

**Church of St. Paul – Comfrey
Cemetery Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**

Members present: Richard Callanan, Kurt Eischen, Robert Zwaschka, Jeanne Kopischke,
Doug Callanan, Nellie Richter – Secretary

Absent: Stan Schotzko

Prayer for Guidance was led by Chairman Doug Callanan and meeting opened at 6:40 p.m. Several minutes were taken to read the Agenda and past meeting minutes.

No additions for the Agenda. Motion to approve by Eischen, seconded by Zwaschka. Carried.

Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2018 were approved with motion by Zwaschka, seconded by R. Callanan. Carried. Financial Reports of Operating Fund and Perpetual Care accounts, from July 1, 2018 thru March 31, 2019 were presented.

R. Callanan mentioned that either the Diocese or state recommends that each cemetery have \$25,000 per plotted acre put away in Perpetual Care. We have 2.5 plotted, so our P.C. Fund is adequate. Would like the Administrative Council to discuss moving funds from Church Funds into Cemetery accounts again.

Looked at the last few years of Income and Expenses and set up a Budget. D. Callanan will talk to Gary Lingbeek regarding putting together a fire proof filing cabinet after checking with Kemske and Amazon. Cemetery will look into a cabinet on their own for record keeping. Church has a safe, but interior space is limited and not big enough for cemetery map. Bolton & Menk office made copies of the map, so paper copies are here – just need to update copies when the main map is changed.

Trees on the south side of Cemetery need to be trimmed. Eischen will pick up Tordon (herbicide) to kill mulberry shrubs growing under the trees – will brush on with paintbrush to avoid killing what we want to keep. Five cemetery sites were worked on by Brian Callanan last year and he did a nice job; recent burials had one site run over by trucks, leaving ruts, etc., so more work needed.

R. Callanan said that the Cemetery Committee should have the final decision on whether a burial in the cemetery takes place. The last burial should not have been done, but there was discrepancy with Sturm Funeral Home. D. Callanan feels that it should be up to the grave digger to decide. Clay on top of graves; needs to be removed and replaced with black dirt. Discussion on cremains, vaults, charges and other topics.

New Business: Mowing/Trimming for 2019 – Zwaschka mentioned that he may need to have more surgery on ankle, so we need to get someone else to mow the cemetery for this year. Interested parties, such as Mitch Redman, Brad Nachreiner and Brian Callanan, should be contacted. R. Callanan stated that we may need to pay hourly instead of the \$250 per time (mowing and trimming) depending on who does work. Whoever does it needs a Certificate of Insurance.

Land Rent: Note from phone conversation from Stan Schotzko to Richter was read – Stan is not interested in renting this year, unless no one else wants to rent it and then for a lesser rent amount.

He prefers to not have corn planted on the land, due to corn husks blowing all over the cemetery. Alfalfa is 'worn out'. Committee discussed planting brome or switch grass one year to give the land a break. Rental area is an odd size and inconvenient with equipment. R. Callanan will check with Pete Samuelson to see if he is interested, as he is farming the adjoining land. If no one is interested, then Eischen would be interested. Will negotiate rent if necessary.

Budget: Went thru the Income & Expenses for both Operating Fund and Perpetual Care accounts. Discussion on amount of money that the Cemetery Committee would like to ask the Administrative Council for - \$100,000, with \$60K to Operating Fund and \$40K to Perpetual Care – motion made by Zwaschka, seconded by Kopischke. Carried. D. Callanan will bring up at next Administrative Council meeting.

Also discussed moving money from Triumph checking account to SouthPoint shares account for better interest rate. Motion to move \$20,000 from checking to SouthPoint shares by Kopischke, seconded by Zwaschka. Carried.

Discussed black dirt and where to possibly purchase from. Also talked about new water cremation, which D. Callanan said Lucan already has this service available. Brian Callanan would be willing to work on an hourly basis for moving dirt, filling and seeding graves, etc.

Next tentative meeting will be August or September.

Motion to adjourn made by Kopischke, seconded by Eischen. Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, but not approved

Nellie Richter - Secretary