

The Meeting of the Cemetery Committee was called to order at 5:33 pm by Chairperson George Baker. Opening prayer (Our Father) was recited by the group led by Fr. Labrie. Those in attendance were:

- Mike Lagasse, Business Manager
- George Baker, Chairperson
- Mike Tardiff, Vice Chairperson
- Bob LaBlanc, Holy Rosary
- Harold Cote, Sacred Heart
- John Powers, St. Mary's
- Greg Pelletier, St. Theresa's
- Dan Lalonde, St. Louis
- Fr. Jean-Paul Labrie, Pastor

Minutes were reviewed. Mike Lagasse made a clarification that once he reviewed St Mary's mowing the contractor was hired for weekly mowing and not bi-weekly as stated in the minutes. A motion was made by Mike Tardiff to accept as written seconded by John Powers, so moved minutes from last meeting accepted.

Cemetery Business was discussed as follows:

End of Year Financial Results: Financial results were shared with the council for Fiscal 2016.

At the close of year the cemetery assets showed a loss of (\$17,936.00). The Diocesan Investment Pool showed a loss of (\$30,176) for the year. If this loss had not occurred asset values would have seen a gain of over \$12,000 this past year. Currently accounts payables for end of year were \$5,800.00 due on account.

As for cemetery activity at end of year all sites showed to be in the black with the exceptions of St. Denis and Sacred Heart. Overall as a Parish our income exceeded our expenses by \$2,290 for the year. A brief discussion was had as to why St. Denis and Sacred Heart had more expenses than income and possible ideas to turn this around.

New Business: More parishioners are coming forward wanting to be buried above ground in Niche monuments. The discussion was had amongst the council as to how this should be handled in our cemeteries. There was agreement that they will continue to pay burial rights at the current rate for cremains until a final resolve can come to this. The main concern is the size of some of these and the security and responsibility of the remains above ground. This was emailed to the diocese and we are awaiting a new monument application that will specify the ownership of the responsibility falls with the owner of the monument. Until we get more from the diocese we have decided to limit the monument size to what is currently specified in the Cemetery Policies and Procedure manual. It was also mentioned for consideration that each cemetery establish a special area for these Niche monuments.

A question was asked by George Baker about the future of the Sheridan cemetery. Now that we are almost all complete in setting up access and cleaning it will it be maintained. The parish sees this as an active cemetery and whatever is not taken care of by community volunteers the parish will have to

contract out to insure it is maintained. We have no other option. With that said the funding for these costs have to come from somewhere so again the mention of fund raising or consideration in the community of Ashland doing a drive for an endowment for the Sheridan cemetery should be considered.

Maintenance Issues: The Roadside sign for St Denis Cemetery is fallen and is all rotten. The decision was to get a new one made and replace it. The Sign Shed has in the past done these for us and will be contacted to get this replace.

Also the vault at the Sacred Heart Cemetery the roof is leaking. We will call Powers roofing to look at it and give us a price on the best solution.

Next meeting and final meeting for this year will be on Oct. 13th in Caribou at 5:30.

Closing pray lead by Fr. Labrie.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15

Minutes submitted by Michael Lagasse Parish Business Coordinator