

**Freetown Cemetery Commission**  
Minutes of the Friday, December 6, 2019 Meeting  
Town Hall — Assonet, Mass.

**Present:** Keven Desmarais, Adrienne Levesque, and Mike McCue.

**Call to order:** Mike McCue called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

2020 FEB 26 A 9:56  
*J. Brown*

**Receipt of Minutes / Superintendent's Report**

Minutes of November 4, 2019, were received. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously. The Superintendent's Report for November, including bills paid since the previous meeting, was also received.

**Review of Proposed Budget, FY21**

Mr. McCue reviewed the current year budget, which is \$28,155.00. Plugging in results from the November price quotes, Richard Brown's request to have Tim Dacey work 19 hours per week instead of 15 hours per week, and the proposed wage chart for the Sexton position, the budget for FY21 would be approximately \$32,500.00, subject to minor tweaking.

Mr. Desmarais asked about the status of the wage chart, and Mr. McCue responded that the Selectmen have not taken it up at their past two meetings. All felt it was reasonable, in that case, to budget for the time being using the assumption that the chart would be ratified as presented. Mr. McCue also noted that a few additional cemeteries that are ready for regular maintenance were included in this budget. Overall, given the additional properties, additional hours, and increases in quotes for mowing most of the cemeteries already on a maintenance plan, he felt the increase was conservative. A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to budget \$32,500.00 for FY21. As discussion on the motion, Mr. McCue said he would interpret this as "no more than \$32,500.00" in the event there was a reason to adjust the budget, so that downward adjustments could be made if necessary. The vote was thereafter called, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion of Potential Warrant Articles for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting**

Mr. McCue noted potential warrant articles as the annual transfer from the Sale of Lots account, tree work as necessary, and possibly repairing some headstones outside the Assonet Burying Ground if prices were reasonable. Note was also made of the suggestion to repair the stonewall at Dean Family Cemetery as discussed at the previous meeting. Consensus was to submit the Sale of Lots transfer, and revisit the other items after prices could be obtained.

**Assonet Burying Ground**

No items were taken up under this heading.

**Updates on Old Business or New Business**

Mr. Desmarais reported on his discussion with Stop & Shop. While they have not ruled out the possibility of contributing to maintaining the two cemeteries, the company does not view it as an immediate priority, and will not commit at this time. Mr. McCue again stated that Stop & Shop committed to maintaining the cemeteries in 2004 and expressed his feeling that they should be held to that commitment.

Mr. McCue reported there was no current update on the DPW study.

**Other Business**

None.

**Meeting Adjourned**

A motion was made by Mrs. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Desmarais, to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael T. McCue, Chairman