

City of Rittman

30 N. Main St., Rittman, OH 44270

330/ 925-2045

FAX 330/ 925-2066

CITY OF RITTMAN CEMETERY BOARD MEETING @ RITTMAN CEMETERY JUNE 7, 2024 11:00AM

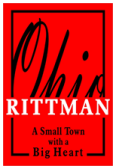
ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Keely Dreher, Jason Shipley, Trudy Arnold
Chuck Lengacher, Service Director; Erick Shreve, Service Supervisor; Matt Evans,
Cemetery Sexton; Kris Fetter, Cemetery Clerk; Joan Challinor, City Manager Secretary

OLD BUSINESS:

- Approval of Minutes- Motion was made by Jason Shipley to approve the minutes from the 2023 Cemetery Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Keely Dreher. All agreed. Motion carried.
- Maintenance Staging Area- The staging area behind the maintenance garage is still waiting to pour cement foundations to form a 12' x 12' bunker to store dirt. A request was made to purchase a tarp to cover the dirt once the bunker is complete.
- Water/ Electric to Interment Shelter- There is an undetermined time frame to run water/ electric from the maintenance garage to the interment shelter. The Service Director, Chuck Lengacher, will determine the best route to run the conduit. A motion was made at the 2023 meeting to accomplish this task.
- Cemetery Expansion Update- The cemetery expansion is progressing along very slowly. More discussion will be under the New Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- New Board Member- Welcome to new Board Member, Trudy Arnold. Trudy replaces Richard Schumacher.
- DeCoursey Rd Improvements- DeCoursey Rd, which runs in front of the cemetery is in terrible condition and is in need of repairs. Service Supervisor, Erick Shreve, advised that the repairs should be completed within the next 2 weeks at a cost of approximately 12k.
- Knupp Dr Improvements- The road that runs throughout the cemetery is in need of repairs. We were advised that hopefully, by the end of the summer, repairs will be made in certain areas.
- Cemetery Expansion Update- Service Director, Chuck Lengacher, reported that we are going to enclose the ditch on the on the Rittman Road side of the cemetery before the road can be installed. We also need to install the drainage lines and then grade and seed the land. Ideally, this will be done in October 2024. There was mention of renting a slit seeder to plant. Lengacher advised that he will order signage for the new section to match the existing signage throughout the existing cemetery grounds. Approximately half of the new section "H" and half of the new cremains section "CR" will be marked by winter and available to sell. Landscaping will be needed in the new section once established. It was recommended that a few trees be budgeted each year for landscaping.



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Discussion was held on setting up a program where people can donate a tree to the cemetery in honor of their loved one. EX: Tree of Life, Landscaping for Life. The local funeral home, Auble Gillman, currently has a program they subscribe to which does this type of donation. However, it is a national program and the donated tree can be placed anywhere in the United States. Fetter will check with the local funeral home to see if they would direct people to The City of Rittman if they are interested in tree donation if we set up a program.

- Dead Trees- Maibach Tree Service has been contacted to give us a quote to take down 4 large dead/diseased trees and grind 5 stumps. The trees are unsightly and are a danger to the maintenance building and headstones in the area. Mid-summer is the targeted completion date.
- Honor Guard Sidewalk- Discussion was held on replacing the Honor Guard Sidewalk near the interment shelter which had to be removed for the road into the new cemetery section. Cemetery Sexton, Matt Evans, will look into the specifications on placement, size & direction needed to pour a new sidewalk. The cost to install the removed sidewalk was donated by an individual. We might be able to reach out to the original donor or find another.
- Pond Pumps- The two ponds at the cemetery are still be treated by Aqua Doc for Duck Weed, Algae, Muck Biotics. The front pond is running fine. The large pond pump has some issues at times. We would like to have a back up pump. Lengacher is to look into the cost of an extra pump.
- Cemetery Grant- There is a cemetery grant offered by the Ohio Department of Commerce for \$2500.00 that can be applied for every other year. Lengacher said the monies would be put toward preparing the infrastructure with the new cemetery expansion. Arnold motioned that Lengacher apply for the grant. Dreher seconded the motion. All agreed. The grant application deadline is the end of July.
- Selling Lots in Bulk- A local church has expressed an interest purchasing a bulk number of graves lots to use for their congregation. IE: They would pay for 50 lots and we would deed those lots to the church name. When a burial is needed, they would contact us with the what grave to use and the name to assign. We would still keep record of all burials and perform the interments as normal. Discussion was held on positives and negatives of allowing this. A motion was made by Dreher to consent to the purchase if the church peruses the idea. Arnold seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned 12:03 pm

Next Meeting Date: To be advised. Tentatively early summer 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Fetter, Cemetery Clerk