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**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2022**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2022 (meeting was scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm but due to waiting for a quorum, it did not begin until 7:37 pm) virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Melanie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Roll Call was taken a quorum was present.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Johnson asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the December 30, 2021 regular meeting, all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions, there were none. Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the December 30, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Sand made a motion to accept minutes as presented; Commissioner Buonome seconded motion to accept minutes as presented. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from regular December 30, 2021 meeting were accepted as presented.

Chairperson Johnson asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the January 13, 2022 special meeting, all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions, there were none. Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to accept minutes from the January 13, 2022 special meeting as presented. Commissioner Hackbarth made a motion to accept minutes from the January 13, 2022 special meeting as presented; Commissioner Sand seconded the motion to accept the minutes as presented. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from the special January 13, 2022 meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Buonome presented the treasurer's report in the absence of Commissioner Ruggiero. The Board paid Garden of Eden \$775.00 on January 12, 2022 for the grass mowing on October 15, 2021 and the final lawn mowing/mulching on November 10, 2021. The ending balance in the bank account was \$15,040.81.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any questions concerning the report, citing none, she then asked for a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. Commissioner Sand made a motion to accept treasurer's report as read; Chairperson Johnson seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Treasurer's Report accepted as read.

Old Business:

Chairperson Johnson contacted and left messages twice for Town Attorney Michael Luzzi to discuss the landscaping contract. He failed to return her telephone calls at the time of meeting. Chairperson spoke with Mrs. Criscuolo, executive assistant to finance director James Keeley concerning changes to the contract. Mrs. Criscuolo stated the changes are acceptable and contract would be fine with the changes.

Chairperson Johnson clarified the 5-year contract; she stated Fred would like a 1-year contract with a no bid 4-year option.

Chairperson Johnson detailed the changes to the Board as followed:

- Garden of Eden will only be paid upon receipt of invoice and that work was performed to the satisfaction of the Board.
- If Garden of Eden can't fulfill the contractual obligations, the contract will become null and void.

Commissioner Sand asked if the paragraph concerning "if at December 1, the leaves have not been picked up or mulched, the Board reserves the right to hire another landscaper to finish the work at Garden of Eden's expense". Chairperson Johnson stated she did not include that paragraph because she felt it was implied per the section detailing that Garden of Eden must mow and mulch 16 times per year. Chairperson Johnson stated last mowing should be reserved for mulching. Commissioner Sand stated Fred does not always mow and mulch 16 times during the year, and, that sometimes Fred waits until spring to pick up or mulch leaves after the leaves have sat all winter and have been ground into grass.

Commissioner Hackbarth was not opposed to putting the paragraph read into the minutes by Commissioner Sand into the contract, she believed it would give the contract more teeth and the Board would have more control. Commissioner Buonome agreed the paragraph should be part of contract. Chairperson Johnson stated she would add paragraph. Commissioner Sand asked

to review contract before it is signed. Chairperson Johnson stated she would sit with Mrs. Criscuolo again to go over the changes and have her type the contract. Once the typed version is available, Chairperson Johnson will mail copies to all Board members for review. Commissioner Buomone asked since Mrs. Criscuolo read over the contract, will the Board forgo trying to get an opinion from the Town Attorney? Chairperson Johnson responded that she would ask Mrs. Criscuolo to contact the Town Attorney as Mrs. Criscuolo may carry more weight than members of the Old Cemetery Board.

Commissioner Sand stated at the behest of Commissioner Ruggiero to use the \$1,000.00 donation from the East Haven Historical Society, Commissioner Sand met with Benny at the Old Cemetery to mark out 5-6 headstones that are in need of repair. Both gentlemen took pictures of and placed wooden markers at the locations of the stones earmarked for repair. Commissioner Sand asked if the winter weather would prohibit work from being done, Benny stated it would not. Commissioner Sand is waiting to hear from Benny as to when work will begin.

Commissioner Sand asked if anyone had a chance to examine the bamboo shoots at 239 Hemingway Avenue, no one had a chance. Chairperson Johnson stated she has seen it from the Old Cemetery side. The Board is waiting to hear from Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle concerning it; he had been contacted late in 2021.

New Business: None

Chairperson Johnson citing as there was no other business before the Board, she asked for a motion to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Sand made a motion to adjourn meeting and Commissioner Buomone seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Gravino, Clerk