

The Ishpeming Cemetery Board meeting was held on Monday, September 16, 2024, at the Ishpeming City Hall Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Member Piereson.

Staff present: Bill Anderson-DPW General Foreman, Kaleb Rundman-Assistant Foreman Cemetery Parks and April Holm-Treasurer. Council Liaison: Raquelle Ball-DPW and Councilmember Scanlon were absent.

Present: Tracy Magnuson, Jim Bertucci, and Dr. Stephen Piereson (3). Absent: Karen Kasper (1). There is 1 vacant seat.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Member Bertucci, supported by Member Magnuson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of July 15, 2024 as presented.

FENCE UPDATE

The fence has not been repaired yet but will be done before the winter. The painting of the fence will take place in the Spring.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Bids to purchase 2 columbarium structures were opened last week and only 1 was received. The bid was from Menominee Granite and it came in at \$61488. Unfortunately, the 40 niche columbarium structures are no longer available. The bid was for a 48-niche structure. Everyone agreed with the change to a 48-niche columbarium. Menominee Granite said that we can expect delivery of both structures sometime early next year.

DPW will be pouring the walkways for the new structures hopefully this fall. The Cemetery Board would like the subject of new names and pictures for the 2 new structures put on the next meeting agenda.

Kaleb Rundman also suggested that the large area that Payne & Dolan is currently filling in at the Cemetery would be a perfect site for future columbarium structures.

CEMETERY REPORT

The part time summer students are pretty much done for the season. There is a couple of students that are coming in when their schedules allow to help around the cemetery and parks.

Kaleb also gave a report that his lawn mower fleet is getting old and only a couple are in good working condition. Walker mowers have typically been what has been purchased in the past but they have significantly gone up in price. An alternative to them would be gas-powered John Deere mulching mowers that are a fraction of the cost. The size of the John Deere mowers would also be an advantage maneuvering around the cemetery. DPW will present a proposal to

purchase 3 John Deere mowers to council for next years budget. This option is definitely more cost-effective than the Walker mowers.

Also, Bill Anderson let everyone know that they have purchased a golf cart with a dump on the back from Meyer Yamaha. The intended use would be for summer students to get around the cemetery and parks instead of using vehicles in the DPW fleet. They will also be outfitted so that the students can put weed whips on top of the carts. Also, a good use of the golf carts would be for events like 4th of July and St Rocco's to help with the garbage removal.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The city is currently looking for alternative ideas for veteran markers for the columbarium niches. The idea would be to get a veteran medallion or button that could be put on the actual niche door. More will be presented later as more information becomes available.

Also, Kaleb Rundman brought up the issue of maintaining the grass area immediately around the columbarium structures. All the veteran markers and decorations around that area make it difficult to keep it mowed and looking nice. An alternate to the grass could potentially be a colored pea gravel. Member Bertucci would like this added to the next meeting agenda so that everyone has time to go to the cemetery to look at the area of concern.

Also, this summer 17 dead ash trees were taken down and the stumps will be removed in the Spring.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The next meeting will be held November 18, 2024, at Ishpeming City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:28 p.m., a motion was made by Member Magnuson with support from Member Bertucci to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



April Holm
City Treasurer