

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 3 2020 1:30PM

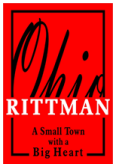
ATTENDANCE: Board Members: Jordan Hart, Keely Dreher, Marsha Rosenberg
Bobbie Beshara, City Manager; Chuck Lengacher, Service Director; Jason Fankauser,
Cemetery Sexton; Kris Fetter, Cemetery Clerk, Ken Mann, Advisor

OLD BUSINESS:

- The Spring of 2020 was very wet which has delayed the pouring of foundations. Normal procedure is to pour in April or May so all markers ordered during the fall and winter may be placed before the Memorial Day Holiday. Local monument companies have been notified of the situation.
- Continued discussion was held on the widening of the Rittman Cemetery Road. The City plans to add approximately 2 feet to a portion of the road directly in front of the Committal Shelter. The area near the shelter is used for parking side by side during an interment service. The road is narrow and it is difficult for people to get out of their vehicles without being in the yard. The project should be completed by the end of the 2020 summer and is anticipated to cost under \$2000.00.
- An engraved stone was placed near the bench by the pond as a "Thank You" to the Rittman Lion's Club for donating the funds for the newly installed aerator pumps at the cemetery.
- At the Cemetery Board's request, a "No Swimming" sign was erected in the area of the ponds for liability purposes

NEW BUSINESS:

- It was reported that there are approximately 132 lots available for sale in Section F of the cemetery. At 40 – 50 burials per year, the cemetery will be full in 3 years. Ken Mann presented a preliminary computer design of the cemetery expansion. Discussion was held on how much land to develop at one time. It was suggested that if we only did 3 or 4 rows directly to the west of Section G, we would gain over 300 graves. The section would be squared, not curved which would allow for 15-20% more land use. The new "Section H" area of the cemetery would have an entrance off of Rittman Rd. with the road running north and south and would connect to the existing cemetery around the Committal Shelter. A designated area for a columbarium and possibly a scattering garden would be located near the rear side of the Maintenance Garage as these are becoming quite popular. It was discussed that the City could do most of the preparation work to avoid hiring an engineer. However, there is limited staff to do the work. Work will hopefully begin in the Fall of 2020.
- The City Manager will draft a letter to Miller Dairy Cattle, LLC that farms the City of Rittman Parcel, located to the west of the existing cemetery, to advise that the City is going to begin preparing our land for cemetery expansion in the Fall of 2020. They will no longer be able to use the portion of land for farming purposes.
- The board also recommended that we add a new Cremation Only Section. Current space is available to start this immediately. Land is on the west side of the cemetery road between the Committal Shelter and the Maintenance Garage. Graves would be sold in 4ft x 4ft square sections starting with around 200 lots available. Maximum ashes per lot is two (2). Graves will be assigned in sequential order when needed. A motion was made by Keely Dreher and seconded by Marsha Rosenberg to amend several



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of our Codified Ordinances Section 991. A vote was taken and all agreed. Items to be changed are **1)** 991.10 CHARGES AND FEES to include (e) (6) Cremation Only Lot Resident adult: \$400.00 and (e) (7) Cremation Only Lot Nonresident adult \$500.00. **2)** Section 991.04 MARKERS AND MONUMENTS to include (e) All markers in the Cremation Only Section will be allowed one standard sized flush marker. No headstone. **3)** Section 991.03 FLORAL DECORATIONS, VASES, URNS AND MEMORIAL LIGHTS should have added (l) Cremation Section Only will have all flowers and decorations removed weekly for mowing purposes in season.

- All board members walked through the cemetery to view the erosion on the dam at the back of the rear cemetery pond. Approximately 8 – 10 feet of soil has washed down the hillside into the creek. It was determined that an emergency spillway needs to be added to stop the erosion. A pipe can be laid from the pond across the ground and down the embankment directly to the creek. Fill dirt will then be placed on top of the pipe so it is not exposed. The service director is to determine the size of the pipe needed and secure the materials for placement by the end of this summer.
- 10 dead trees were taken down throughout the summer of 2019. There are still several trees that need attention and will be taken down during the summer as time allows. The Cemetery Sexton contacted Dayton Nurseries in Norton and they are going to view our cemetery and recommend what type of trees will work best as replacements.
- A new staging area behind the Maintenance Garage was also viewed by the Cemetery Board. The area will be used to store topsoil. There are plans to encircle the area with a driveway for ease of loading and trees to camouflage the work area from the rest of new cemetery section.
- Board member Jordan Hart, advised that the Rittman Cemetery charges the lowest interment fees in the area at \$475.00 for a traditional burial and \$175.00 for cremation. He has this local cemetery information as he is a funeral director at Auble Gillman Funeral Home in Rittman. A copy of the provided information on local charges is attached for your perusal. The last increase by the City of Rittman was \$50.00 in June of 2015. A motion was made by Jordan Hart and seconded by Marsha Rosenberg to increase the following cemetery fees. A vote was taken and all agreed. Proposed changes are **1)** 991.10 CHARGES AND FEES (e) Lot Fees (1) Resident adult: \$500.00, (2) Nonresident: \$600.00, (f) Interment Fees (1) Adults: \$600.00 (3) Ashes: \$300.00, (5) O.T. \$350.00.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: To be advised.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Fetter, Cemetery Clerk