

June 25, 2025

☺ Brian Decheney

✖ Cemetery: The Cook family had Goodwell set up for a burial on Sunday, but called Sunday to say they did not do the burial (cremains) but did fill in the hole. They are working through the extended Cook family

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plots re-deeding. They will be charged for the uncompleted burial. One proposed option by the Cook family was to allow any Cook relation to have any spot until there are no more. The Board is not willing to leave the township open to the complications that option allows. The family will have to follow the current process of each sibling writing a letter (letters if needed) showing agreement to the same person to be named to (a) specific site(s).

- ✖ Discussed green burials and what it might look like. No interest in having an unkempt cemetery. The State will be making regulations so there will be very little the Township is allowed to decide so tabling any discussion until State regulations are set.
- ✖ Kelly Ross and Dakota Ross discussed the headstone bench they would like to place at her parents' sites. Jennifer motioned to allow bench memorial markers as monuments, Greg 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed. The bench is considered a monument and is to abide by the monument rules.
- ✖ Jennifer hopes to have the cemetery ordinance amendment proposal completed by the July meeting. This will include updates to: re-deeding (Goodwell will re-deed any transfers, changes to owners, to have the owner have a deed), what amount is paid when a site is sold back to the Township (the original price paid), the process for open sites where the owner is deceased, encouraging naming a next-owner for any excess site owned, review the monument description to keep size and placement to the site(s) they are for.
- ✖ The current phase of retention (more records were discovered in file cabinets) is almost complete. The shredding will happen mid-July, the assessor took any assessment documents she feels could be kept, any garbage was purged at Clean-up day, the Historical Library will take the historical documents, and the Clerk has the documents to be retained.

### ♦ Old Business:

- ✖ PPT/LCSA Reimbursement – Goodwell has distributed the most recent LCSA payment in the manner the State detailed in documentation. This will continue for any future payments received. So far the State has not made anyone repay the payments. They had no understanding of what any township has done as a process to repay.

### ♦ New Business:

- ✖ Metro Act. – since PPT was misunderstood we are checking into other payments. No documentation on Metro Act payments distribution. Rachel and Jennifer will continue to trace.
- ✖ Pre-approved expenses list. Jennifer explained this list will show the auditors the expenses that are paid (who and description), the methods used to approve payments, the method of payment, and expected amounts. Many (maximum) amounts; 1) are set in the budget approved prior to the fiscal year beginning, 2) have estimates (approved in meeting to accept), 3) are regular payments for annual/monthly dues/costs (prior payment + an acceptable increase), or 4) are required by government (tax payments) which there is no refusing to pay. The Board will review and then vote to accept this list at the next meeting. This list will become a part of the budget review so any needed changes are noted and voted on just like the budget.
- ✖ Income and future budget issues. The LCSA payments are expected to be stopped, which will greatly impact the financial stability of the Township. The concept of the State is understood to be pushing the taxation to the local level. The current assessor's pay is much lower than average. Some townships pay 60% of their budget to the assessor. Each area needs training. There was discussion on possible fees for admin. expenses and cemetery costs. Also, what to not provide (brining, clean-up day). The Board is looking for and asking for ideas

### ♦ Public Comment:

- ✖ Jeremy – 2 Mile was brined, but it shortly looked like it wasn't. The road has a lot of clay which causes the brine not to stick. The other roads have done better. We did try it, but it does not seem worth it.
- ✖ Dakin – against raising taxes. PPT/LCSA cuts are not officially made. Cut clean-up day and brining. Get grants. Grants take a lot of time and understanding.
- ✖ Joan Mollema – A neighbor on E Wilderness Trail is decimating the easement to the point emergency vehicles may not be able to get to the houses beyond. He has placed stumps, rocks, animal parts, etc. in the path and work to make it that no one is allowed to go down the road. They are currently pursuing civil litigation. Tim will call the County Sheriff Department and go view the situation. The information does show this as an easement, but it is private property. The County Road Commission may be of help.

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- ◇ **Board Comments:** The Board is looking for a Clerk.
- ◇ Greg motioned to adjourn, Bob 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed. Meeting ended 8:44 pm.
- ◇ Next meetings:
  - ✱ Planning meeting July 15<sup>th</sup>, 7pm
  - ✱ Township meeting Juli 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

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