

GRANT COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 13, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Darrin Figgins and Members Cecil Simpson, Mary Sullivan, Bobbi Higgs and Ronald Craft.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Sexton Bernard LaFever and Secretary Paula Shapland

PUBLIC PRESENT: Gary Knehans

Chairman Darrin Figgins called the Regular Meeting to order in the Conference Room of the Grant County Court House at 12:00 noon.

Gary Knehans, K & K Water Wells, was present to go over the estimate to drill a well at the Ulysses Cemetery. The project had been tabled previously until the water rights were approved. The estimate is \$28,800.00 to drill the 600' well and an additional \$8,446.29 to install a submersible pump. The anticipated output will be 200 gallons per minute at 60# pressure. The driller, Downey Drilling, will be in Ulysses in two weeks and a final location will be determined. Proposed location is south of the county road. Estimate does not include electrical wiring or plumbing to underground pipe. It was agreed to go ahead with the drilling project as previously planned, and a final decision about the pump will be made during the budget process. Anticipated start date August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Figgins continued the quarterly meeting. The minutes of March 27, 2015 were reviewed and approved unanimously following motion by Ronald Craft and second by Bobbi Higgs.

The Financial Reports and Check Register for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter were reviewed. Cecil Simpson inquired about the cost of propane as shown in the Issued Checks list. Sexton LaFever said the old building is kept at 40° and the new building is kept at 55°. Cecil Simpson moved, Ronald Craft seconded, that the financial reports be approved. Carried unanimously.

Sexton Report. Bernie inquired if he could purchase a sprayer to spray the areas that he cannot spray with the large sprayer. Price for a sprayer will be less than \$400. He has been using his personal sprayer to do the job. The Board didn't see a problem with the purchase. Secretary Shapland mentioned that use of personal equipment has been discouraged by prior boards. He is unable to water due to algae which clogs the filters. Cecil Simpson mentioned that the City has been able to water. Bernie last watered before Memorial Weekend. There are 40+ heads in each section and it takes a couple of days to clean each section. He added that he mows weekly. Cecil Simpson suggested that you don't need to mow as often if you aren't watering. Bernie said he will check with the City to find out how they are watering.

Country Cemeteries. Chairman Figgins reported a complaint that Golden is not being watered the same amount in all areas and the weeds are a problem. Golden had received 5" of rain. A discussion was held about being able to spray weeds in buffalo grass. Bernie will check into options for chemicals. Secretary Shapland received an inquiry to plant trees at Shockey. The policy of no plantings by individuals and the lack of water were explained to the individual. The board and sexton concurred on that policy for Shockey.

Water Filter Update: The filter was started and ran for 8 seconds. Chairman Figgins has been trying to determine how to proceed with the Rainbird representatives.

Land Purchase. The land purchase is complete and Cecil Wright has agreed to manage the land. The contract is ready for signatures. The Chairman will sign the contract as representative for the Cemetery Board.

Building for Filter: First priority is to get the filter operating and then the building will be planned around the filter.

Personnel Policy: The policy will not be addressed at this time. The drug policy is in place as a separate policy.

2016 Budget Work Session: The board discussed tax levy requirements for the 2016 budget. County valuation decreased by 23% so an increased mill levy will be required to generate the same amount of tax dollars as last year. Pending projects to be planned for include enclosure for cemetery rules, building for filter, solution for irrigation of grounds, water well drilling and pump, and remodel of old maintenance building. Following discussion, it was agreed to publish the notice of hearing with a 2016 budget of \$314,577. The hearing is scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Other. The 2016 audit should be completed by the next meeting.

Executive Session. Cecil Simpson moved, Ronald Craft seconded, that an executive session be held for 20 minutes for discussion of non-elected personnel. Carried unanimously.

Chairman Figgins reconvened the regular meeting with all present.

Chairman Figgins asked the secretary to update the website to include the new board members and add phone numbers so the public can contact the board.

The sexton was asked to work on the water system, sweep the streets, weed eat around stones, remove problem decorations and try to improve appearance of the grounds. The policy allows for removing decoration so maintenance can be performed. Also, he should dress appropriately on funeral days. The board feels that the employees are working enough hours to keep the grounds maintained but have noticed a decline. Progress will be revisited in August.

It was suggested to print the decoration policy in the paper again.

There being no further business, Cecil Simpson moved, Mary Sullivan seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

*Paula Shapland*  
Secretary