Garden of Eden Landscaping has been lacking but Commissioner Sand believes they should be concentrating on the contract language at this meeting.

Chairperson Johnson reiterated as she had said at December 2021 regular meeting, the Board should not be writing the contract, this is a task for the Town Attorney Michael Luzzi. The Board does not have legal knowledge or expertise to be in charge of this undertaking.

Commissioner Sand stated this should have been discussed more thoroughly at last regular meeting and prior to scheduling this special meeting.

Discussion of length of contract took place with Chairperson Johnson stating she would like a yearly contract even though Fred from Garden of Eden Landscaping is offering a 5-year contract at current rates. Commissioner Sand stated he was fine with the 5-year contract at current rate given the fact supplies such as gas; equipment, etc. have been rising, but not sure if Fred will even sign contract given this fact. Commissioner Sand stated if the Board does not write contract then the Chairperson should sit with the Town Attorney Michael Luzzi and discuss his writing of the contract. Chairperson Johnson agreed with Commissioner Sand concerning meeting with the Town Attorney. Chairperson Johnson would like a clause added to contract that states if Garden of Eden Landscaping were to go out of business, the Board would not be responsible for paying remainder of contract.

Commissioner Sand made a motion to have Chairperson Johnson make an appointment with Town Attorney Michael Luzzi to discuss the contract and his writing of it. Commissioner Hackbarth seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried.

Chairperson Johnson citing since there was no other business before the Board, asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Sand made a motion to adjourn meeting and Commissioner Buonomo seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk