

LINDSAY-STRATMORE PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT
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May 20, 2020

The meeting was called to order on May 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Lindsay-Strathmore Cemetery District office by Director Dennis Medders. In addition to Director Medders, in attendance were Director Jeff Tienken and Cemetery Manager Brenda Altermatt. Director Rains was hospitalized due to knee surgery. Director Tienken made the motion that the March 20, 2020 minutes be approved. Director Medders seconded the motion. With all in favor, the minutes were approved. The April meeting was cancelled as a precaution due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were no Public Comments.

The directors reviewed and paid the current bills. Also examined were the ones that had required payment prior to this meeting for the past two months. The total bills for March 2020 were: Salaries \$12,141.51; Water/Grove Care \$828.68; Medical Insurance \$2,770.16; Remaining expenses \$16,135.92. Cemetery income for March was \$62,264.25. The Tritten account balance was \$65,366.05. The total bills for April 2020 were: Salaries 15,007.13; Water/Grove Care \$3,186.76; Medical Insurance \$2,077.62; Remaining expenses \$8,275.44. Cemetery income for April was \$10,632.55.

Accessible at the meeting for the Board members to review were the county balance sheets for the Pre-Need, Endowment and General Accounts and the fourth quarter Tulare County Quarterly Treasurer's Report.

At this point in the meeting a phone call was received at the office from Angelica Ruiz requesting to be put on speaker phone to address the board members during the meeting. Although past Public Comments, Director Medders allowed Ms. Ruiz to share her concerns with them. She said that the issue she wanted to address was the placement location of a bench for her uncle, Arturo Ruiz Juarez. She wanted it put on the cemetery grass by his grave under a tree. The site that had been approved by LSCD staff for the bench was in the same row as his gravesite but by the fence.

Previously she had been told by both Mrs. Altermatt and Grounds Foreman Garza that all Lindsay cemetery benches must be placed, after staff approval, along a cemetery road or along the fence. This directive has been in place for many years, and numerous other family members, when requesting placement of a bench for their loved ones and told of this stipulation, have always complied.

Ms. Angelica Ruiz was told that she could request to be put on the June agenda if she wanted to discuss this matter further with the board members and that no action or decision could be made by the board unless it was placed on the agenda. After the conclusion of the phone call, the meeting resumed.

Mrs. Altermatt presented the May Cemetery Manager's Report (attached to the minutes).

Interments for March were: at Lindsay (6) full (1) baby (3) cremations and (1) full at Frazier Valley. For April: at Lindsay (6) full and (3) cremations. None were held at Frazier Valley.

Old Business:

Addition 15 – This new addition has been reseeded twice and has been continually watered, but the grass still not coming up. Director Tienken reported that he had contacted Joe O'Brien from Valley Tech AG Lab in Tulare on behalf of our District to have the soil tested. After he receives the results from Mr. O'Brien, the board members and grounds men will be able to make a decision on how to precede with this project.

Manager Altermatt reported that Mike Brownfield contacted her requesting to know the total amount that our District had spent on purchasing grass seed for Addition 15. In behalf of Brownfield Farming, he wanted to donate this amount to LSCD. He deducted the total (\$803.91) from his April invoice.

COVID -19 Compliance/Implementation/Issues – Mrs. Altermatt reported that the procedures that we have in place for the office and the interments for this pandemic seem to be proceeding as well as could be expected. She had paperwork, forms, etc. available for the Board members to review. Also, they were informed that one of the three grounds men was ill all last week (May 11th-15th), possibly with Corona Virus. He was tested on May 13th. When he returned to work on Monday (the 18th) he gave her a copy, which he had obtained on Sunday, of his COVID-19 test—it was negative. She reported that Paychex had given her (2) options concerning how he could be paid for his missed forty hours due to his illness and the possibility that it could be COVID-19. #1-His vacation and sick hours could be turned in and he would be paid his full salary or #2- would be to take 2/3 of his hourly rate x40 and the District would pay that amount (per CARES act). The employee chose the second option. CalPERS was also contacted and Mrs. Altermatt was told to report the amount for (40) hours at his standard rate of pay for the CalPERS deduction.

New Business:

Government 2019 Compensation Report – Manager Altermatt reported that after submitting the requested information to CPA David Farnsworth, he completed the required report and submitted it for LSCD. His charge to us was \$395.00.

Dept. of Pesticide Regulation Inspection – After an inspection on April 21st, Mrs. Altermatt reported that our District received a violation notification (copy attached). Foreman Garza feels that he has corrected or completed all the items listed as violations. Mr. Lopez (the inspector) will be returning soon to review what has been done to see if we are in now in compliance.

Transfer of Ownership – On a motion by Director Tienken and second by Director Medders, with all in favor, the request to transfer the Pre-Need gravesite, owned by Mr. Joel Warkentin, in Addition 3 Lot 155 Grave 5 back to the District was approved. The amount reimbursed to him was \$150.00. Copy of paperwork attached to the minutes.

Memorial Day Observance – The question posed to the Board members by Manager Altermatt was whether we should put up the U.S.A. flags at the cemetery this year since the high school students aren't available to assist (no school because of COVID-19). It was decided that with the help of some local residents who had called the office to volunteer, a portion of the flags would be put up on Friday morning and taken down on Tuesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The next regular Board meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday June 17, 2020.

Respectively Submitted,

Dennis R. Medders