

Welty Cemetery, March 8, 2023 9 a.m.

**Attending:**

Mayor, Charles Hawk  
Sexton, Kevin Bratcher  
Secretary, Nancy Bucher

Council Member, Mike Schwab  
Committee Member, Neil Youngman

Mayor Hawk opened with prayer and thanked everyone for attending.

The group reviewed the minutes from January 10, 2022. There were no questions. Council Member Schwab moved, seconded by Committee Member Youngman and motion carried to accept the minutes. The vote: All yes.

The group also reviewed the Revenue and Expense Report for the year 2022. As shown on the reports, we had a deficit of \$3147.80.

**Mayor Hawk's Concerns:**

- Mayor Hawk noted that there was an expense of \$1,275.00 (mowing) that was paid in 2022 but was from 2021. That makes the deficit for 2022, \$1,872.80. Mayor Hawk reported that there were 7 full casket burials, 12 cremations, and 15 lots were sold in 2022. Mayor Hawk realizes that the cemetery needs to break even. Council Member Schwab agreed and reminded the group that it was a difficult decision made to take control of the cemetery and that we need to address this loss as soon as possible. Discussion followed on the best way to resolve this.
- Council Member Schwab asked Sexton, Bratcher to explain the difference in lot prices. Lots A, B, C, D, E, & F are \$350.00 and lots G, H, and I are \$450.00 Also, asked why the infant lot is \$250.00. Sexton, Bratcher explained that the old section (A thru F) only has about 7 or 8 lots left. In recent years, those lots have been available for "drop offs". Funeral Homes make arrangements for placement of people that have passed with no family, the lots are purchased by the funeral homes. Mayor Hawk stated that the village is responsible for indigent people that pass while residing in the village. An example, someone passed away at the Brewster Parke Nursing Facility that had no family or money. Sexton Bratcher stated that the infant section hasn't been used for many years. Sexton Bratcher suggested that the Lots A thru F for adult and infant be removed from the pricing list. Council Member, Schwab made a motion to remove Lot Price(s) Sections A thru F, adult \$350.00 and infant \$250.00 from the price sheet. The motion also includes that the 7 or 8 lots (that are in that section), be used at the Sexton Bratcher's discretion. This was seconded by Committee Member Youngman. The vote: All yes. Council Member Schwab asked that Sexton Bratcher notify the committee when only 1 or 2 lots remain. Mayor Hawk wants the committee to be known for the compassion that we show when this type of need arises in our community.
- Council Member Schwab moved to increase the cost of each lot from \$450.00 to \$600.00, seconded by Committee Member Neil Youngman. The vote: All yes.
- Sexton Bratcher moved to increase the cost of cremated remains from \$350.00 to \$400.00, seconded by Council Member Schwab and motion carried. The vote: All yes.
- Sexton Bratcher stated that the foundation fee of \$100.00 is adequate. Note that the company, Ohio Memorial Foundation, is running 4 to 5 months behind. The company waits till there are 5 to 6

foundations to pour before coming to Welty. With that being said, Sexton Bratcher would like to encourage the committee to only permit Allen (Ohio Memorial Foundations) permission to lay the foundations. There was another monument company that requested access to lay a foundation. Sexton Bratcher and Mayor Hawk made the decision to not allow this to happen. Allen is not only accurate with our requirements but dependable. Sexton Bratcher is not asking for an increase in his fees. Mayor Hawk thanked Sexton Bratcher for being very courteous of his fees (example, 6 pours in one day only bills us for the one fee of \$25.00, not \$25.00 for each). Mayor Hawk commended Sexton Bratcher on the way the cemetery was marked with the use of a surveyor. Village Employee Fry joined Mayor Hawk for a walk thru one day and it was very easy to explain to Village Employee Fry the placement of the stones and lots.

