

BERLIN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

6:00 p.m.

Special Meeting

March 16,

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HELD AT: This meeting was held virtually by Zoom, Delaware, OH

CALL TO ORDER: Ron Bullard, Trustee Chairman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Tim Foor led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: Ken O'Brien, Tom D'Amico, Ron Bullard, Claudia Smith, Fiscal Officer
Theresa Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer

ATTENDANCE: Tim Foor

Fairview Cemetery- Bullard stated that he spoke with Ballard about the equipment that is on the southeast corner of the cemetery, since that area does not belong to the township, he suggested someone contact the owners to see if it is possible to move the equipment to the townships area. D'Amico will check with Ballard.

D'Amico began with the many issues that he wanted to discuss with the other trustees. The first item, involved possible fees associated with trying to find out if there is a 2-high crypt. Bullard stated that if someone has bought a 2-high crypt and it is installed in the grave space, he does not have a problem with using it, but if it has not been installed then he feels a side-by-side grave/plot needs to be used. If there is not a plot available beside the grave space then we need to figure out a way to come up with two plots in a different section of the cemetery for them. The purchaser will be charged a nominal fee regardless of the findings, for the opening and closing of the grave. O'Brien agreed. Due to three (3) burials that were supposed to have the 2-high crypts, which had not been installed, Foor feels that we should err on the side of caution and say that there is not one in the ground rather than to assume there is one. Foor stated that the ground penetrating radar would give a definite answer as to if it has been installed or not. Bullard would like to see a statement regarding the 2-high crypt that the trustees can then make into a resolution, which will then give Foor something he can work off of. D'Amico will run it by Ballard and have it at the next trustee meeting.

In regard to the excavating in the Islamic section of the cemetery, Foor stated that this area should be the first done with the ground penetrating radar. This will show exactly what is underground and will allow Miley the option to decide if he is willing to excavate in the area. D'Amico stated that if Miley decides that he will not excavate, another source that will do the excavating in the area will need to be found.

Another issue that has arisen is unauthorized burials. Foor stated that after the Martin's went to jail, there was a month that no one was in charge of the cemetery. Foor stated that he is aware of two burials that were done, where the family had dug up a grave themselves. O'Brien asked what needs to be done. Foor said that for us to be legally covered he feels that an excavation of the two graves needs to be done, which will allow us to find the tag within the remains and find out exactly who is in the graves. Bullard stated that the township would need to get a court order to be able to do that. D'Amico will talk with Ballard about it.

Foor stated that he feels that the driveway needs to have gravel put down because it is nothing but mud when it rains. Bullard will talk with Irwin to find out how much would be needed to build the streets up and exactly what needs to be done.

D'Amico asked if the markers and plaques could be secured with a gravel base. Bullard stated that his concern with a gravel base for the brass markers is that it is easy for people to pick them up and carry them away. He would like to see the marker have a secured foundation (such as granite) underneath them to prevent this from happening.

D'Amico stated that he would like to make sure that the road department is in full support of Foor when it comes to the transport of a filled sump pump, and that when it needs to be transported it is done in a township vehicle. Bullard agreed.

Foor stated that people have approached him about the township repurchasing grave plots back from them. O'Brien stated that it would be at the cost from which we received, which is nothing. With that, since the plot was not purchased from the township it is not possible

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to get a repurchase price, so the township cannot buy it back from the purchaser. Bullard agreed.

D'Amico asked the other trustees for their thoughts on a possible tree-planting program. O'Brien stated that he does not love the idea because trees cause maintenance and hard to mow around. He stated that he is not opposed to a few trees to give the cemetery some character. Foor will make a recommendation later.

Foor stated that another problem he is having is that Bernie ?????? who collected money for headstones under the previous receiver. When Foor told him that the township was not allowing anyone else, other than themselves, to do installations he was supposed to turn over the headstones and the money that was paid for them and has not.

Another issue is that the mowers and excavators are running over the headstones which in turn is pulling out the nameplates and destroying them. D'Amico stated that those cutting the lawn are not going to weed eat over every stone unless the township renegotiates their contract for them to do it, which will be extremely costly. Foor stated eventually the grass will grow over the marker. D'Amico stated that he feels that it would be the responsibility of the owner of the plot.

In regard to the drainage issue, Bullard stated that there was a ditch petition years ago for Connor Lane and Peachblow Road, that went through the Islamic section. O'Brien stated that his understanding, is that when a ditch petition happens and there is an improvement made on a contiguous property, you have a right to get the property that the improvement was made on. Bullard stated that since the township paid for the ditch petition, we should have a way to be able to drain that property. O'Brien stated that we will need someone from soil & water to come out and tell us exactly where it is. D'Amico will check with soil & water.

Finally, Smith asked if the fees for Fairview Cemetery have been decided. D'Amico said that they are still working on the fees. As far as the deeds and records, Taylor is ready to start entering information and Smith stated that she feels we need to start getting information put into Pontem. D'Amico stated that as soon as we get the ground penetrating radar done, we can begin with inputting information.

**Adjourn-
RESOLUTION MOTION TO ADJOURN
21-03-12**

Motion: D'Amico
Second: Bullard
Vote: O'Brien yes, D'Amico yes and Bullard yes

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Bullard at 7:19 p.m.

Ron Bullard, Trustee

ATTEST:

Ken O'Brien, Trustee

Theresa Taylor, Assistant Fiscal Officer

Tom D'Amico, Trustee