

Charter Township of Portage

Cemetery Committee Meeting - March 16, 2021

When: 3:00 P.M.

Where: Township Offices

Who Present: Bruce Petersen (Secretary) and Members Bill Fink & John Ollila

Discussion Items:

>> Cemetery Millage was discussed first. Over the past number of years due to lessor numbers of burials, labor cost increases, receiving far less interest revenue in the perpetual care fund and rising equipment and fuel costs the Twp. has had to supplement the cemetery from general fund monies at year end. We have also been identifying perpetual care cemetery coats in a very restrictive manner. Recently, that cost has been in the neighborhood of \$20,000.00 to \$27,000.00 dollars. At the December, 2020 meeting the Board voted once again to use general fund money for the cemetery fund. The Twp. has an assessed taxable worth of approximately \$108,425.000 dollars – if we go for a .25 millage on the even year (2022) that would generate approximately \$27,000.00 for the cemetery. That is approximately what we have seen as a shortfall over the recent years. The Committee members were in favor of getting more input on this proposed millage.

>> Discussed labor costs next. The Cemetery staff could rotate their time to cover Saturday burials so there would be less overtime charged. For that one employee – a work week could be Tuesday through Saturday. With four employees that would amount to once a month for our seasonal staff there. This rotational staffing would greatly lesson any potential cemetery staff layoffs.

>> Discussed the need to update our irrigation system in the Cemetery – it is made up of many very old runs of galvanized pipe. Most of this system is 40 to 50 years old and no longer has the capacity to handle the summer irrigation demand. Will have UPEA Engineers review and update the tentative irrigation plans/costs done a few years ago.

>> Lastly, discussed how to address a the need for a new Sexton should Marty decide to retire. The Supervisor will ask him to put together a “seasonal calendar” that will give the Committee/ Township Board a better idea of what activities he is involved in over the spring/summer and fall periods.

Adjourned: 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Petersen, Secretary