

**Church of St. Paul - Comfrey
Cemetery Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – Church Basement**

Members present: Fr. Mark Steffl, Doug Callanan, Richard Callanan, Kurt Eischen, Jean Kopischke,
Stan Schotzko, Robert Zwaschka, Denice Evers, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Members absent: Judy Augustin

Meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with Fr. Steffl leading the group in prayer.

No additions to the Agenda. No additions or corrections to the Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2021. M/S/C Eischen, Zwaschka to approve both as presented. Financials presented. M/S/C Zwaschka, Eischen to approve as presented.

Trees in the middle of cemetery: Richard stated that Redwood Falls Nursery never responded to Doug's inquiry. Richard talked with Carr Tree Service and no estimate received as of yet. Doug stated that Brian Callanan may be interested in removing the trees, but stump removal may be an issue. Doug also said we shouldn't rush into replanting anything right away. The statue will need cleaning and refurbishing. Brian should bid for project such as Carr's did rather than figuring it on an hourly basis. Fr. Steffl said that when bids come in, they can be sent out to all in an email and voted on.

Cemetery Sign: Richard mentioned that Brian will remove the greenery around the sign, clean up the rock area and put 2 solar lights to shine on the sign. Eischen said that the flag needs a solar light on it. Doug feels that a top solar light is needed to illuminate the flag and we should also look into getting a collapsible flag pole. If solar lights are found that will work, should purchase. Fr. Steffl said that when an estimate is derived, can put in the bulletin and ask for donations.

Cemetery Directory: Evers wondering if Theriksen Steel could make the directory? Eischen added that we could contact Hall, as he possibly did the one in Odin. Doug added that Bernadotte has a really nice one.

Doug doesn't feel that we should dictate to a family that a funeral home needs to be involved with a cremation. Richard said most digging of urn holes can be handled by Brian. Had several recently. Richard mentioned that when there is a vault involved with an urn, don't want to do the digging. Doug said that urn vaults are approximately 16x16x20 with handles and could possibly be buried on top of another burial. Need communication with funeral home as to what type of urn and/or vault. Richard wondering who would handle this if no one around?

Doug asked Fr. Steffl if there is anything wrong with asking a family to wait to bury their deceased in winter? Fr. Steffl said it is okay if family is okay with waiting, but some families want it all done on funeral day. Fr. Steffl will check if law on this, but if family wants it to be done, we should follow their wishes when possible. Evers mentioned that with Cremation Society, it lands on family members and others as they don't handle things like a funeral home does. How do we bridge the gap if Cremation Society is involved? Richard said we should dig the hole according to urn size, but if vault involved, they need to get ahold of a funeral home.

Pricing explanation: \$50 to dig urn hole when dug on their own purchased lot. \$100 to dig urn hole and cover maintenance if on top of a family member's grave. No one is allowed to dig the urn holes for the deceased except for cemetery board members, Brian Callanan or a contracted grave digger by the funeral home.

Maintenance on lots/repairs on cement – one cement marker was taken out by Brian C. to be fixed. Brian sees what needs to be repaired and just does it – our cemetery looks very nice.

Eischen asked about the interest income from the Bankers Life Annuity – will we get better interest? Richard said that we won't lose money, but we may not gain anything due to the market being so volatile.

Cemetery Guidelines – any changes? Board felt they were okay as is. Board also decided on not joining the MN Association of Cemeteries.

M/S/C Eischen, Zwaschka to adjourn meeting. Adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Possible next meeting for Fall, 2022 or as needed.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Nellie Richter - Secretary**