

**Johnson County Cemetery District Minutes**  
**March 8th, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Johnson County Cemetery District was held at The Willow Grove Cemetery in Buffalo, Wyoming on March 08th, 2022. The meeting was called to order by President John Zorbas at 2:00 p.m. Present were: John Hanson, Carolyn Fox, Craig Wetterlund, John Ehlers (Zoom), John Zorbas, Chanda Rule, Nancy Elm, Megan Boggs, Van Frazier, Linda Greenough (via Zoom), Seth Taylor from the Buffalo Bulletin, Tracy Chesterman (Via Zoom), Kay (Zoom) Barbara Mueller, Carla Bishop, Colleen Delaney, Mark Bentley, John Demattis, Steve Gunsolley, Paul Gilbert, Hope Dennis and Kate Harness.

**Note:**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Colleen Delaney from Republican Women of Johnson County wanted to introduce herself and say thank you the cemetery board for being stewards and doing good things.

Barb Mueller, presenter of the original petition at the February meeting, brought more petition signatures and again expressed opposition to the Saturday burial fees and would still like the fee to be removed.

Rev Paul Gilbert, who identified himself as Treasurer of the Buffalo Ministerial Association spoke again in opposition to the Saturday burial fee and still wants it rescinded.

Steve Gunsolley opposes the Saturday burial fee and wants it rescinded.

**II. VOUCHER:** Craig Wetterlund moves to accept vouchers and Nancy Elm seconds. No discussion about vouchers. There was a vote and motion carried.

**III. MINUTES:** John Hanson makes a motion to approve the minutes. Craig Wetterlund seconds the motion. No discussion. There is a vote motion carried.

**IV. GUEST SPEAKERS:** Carla Bishop brought property and vehicle tax information for board members and hands this out. Her handout to each board member reflected a comparison that by raising the district's levy by .213 MIL (using Fair Board Levy for comparison purposes) would have had on that board member's primary tax bill in the current year. She said it shows that a small increase in a levy will bring significant income on a county wide basis.

Carla then explains the proposed Carbon Creek settlement and how it will likely affect Cemetery District. This a settlement of previously delinquent uncollected taxes for the past 4 years. If resolved and actually collected, the district will receive about \$117,00.00 in delinquent FY 19 and FDY 20 taxes as a one-time payment, likely in the next 90 days. This settlement could also collect up to another \$11,000.00 for FY 18 if a proposed monthly program is honored.

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Chanda went over the JCCD financial report. Nancy Elm makes a motion and Craig Wetterlund seconds. No discussion. There is a vote, motion carried.

**VI. ROLLING CALENDAR**

Vendor Policy is delayed until next month. It was agreed among the board that a budgeting work session will take place next board meeting.

**VII. WILLOW GROVE SEXTON'S REPORT:**

Van Frazier gives and update on various JCCD Cemetery projects. No questions from the board.

**VIII. KAYCEE SEXTON'S REPORT:**

Van states the pest problem has been addressed at the Kaycee Cemetery with vibrating stakes.

**IX. CIMS REPORT:**

**X. PRESENTATIONS:**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

## **XII. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Vendor policy. This will be delayed until next month.
2. Strategic Plan. John explained the format and board members have assigned work on different elements with the staff.
3. Update for log building renovations and Kaycee heated office was reported in sextons report.
4. Craig Wetterlund makes a motion to rescind \$400.00 Saturday burial fee. Nancy Elm seconds. Discussion includes Craig Wetterlund asking that the board secretary read names off first few pages the signed petitions submitted to board last month. No rationale was provided relative to the purpose of this request. John Ehlers asks if there are any alternative programs proposed to replace burial fee if rescinded. Craig Wetterlund had to offer at this time. There is a vote and there is a 3-3 tie so motion fails. (Hansen, Elm and Wetterlund vote aye; Ehlers, Fox and Zorbas vote nay.)
5. Nancy Elm leaves the board meeting at this time to head back to Kaycee due to worsening road conditions.


## **XII. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Van goes over the Sexton prepared priority project list that was put together identifying things that need to be done in the cemetery. There is a motion from Carolyn Fox and second from John Hanson to get a containment for bulk tanks. No further discussion there is a vote motion carries. Board president then asks about how this list needs to be prioritized. Consensus was to get started soon on fixing known sprinkler leaks, foot valve on upper pump and PLC issues on lower pump. Affirmation was made of ADA ramp as a high priority. It was stressed by the board that while budget/costs need to be considered and communicated, the objective needs to remain one of solving the problems.
2. Public Meeting Conduct-John Zorbas presents to the board the idea of a common letter to be drafted by the cemetery board addressing abusive (physical and verbal) behavior from the public during board meetings. The intent being that a common letter be readily available for timely and consistent use when instances of negative behavior take place at either board meetings or on cemetery premises. Craig Wetterlund stated that he would like this dealt with on a case-by-case basis as needed. John Ehlers commented that while he was not physically present at the most recent episode that occurred immediately after adjournment of February 8, 2022 board meeting, his front row seat via Zoom made him witness to "abomination and embarrassing behavior on part of the members of the general public involved". John Hanson stated he wanted more time to think about this.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

The next meeting will be April 12th at 2:00 PM at the Willow Grove Cemetery Business Office.

Respectfully submitted by Van Frazier

 Board President

 Board Secretary