

LINDSAY-STRATMORE PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT
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August 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order on August 18, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Lindsay-Strathmore Cemetery District office by Director Dennis Medders. In addition to Director Medders, in attendance were Cemetery Manager Brenda Altermatt, Directors Jeff Tienken and Dale Rains.

Director Tienken made the motion that the July 21, 2021 minutes be approved. Director Rains seconded the motion. With all in favor, the minutes were approved. There were no public comments.

The directors reviewed and paid the current bills. Also examined were the ones that had required payment prior to the meeting.

The total bills for August 2021 were: Salaries \$15,006.25; Water/Grove Care \$3,558.70; Medical Insurance \$1,385.08; Remaining expenses \$12,406.76.

Cemetery income for July was \$41,073.54 (included is the burial and pre-need income, endowment, the interests for the two Bank of Sierra accounts). The Tritten account balance was \$48,355.36.

The Tulare County second quarter Treasurer's Report was available for the Board members to review.

Interments for July were (9) full burials at Lindsay and (1) at Frazier. In addition, there was one Lindsay cremation interment.

Mrs. Altermatt presented the August Manager's Report.

Old Business:

Staffing – Cemetery Manager Altermatt reported that her retirement date will be October 15th. With Board approval, October 1, 2021 would be her last day to work at the office. She would like to use (2) weeks of her remaining 2020-21 vacation time for October 4th through the 15th. Her annual anniversary date is October 12th, and (120) vacation hours for 2021-2022 will be added to her available hours at that time. This will be cashed out upon her retirement. Her final month of insurance will be October. Mrs. Altermatt said that Becky Morales, presently the LSCD's part-time secretary, will be replacing her as manager. Becky will begin working/training full time for this position on August 30th. This will be her anniversary date and she'll be added to our Tulare County insurance in October. As our district has allowed in the past, with employees whose spouse's don't have benefits, Becky requested that she be allowed to add her husband to our Tulare County plan. She would pay for his health insurance, beginning in November, until he is able to qualify for his own Medicare benefits at a later date. He is retiring from his current position at Friant Water Authority in Lindsay. Mrs. Altermatt also reported that Becky's replacement, Yuri ("Yudy") Rangel Frausto began working on August 9, 2021. Manager Altermatt said that she is doing very well learning this position and will be an asset to our district. After discussing, reviewing and approving all the employee changes that had been presented, the board members asked that the September agenda include reviewing the new Cemetery Manager and Secretary's salaries.

ZeroNox Certification Process – The last report that Mrs. Altermatt received from Fleet Consultant, Ramiro Figueroa, was that they were waiting for a part or parts to be obtained from China to complete the ZeroNox. He will notify us of what our district we'll need to do in the grant process when he has the finished vehicle.

New Business:

Burial Cost Increases and/or Saturday Interments – Manager Altermatt reported that the last time there was a cost increase was in July of 2018. She asked the Board members if they would like for Mrs. Morales and her to review other cemeteries current burial costs and present their findings at a future meeting. The board members discussed this issue and agreed that our fees should be reviewed. Also, she informed the members that some of the other cemeteries increase their revenue by offering Saturday interments. Mrs. Altermatt presented a print-out from Porterville Cemetery, which gave their procedures for this type of interment and the cost they charged for such a service. The pros and cons for our district offering this at our cemetery was reviewed. Among the negative considerations mentioned were: 1) only two of our grounds men would be willing to work on Saturdays—and we only have a staff of three—and 2) the overtime wages that would need to be paid to the staff to provide this service may offset any profit for the district. It was decided that Saturday interments would not be a good option at this time.

Grounds Equipment Issues – Mrs. Altermatt said that the old backhoe was now unsafe for digging due to a hydraulic problem, so only the new backhoe can be used at the present time. The old backhoe was the one that was taken to Frazier on the trailer for interments. The weight/size of the newer backhoe makes it impossible to be placed and transported on the trailer. So, when there is a Frazier interment, the back hoe will need to be driven to the site.

The board members discussed the possibility of looking into purchasing a new, larger trailer for transporting the backhoe. They asked Mrs. Altermatt to discuss this with Foreman Garza. And concerning the hydraulic issue of the old back hoe, they wanted Mrs. Altermatt to see if the hydraulic filter had been changed routinely. Grounds Foreman Garza informed Mrs. Altermatt that he was going to attempt switching the turf tires on the old back hoe to the new one. He wasn't sure if they were compatible.

The small dump truck is being repaired at Colby's (formerly Martin's) due to a clutch issue.

Continuing with the equipment reporting, Manager Altermatt said that a bearing problem on the trailer caused a tire to come off on the last trip to Frazier. It has not been repaired as yet.

On a motion by Director Tienken and second by Director Rains, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday September 15, 2021.

Respectively Submitted,

