

MINUTES
Conference Call
South Carolina Perpetual Care Cemetery
Special Call Board Meeting

9:30 a.m., Friday, October 16, 2015
Synergy Business Park
110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building Room 202-13
Columbia, South Carolina

Friday, October 16, 2015

1. Meeting Called to Order

J. W. Russ, Chair, of Conway, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Other members participating during the conference call meeting included: Russel Floyd, Vice Chair, of Spartanburg; John Bartus, of Mauldin; Jacquelyn Petty, of Union; and, Roger Finch of Honea Path.

Staff members participating in the meeting included: Amy Holleman, Administrator; Monaca Harrelson, Administrative Assistant; and Mary League, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel.

a. Public Notice

Mr. Russ announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S. C. Perpetual Care Cemetery Board office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. He noted a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Excused Absences

Rick Riggins of Lancaster was granted an excused absence.

MOTION

Mr. Bartus made a motion that the Board approve Mr. Riggins absence. Mr. Finch seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of Adjustment of Fees

Ms. Holleman discussed the license fees for perpetual care cemeteries. Ms. Holleman noted that only two years of the past six years has the Board ended with a positive balance. The cash balance for September 2015 is -\$51,713. After much discussion and research with other LLR staff, including Director Taylor, it was concluded that the Board must require that licensees pay the renewal fees provided for in statute in order to cover all of the Board's expenses and avoid a negative cash balance. In Sections 40-8-80 (A) and (B) the license fee annually for a cemetery more than 10 acres is \$850, and the fee for cemeteries less than 10 acres the is \$400 annually. This would generate approximately \$90,500 per year in fees compared to the current amount of \$65,000, and it will likely take several years to effect a positive ending balance.

Mr. Russ asked if there was any way that the Board could cut costs and support itself while continuing to charge the discounted annual renewal fees of \$500 for a cemetery of more than 10 acres and of \$250 for cemeteries of less than 10 acres. Ms. Holleman explained that the only costs the staff had control over were office supplies, and she and her staff were attempting to order as little as possible. She noted that the biggest increases to their spending seem to come from a 45% increase in investigation and legal fees over the past

two fiscal years. She also noted that when the discounted renewal fee was put in place, the Board was just reestablishing itself, and the expenses were much less.

Mr. Floyd asked if the fees could be revisited and adjusted as necessary on an annual basis. Ms. League pointed to Section 40-1-50(D), which says that “the fees may be adjusted biennially to ensure that they are sufficient but not excessive to cover expenses including the total of the direct and indirect costs to the State for operations of each respective board.”

MOTION

Mr. Floyd made a motion that the Board go back to the statutory annual licensing fees as stated in Sections 40-8-80 (A) and (B). Mr. Finch seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment

MOTION

There being no further business Ms. Petty made a motion the Board adjourn. Mr. Floyd seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The October 16, 2015, conference call meeting of the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

The next meeting of the SC Perpetual Care Cemetery Board is scheduled for November 18, 2015.