

Freetown Cemetery Commission
Minutes of the Friday, December 19, 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 57
JJ Brown

Reopen Discussion on Sexton Salary & FY21 Budget

A worksheet with six potential budget options was reviewed. Mr. McCue explained that the Cemetery Commission sent a letter to the Selectmen dated November 4th asking that that board ratify the pay rates adopted for the Sexton, but to date the chairman of the Selectmen has declined to place the letter on the agenda for their meetings. No communication has been received as to why. The Administrative Assistant, when asked, likewise did not know the reason why. Mr. McCue felt this left the Cemetery Commission in a poor place, as the pay rate has a direct bearing on the budget.

Mr. Desmarais asked how the six potential budget figures lined up with the vote on December 6th. Mr. McCue stated that vote was \$32,500; the highest amount today is \$32,158. Mr. Desmarais asked if there should be a vote to knock down the request to that figure. Discussion was then held on the six options. The options are a mix of the scaled pay rate voted in November, the default minimum wage rate if the Selectmen fail to act, and minor differences in the expense budget depending on whether the Sexton's hours and rate are increased or left alone.

Mrs. Levesque asked what would happen if the hours were increased and expenses were decreased, and Mr. McCue responded that a trial period would be put in place to have the Sexton tend the Dean Family and Quaker Hill cemeteries, being that they are smaller and require less attention. Mr. Desmarais saw this as an opportunity to reduce expenses by taking some work in-house at a lower rate.

Mr. Desmarais stated he would be seeing the Selectmen chairman on December 23rd, and would ask him then for an explanation as to why the letter has not be brought to their full board.

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to submit the budget at \$32,158.00. Mr. Desmarais stated the budget could be lower depending on conversations to be held between the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Cemetery Commission. The vote was then called and passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Mr. Desmarais, seconded by Mrs. Levesque, to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

This is a True Record by me.

Attest: _____
Michael T. McCue, Chairman