

Hinckley-Deseret Cemetery District Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 09, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Hinckley Lions Building

In attendance:

Hinckley-Deseret Cemetery District; Matt Eliason, Dianne Greener, Kell Manis, Rick Moody, Chris Palmer, Skip Taylor – **Sextons:** Cadan/Arizona Cropper, Mark Talbot – **Secretary:** Deb Wagner.
Absent: Daryl Dutson – **Guests:** Gary Greener

Matt Eliason, Board Chair, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM by leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Skip made a motion to accept minutes as presented from the March 20, 2024, meeting; Rick seconded the motion – the motion passed unanimous without changes.
There was no request from anyone regarding petitions.

A discussion regarding Policies and Procedures, page 3; #20: (*Decorations or flowers (natural or artificial) may remain if they are on the headstone or are permanently attached vases that do not interfere with routine maintenance. Funeral flowers will be discarded after six (6) days, if not removed.*) Specifically reviewed was the request for patrons of the Hinckley Cemetery to remove shepherd hooks, lights and trinkets that do not meet the Policies and Procedures language.

Items addressed

1. If headstones have been altered, i.e., holes drilled to permanently place shepherd hooks on the headstone can they be grandfathered for continued use?
 - a. Diane addressed the group with the following.
 - i. Previous sextons told patrons they could alter headstones and add shepherd hooks.
 - ii. Delta did grandfather headstones that were altered to accommodate permanent shepherd hooks but does not allow the practice to continue.
 - iii. Her discussion with the county commissioner over the cemetery districts resulted in a request for her to address her and others' concerns at the next commission meeting.
 - iv. The Commissioners meeting resulted in explaining that the district is the director of policies and procedures not the commission. The district's board has authority to uphold those policies and procedures as voted on by the board as a unit. They also expressed to Diane, they found it curious that Hinckley was the only cemetery that had issues within the communities.
 - v. The county attorney was also sought out as Diane has indicated that some of the cemetery patrons have expressed to her that they may sue. Diane reports that the attorney stated these patrons do have the right to sue.
 - b. Diane expressed that she felt the board was harassing families who wished to maintain shepherd hooks they had permanently placed on their headstones.
2. Additional questions were asked about trinkets placed on and around headstones in addition to solar LED lights.
3. NOTE: While each of these items are worthy of discussion, the policies and procedures were written to help maintain the beauty of the cemetery. Most importantly, the sextons cannot complete the landscaping requirements of edging and mowing around the gravesite headstones when their time is spent cleaning and picking up items to prevent damage to the equipment. The winds in the area are particularly troublesome to decorations being blown off hooks, out of vases and off of headstones and bases onto mow strips and/or the lawns.

Matt entertained a motion to vote for grandfathering shepherd hooks currently placed on headstones to date, July 09, 2024, and no additional shepherd hooks will be allowed beginning July 10, 2024.

Chris made a motion to vote for grandfathering shepherd hooks currently placed on headstones to date, July 09, 2024, and no additional shepherd hooks will be allowed beginning July 10, 2024.

Kell Manis voted to grandfather; Diane Greener voted to grandfather; Matt Eliason voted to grandfather; Rick Moody voted to grandfather; Chris Palmer voted to grandfather; Skip Taylor voted to grandfather; flowers will be subject to the policies and procedures.

Chris - the motion to vote to grandfather shepherd hooks has passed unanimously; flowers will be subject to the policies and procedures. Rick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Skip mentioned that he spoke with Jon Finlinson, IPSC, regarding new buildings for each cemetery. Jon indicated they were at the end of the budget year and that IPSC had some money remaining. He told Skip that a check would be cut and mailed. It was cut and mailed on July 03, 2024. We are watching the mail to learn how much of a donation was made.

Deb will reach out to Materion to ascertain if they might have funding to help support new buildings for the Cemetery District.

Deb reviewed Tax Levy information for the 2024 year. Something she did not know or understand was the timing or process of Truth in Taxation for a possible tax levy increase. While this process is not available to us this year because the deadline has passed, we do need to determine what our budgeting needs are going to be for 2025 and using the Truth in Taxation process, which includes public meetings, approvals, etc. we should be able to submit for an increase next June. If approved by the county those monies would be available to us in 2026.

A copy of the current budget numbers was distributed. Also a brief review of the Workman's Comp audit which resulted in a \$3.00 net savings on our premiums for this year.

Hinckley Update –

- Flags – The flags are being destroyed by the winds. Does anyone have issues keeping the US flag flying but remove the military flags, except for during the month of May, the Memorial Celebration. There were no objections. The current flags will be flown until they need replacement. Due to current flag costs, Diane will research opportunities to have flags donated to the cemetery on an annual basis.
- Forty sprinkler heads have been replaced. They are all set to properly spray the lawns.
- One diaphragm has also been changed.
- Right now, the Hinckley cemetery is in good shape.

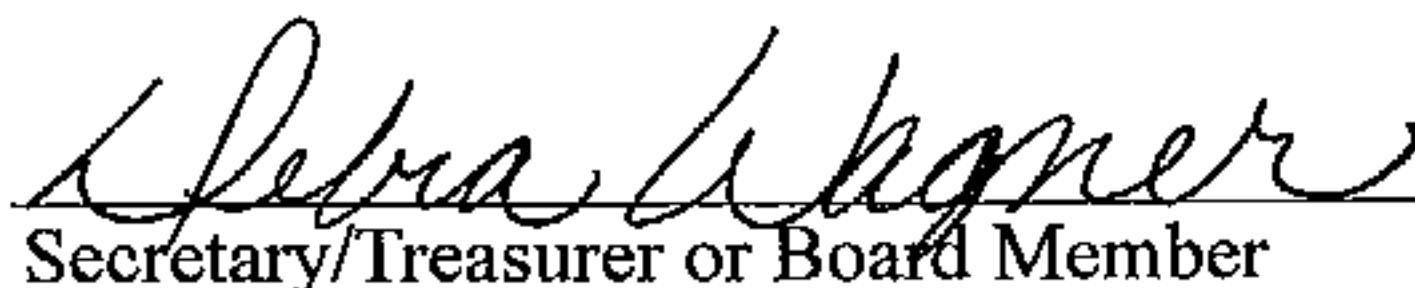
Deseret Update –

- One valve was replaced. There has been another valve blown. It flooded the road and Brad Moody had to shut the water off. The valve will be replaced on Wednesday, July 10 at 7:00 PM. Two new valves will be ordered to assure a spare is available.
- Nick Grimshaw brought his equipment over to help dig up the last valve we replaced. Is there something we can do to help compensate for the fuel and his time? Deb will pick up a \$100.00 gift card and a Thank you card to sign and send to Nick.

Deb will contact the board in mid-September 2024 to schedule the next meeting.

Chris motioned to adjourn at 8:30 PM; Skip seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.


Matt Eliason – Chairperson


Secretary/Treasurer or Board Member