

Church of St. Paul - Comfrey
Cemetery Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 21, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m. – held at Rectory

Members present: Robert Zwaschka, Richard Callanan, Kurt Eischen, Jean Kopischke, Doug Callanan,
Stan Schotzko, Nellie Richter – Secretary
Guest: Matt Eischen – Church Council Representative

Chairman Doug Callanan opened the meeting with prayer and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes from April 25, 2019 were presented. Corrections: In paragraph regarding mention of Perpetual Care Fund, it should read: We have 2.5 plotted acres and although adequate to what the Diocese required many years ago, it really isn't adequate in today's standards. (Perpetual Care funds interest is to cover Operating Fund expenses.) Water cremations should be LaCanne Funeral Home in Windom not Lucan. Motion to accept minutes with corrections made by Zwaschka, seconded by K. Eischen. Carried.

Additions to Agenda: Request for a \$100,000 transfer from the church to cemetery accounts. Motion made by K. Eischen to approve Agenda with addition, seconded by Zwaschka. Carried.

Financial Report presented for both Perpetual Care and Operating Funds for 7/01/18 thru 6/30/19 Fiscal Year and then 7/01/19 thru 10/31/19. Motion to accept the financials was made by K. Eischen, seconded by Kopischke. Carried.

Old Business:

Fire-proof safe – D. Callanan found a 2-drawer Fire King fire-proof cabinet with a standard lock mechanism for \$600-plus on Amazon. M. Eischen stated that Msgr. prefers we get a 4-drawer cabinet. Will this one be large enough to hold cemetery records and church books that also need to be protected? Plus, insulation shrinks the interior dimensions. Depending on size of cabinet (Cemetery – 2 drawers and Church 2-drawers), the cost could be split between both. It was mentioned that if our church closes someday, everything we have will go to the church we merge with, including the cemetery. Discussion regarding transfer of money, who will take care of cemetery if church closes, etc.

M. Eischen brought up what Msgr. mentioned at last Council meeting – If we don't stay a vibrant parish, no matter how much money we have in the bank, we can still be closed. Our church offerings, compared to the Fiscal Year budget, are behind by \$7,000. Members feel we no longer have representation in our parish.

D. Callanan would like the Cemetery and Church to purchase separate file cabinets. Motion to purchase a reasonably-priced, 2-drawer fire-proof file cabinet for only the Cemetery records was made by D. Callanan, seconded by Zwaschka. Carried.

Burial of Cremains - updated wording: D. Callanan not sure what was to be updated in the wording – always seems to be changes. R. Callanan feels we should get out of digging the graves for cremains, especially with vaults.

Matt Eischen needs an explanation for the Church Council as to why the Cemetery is requesting \$100,000 from the Church and there needs to be a plan. R. Callanan said we need to come up with numbers that will show the amount of funds that are actually needed in the Perpetual Care Fund for the interest to adequately carry the expenses in the Operating Fund on an annual basis. Matt asked to have realistic numbers to present to the Council at their next meeting. Funds would be split \$60K Operating Fund/\$40K Perpetual Care at this time.

Matt Eischen left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

New Business:

A letter from Wayne Stevens, Brown County Highway Engineer, was received in July prior to the auction at Veerkamp's stating that 'No Parking' signs cannot be placed on the tarred parking area in front of Cemetery along County Road 16. R. Callanan commented that the County has an easement but they won't clean off the tarred portion when removing snow off County Road 16. (Easement is from 2 feet into the grass of cemetery up to County Road 16.)

Extra \$50 charge for a cremains burial – Sturm Funeral Home does not bill this charge to the family for us. D. Callanan said that a family could possibly dig the grave for the urn, but there would need to be specs to follow. The extra \$50 charge is for filling in dirt and reseeding the grass after a cremains burial and is above and beyond the cost of digging the hole for the urn. Who should be sending the bill for \$50 for a cremains burial? Members feel that the Secretary should do this. There are a few cremains burials that have not yet paid the \$50 charge. Question on future involvement in digging urn holes was asked but no answer at this time.

Money now in SouthPoint - Should it get switched to another financial institution/investment? D. Callanan stated that the Diocese requires low-risk investing for Perpetual Care Funds. K. Eischen feels we should leave the money where it is now.

No future concerns at this time.

Next meeting should be in April or earlier if it works out – possibly plan for April 16, 2020 meeting.

Motion by K. Eischen to adjourn meeting, seconded by Zwaschka. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nellie Richter, Cemetery Secretary

(Please note: Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Cemetery Board did not meet as planned.)