- Gemm Landscaping has asked Mayor Hawk about possibly eliminating the one driveway, it is mostly grass. Sexton Bratcher and Committee Member Youngman stated that the driveway is necessary for easy access to those lots. Mayor Hawk asked that we meet in May to review the roads (especially inner roads) to determine what maintenance is needed. Gemm Landscaping mowing fees will remain the same as 2022. Mayor Hawk will ask Buzz Belloni if he might consider mowing some this summer.
- Schaer Excavating has requested that we supply  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch boards that he needs when digging graves. He has used his in the past. Most cemeteries have a shed to store items like this, but we don't. Mayor Hawk will ask Schaer Excavating to purchase the boards and present the bill to the Village for payment. Schaer Excavating will store the boards on his truck. Schaer Excavating fees, for open and close, will remain the same for 2023. BUT there will be a price increase in 2024 (\$450.00 to \$500.00)
- Mayor Hawk has had a request to place markers up along the driveway and that the driveways are cleared of snow during the winter months. We decided not to do the driveway markers. Sexton Bratcher said that in the past, Sugarcreek Township would plow ONLY on the day that a service was being held. This past winter, there was a service and the hearse got stuck. Schaer Excavating was kind enough to pull it out. In the future, Sexton Bratcher will let Mayor Hawk know that a service is being held and that the driveway(s) will need plowed. The Village will not be plowing unless there is a service.

#### Sexton Bratcher's Concerns:

- Sexton Bratcher has had several phone calls with questions from individuals wanting to sell or transfer their deeds. He has been referring them to call Secretary Bucher. She has received 2 calls and she referred them to Sexton Bratcher. None of the individuals have followed thru with a transfer. Mayor Hawk states that the bylaws say that the lots will be sold at the same price as purchased. The deed has the cost. The individual(s) will need to present the original deed to Secretary Bucher, the committee will need to approve the sale, and then the deed will need to be transferred. The transfer costs \$15.00.
- Sexton Bratcher recently had a family give him \$900.00 cash and ask for a receipt. There has never been an issue, but would we consider creating a form for him to present to the customer. The village sends a receipt but not till several days after the initial transaction. Secretary Bucher will create a form. When making the appointment for a possible sale, Sexton Bratcher will tell them that the village prefers checks. Of course, he will continue to accept cash as we don't want to jeopardize sales.

- Sexton Bratcher asked if there should be a cut off date for Ohio Memorial (Allen) to pour foundations? Allen pours whenever he determines it is ok (he does this as a side job). There haven't been any problems with the foundations. The committee will address this at the next meeting.
- There are six graves that need to have topsoil. Mayor Hawk will have 4 to 5 tons of topsoil delivered to the South East area (near the cornfield) by the village. Sexton Bratcher also asked if there would be a bucket truck or backhoe that would be able to move the topsoil near each of those graves. Mayor Hawk said he will make the arrangements. Mayor Hawk said it is his goal to have the village workers assist when needed, if able. Village Employee Fry assisted with a couple of items last fall. Mayor Hawk stated that if there is ever a need for a water pump, the village has one available. Sexton Bratcher hopes that we never need that assistance. Mayor Hawk told Sexton Bratcher that he should purchase items needed (mulch and fertilizer) at the Brewster Hardware Store and place it on the Brewster Village account.

Secretary Bucher asked as to why Sugarcreek Township doesn't assist with Welty Cemetery. She thought that if the village had not decided to take responsibility that Sugarcreek Township would have been entirely responsible. Mayor Hawk has sent many letters to the township, with no response. She would like to reach out to the trustees, not as the secretary, but as a resident of the township.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Bucher

# VILLAGE OF BREWSTER

302 South Wabash, Brewster, Ohio 44613

330-767-3931

SALES RECEIPT	Sold To	DATE	CASH	CHECK #

NAME	SECTION	LOT NUMBER	GRAVE NUMBER

NAME	SECTION	LOT NUMBER	GRAVE NUMBER

NAME	SECTION	LOT NUMBER	GRAVE NUMBER



The Village will mail the following within 14 days. The deed, a receipt from Village, an explanation of the deed, the bylaws and rules of the cemetery, cemetery fees, a copy of the worksheet of lot/lots sold, and guidelines for the placement and layout of headstone.

**Thank you for trusting your loved ones with us.**