

Work Session:
Cemetery; Public Landing Access; Appointed v. Elected
October 4, 2018 at 7:00pm
MINUTES

Present: Supervisors; Peggy Clayton, Jim Kelley, Dennis Kortekaas, Ken Haubrich, Mike Schack
Treasure: Becky Adams Deputy Clerk: Kati Pierce

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. Cemetery-

The Board discussed the research compiled after our work session on 9/4/18 in regard to the Township costs for burials including: cost of machines; ASV, dump truck; compensation for maintenance; total time to prepare, summer v. winter; overtime costs; black dirt or other fill needed; gas or other costs and repairs that occur in regard to burials in our cemetery. The Board would like to see the cemetery burial rates reflect and cover these costs so they are not trickling down to our tax payers. The Sexton will complete the fee schedule as directed with the Boards adjustments.

The Board had discussions on changes they would like to see in the policies regarding: planters, headstone sizes, approval prior to any activity of interments, liability of stones and property owned by the families on site and recommendations to please use sturdy pots and holders for ornamentation. The Sexton will complete the policies based on the Boards direction and adjustments.

Supervisor Kelley will research our responsibility to have liability coverage on headstones or if we are the responsible party should incident occur.

Treasure Adams will look into our current policy and what, if any coverage we have on headstones.

Supervisor Haubrich will find out the maximum size headstones that should be allowed on sites.

These will be brought forward to another work session for final review prior to a P & D Meeting.

3. Public Landing Access-

Madam Chair researched the jurisdictional questions remaining after the Board received a letter from a constituent regarding a public access on LaPlant Road; which was also discussed at the July 2018 P& D Meeting.

Madam Chair was provided documentation from Roger Clark that supports Board jurisdiction over the dedicated public accesses throughout Harris Township. Although we do not own the land, we still hold the jurisdiction of how they are utilized. MAT Attorney, Ruth Simpson informed Madam Chair that with that jurisdiction the Board is able to restrict the accesses from being occupied with private campers and private parties using them as they would private land.

The Board will discuss further at the Regular Meeting on 10/10/18 how to move forward. An idea that was discussed was to send the owners on both sides notice that jurisdiction of the access is the Townships and to please remove private property before they consider pursuing legal action.

Mishawaka Access- Supervisor Kelley received a quote to remove the center of the landing and add additional parking spaces. He and Supervisor Kortekaas will work on getting some more quotes.

Supervisor Kelley will work on getting some quotes on Robinson Landing also.

4. Appointed v. Elected-

The question of Appointed v. Elected is on the ballot! The Board needs to start compiling all the qualifications that are needed to effectively fulfil the Treasurer position. Treasurer Adams recommends the Board consider looking at mixing degrees with experience as a start for minimal qualifications. She is working on finishing up her complete outline of the position for the Board. This will aid the Board to compile duties for the job description, as well as the questions and background that will need to be part of the interview process. The qualifications that are needed to successfully manage the Township accounts and budget are extensive. The Board feels strongly about taking all extra measures to ensure accounts and responsibilities are in capable, qualified hands.

A work session will be scheduled at an upcoming meeting to further review.

5. Adjourn –

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Kelley, Seconded by Supervisor Kortekaas and passed by all at 9:45PM.

Prepared by: Kati Pierce
Signature



Madam Chair: Peggy Clayton
Signature

