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**EAST HAVEN OLD CEMETERY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 24, 2022**

The East Haven Old Cemetery Board held a regular meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 24, 2022 virtually and transacted the following:

Chairperson Melanie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**Roll Call** was taken and a quorum was present.

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

**Absent:** Commissioner Arlene Hackbarth.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairperson Johnson asked if all in attendance had received and read the minutes from the January 27, 2022 regular meeting, all had. It was asked if there were any corrections, omissions or questions. Commissioner Ruggiero stated in the second to last paragraph on last page of minutes, it should read request and not behest. Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any other corrections. Hearing none, Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting with the one correction stated. Commissioner Sand made a motion to accept minutes with the one correction stated; Commissioner Federico seconded motion to accept minutes with the one correction stated. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Minutes from regular January 27, 2022 meeting were accepted with the one correction stated.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Commissioner Ruggiero stated there was not any activity so the balance in the bank account remains as was reported at January 27, 2022 meeting which was \$15,040.81. Chairperson

Johnson asked if there were any questions, hearing none, Chairperson Johnson asked for a motion to be made to accept the treasurer's report as read.

Commissioner Sand made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as read; Commissioner Buonome 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 asked if all Commissioners in attendance had received a copy of the landscaping contract typed up by Candace Criscuolo, Town of East Haven Finance Department Executive Assistant. All had received and read the document.

Discussion took place with many expressing frustration at the lack of strong language in the contract to help protect the Old Cemetery Board and also to keep the landscaping company accountable. The specifics that were written into the contract were removed and contract changed to a generic one. The Board as a whole felt they should not approve the contract and should start over. The contract was tabled and Commissioner Ruggiero will reach out to Finance Director James Keeley to discuss the omissions and possibly to re-write the contract. Commissioner Sand asked Commissioner Ruggiero to contact Candace Criscuolo to set a specific time to speak with Mr. Keeley. Commissioner Sand stated he would set up a conference call so that any board member who would like to be a part of the conversation can.

Commissioner Sand stated he removed the wreaths from the fence and gate of the Old Cemetery, including the ones donated by Wreaths Across America. He stated he could not clean out the urns as they were frozen.

Commissioner Sand stated while he was there removing the wreaths, he noticed work had begun on 2 of the head stones earmarked for restoration. The stones had been dug and propped up.

Chairperson Johnson was still waiting to hear from Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle concerning the bamboo on Hemingway Avenue. Commissioner Sand stated Chairperson Johnson should contact the Town of East Haven Zoning Officer concerning this issue.

Commissioner Sand asked if there was any news concerning the Hemingway Avenue wall. There was none. He also stated since it seemed that a great amount of money would be spent on the Town Green. Can a curb on River Street abutting the Old Cemetery be put in? Chairperson Johnson stated Public Works Superintendent Charles Coyle told her it was on the list to be done, but no timeframe was given.

Chairperson Johnson stated the Town was supposedly in the process of writing grants for the work that needs to be done at the Old Cemetery but Chairperson Johnson has not heard from Michelle Beneviegna for whom Chairperson Johnson has left numerous messages but to no avail.

**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 the meeting; Commissioner Federico seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Gravino, Clerk