

**EAST HAVEN
OLD CEMETERY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 25, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Old Cemetery Board was held on Thursday June 25, 2020 at the East Haven Senior Citizens Center, 91 Taylor Avenue, East Haven at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of the following:

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by Chairman Melanie Johnson. In attendance were Judy Ruggiero, Barbara Buonome, Marcia Federico, Arlene Hackbarth and Bob Sand.

2. Approval of Minutes

Marcia Federico made a motion to approve the February 27, 2020 minutes. Judy Ruggiero seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

3. Treasurer's Report

Judy Ruggiero stated she paid Garden of Eden in May \$1,162.50 for the spring clean-up and mowing and trimming twice. Judy paid Bruce Scobie \$15.00 for the spring flowers he put in the urns and paid Garden of Eden again June 9th \$775.00 for the May and June mow and trim and he did not charge us for the 6 piles of sticks he left behind when he did the spring clean-up. The balance in the checking account is \$12,039.54. Marcia Federico made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Barbara Buonome seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

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4. Old Business

Melanie Johnson stated that as far as Bill Roberts is concerned they did not cut down the Mulberry but they did put that monument back on its pedestal so it is safe now. They still have not finished all that clean-up yet. I did speak to Charlie Coyle about the other limbs and he said he would be there this week. Judy asks if Melanie has walked to the bowl to see the limbs she was speaking of to have Fred take his chainsaw and remove the limbs. Melanie said yes she saw it and it is connected to another huge limb under brush, but does not believe Fred is to use a chainsaw. Judy said if there is a limb that is broken on the ground he has to take a chainsaw and cut that off and take it away. Melanie asks if he knows that and Judy states yes he does. Melanie said she thought the town was supposed to do that. Judy states no it is in Fred's contract. Melanie stated that she will have to speak to Fred about it because according to Fred he does not have to use a chainsaw. Judy states if it's on the ground he is responsible to pick it up. Melanie asks even if it's connected to the tree? Judy stated yes if it's on the ground yes. Melanie stated that I don't even know if he carries a chain saw or part of his job but I will ask him, and according to Charlie Coyle he is supposed to do that. Judy states she brought copies of the new contract coming out for the landscaping, if there is anything in here you want changed please let me know so I can tell Candy before July 1st. She suggested we go with Fred again because no one is really interested in doing the cemetery according to Charlie Coyle. Melanie stated to Judy that you have added some stuff here. Judy said yes I added a few things to it and this will be the new contract unless you want to change some stuff in here. Melanie said I don't but maybe Fred will. Judy said he will have to take that up with the Town. Melanie stated there are a few things here that are not on the original contract. Judy states for instance he needs 15 mowing's no more no less, he wants to make that more mowing's, but he cannot go over his bid amount, he has to pick up bottles and paper before he mows as well. Bob Sand asks what is the current status of the contract; you are expressing a 1 year option by the town. Where are we with this old contract? Melanie states it is renewed every year, and is asking for a 5 year contract but he needs to bring that up with the Town – same price is what he told me. Bob Sand states he has an extension to June 30th of this year; I questioned why there would be a contract in the middle of a cutting season. Bob suggests that we put this out to bid during the winter months as we may get more people interested in bidding when it is not peak mowing season. Judy stated we are on the Town's fiscal cycle. Bob suggested extending to the contract for the rest of the coming summer months and get your bidding done during the winter months so you are not at the mercy of these landscapers

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and have more negotiating power. Marcia asks does Fred want more money. Melanie states no. Marcia suggests leaving it as is. Judy states a lot of it depends on our stipend and we do not get that until the fiscal year begins in July and we don't know what we have in hand until then to accept bids. So far we have paid \$5,037.50 his bid is \$5,800.00 there is \$762.50 left that we can pay him prior to the new stipend which is \$12.50 shy of one more mow. What I do in that case, do I take it out of perpetual fund money, let's just say he mows 2 more time what do I do then? Marcia states no one else is bidding and he wants the same amount of money so why can't he just stay the way it is. Melanie states that Fred knows what he doing and his crew is trained in the cemetery, I am satisfied with what Fred is doing. Bob states they were supposed to pay attention to 3 holidays; Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day. I was down 2 days before Memorial Day and took pictures and it was not cut. Melanie states that has to do with the fact of COVID 19. Bob said I am just stating a fact, the contract does not state pandemics or anything – in his contract this particular Memorial Day it was not in order as it was supposed to be. The landscaper has to have some flexibility, he missed the first holiday and July 4th is coming up is he going to take care of it for July 4th? Melanie stated she did not expect Fred to mow during the pandemic. Bob asks Judy if Fred was paid for May mowing's – Judy stated yes two mowing's – May 1st and May 15th and once on June 1st. Bob asked if anyone has ever sat in on the mowing bid's? Judy stated yes Bill use to do that. Bob asks about the changes on the contract. Melanie stated that that is up to Fred. Judy stated that Candy said she will speak with Fred about any changes on the contract.

5. New Business

Bob Sand suggests getting a meeting with the Mayor to present the board to Mayor Carfora as he is new and how we can work with the town services, better relationship such as the town cutting the grass as they don't anymore etc, this is what you use to do, or why you're not doing this anymore etc. This will allow him the opportunity to know and have an overview of the OCB of what you do, the upkeep of the stones, repairs, appearance etc. and have a face to the organization and know who you all are an explain you're positions. Melanie stated she will speak with the Mayor.

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6. Adjournment

Bob Sand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. Barbara Buonome seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Temple Smith, OCB Clerk