



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MADERA CEMETERY DISTRICT, HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M. AT THE ARBOR VITAE CEMETERY LOCATED AT 1301 ROBERTS AVE., MADERA, CA 93637

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

DAVID NEMETH
CANDY TALLEY
LOIS BETTY
BELVA BARE
CELESTE VOYLES

PUBLIC/EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

ARTHUR GARDNER - DISTRICT MANAGER
RONNIE RAMIREZ – OPERATIONS MANAGER
STEPHEN CLOETERS – H.R. GENERALIST
DAVID JAIMES – GROUNDSKEEPER I
SANDRA WHEELER OF STIFEL (VIA ZOOM)

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Candy Talley called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD:

Chairperson Candy Talley took roll of the Board. Trustees David Nemeth, Lois Betty, Belva Bare, and Celeste Voyles were present.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

Trustee David Nemeth led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Trustee Celeste Voyles requested a spelling correction of a word in the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Regular Meeting. Trustee Belva Bare inquired about the monthly payments being made to PlotBox even though the system is not operational yet. District Manager Arthur Gardner answered that the District is paying a flat fee for both setup and subscription. Trustee Celeste Voyles asked why certain account balances in the District's Trial Balance do not match the balances in the County's reports. Arthur Gardner said that he would look into this. Trustee David Nemeth suggested reconsidering the reports that the Board reviews each month.

Board Chair Candy Talley stated the next Board meeting would be Tuesday, May 23, 2023. Trustee Lois Betty moved to approve the Consent Calendar with the noted changes, Trustee Celeste Voyles seconded and all voted in favor.

REPORT/DISCUSSION/DECISIONS ON INVESTMENTS FOR E.C. AND PRE-NEED WITH SANDRA WHEELER/STIFEL INVESTMENTS:

Via Zoom, Sandra Wheeler of Stifel reviewed the District's investments and market outlook with the Board.

RECESS TO CLOSED SESSION:

Chairperson Candy Talley asked for a closed session. Afterward she instructed that the record show that no action was taken.

DISCUSSION/REPORT IF NEEDED ON OPERATIONS OF M.C.D. CEMETERIES:

Operations Manager Ronnie Ramirez said there was nothing to report at this time.

REPORT/DISCUSSION ON SPECIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 30, 2023:

District Manager Arthur Gardner reviewed the purpose and results of the Special Meeting that was held March 30, 2023. The vote on the resolution to increase Board compensation should have been taken in the Regular Meeting of the Board rather than in the Public Hearing. The Special Meeting was held to correct for that oversight.

REPORT/DISCUSSION ON DISTRICT OFFICE, ARBOR VITAE MAUSOLEUMS, CALVARY & ARBOR VITAE SOLAR, PLOTBOX CEMETERY MAPPING, AND ELECTRIC VEHICLES PROJECTS:

The Board drove the district's new EV utility vehicles to view the progress of construction on the new District office building. Back in the building, District Manager Arthur Gardner said that there's been no progress on the mausoleum. The solar system at Calvary is operational and generating power, but there's been no impact to the utility bills yet. He recently had an online meeting with PlotBox to work out a mapping issue. The electric carts for Arbor Vitae and Oakhill are still in process.

REPORT/DISCUSSION OF DESIGN COMMITTEE TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR FURNISHING OF NEW DISTRICT OFFICE:

District Manager Arthur Gardner would like to get an idea of the desks and furniture the Design Committee (Trustees Lois Betty and Candy Talley) have in mind for the office. Candy Talley suggested he pick some thing and the Design Committee would decide. This is to be revisited in September.

REPORT/DISCUSSION ON ANNEXATION OF LAND IN EASTERN MADERA COUNTY:

District Manager Arthur Gardner said that he and HR Generalist Stephen Cloeters had looked into this further. He read a brief email from David Braun which explained that getting tax revenue from eastern Madera County would require a Prop 218 vote.

REPORT/DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF UPDATED MADERA CEMETERY

DISTRICT BYLAWS:

The Board discussed some of the wording in the proposed Bylaws and asked District Manager to make some changes and place the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

REPORT/DISCUSSION ON CEMETERY SECURITY REPORT:

District Manager Arthur Gardner said that, as an experiment, several employees had been asked to work on Saturdays and Sundays at Calvary Cemetery to observe the goings on and to enforce policy. There was only one case of a defiant person who would not comply with the employees' requests for compliance.

REPORT/DISCUSSION/DECISION ON INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SPIKES AT ARBOR VITAE AND CALVARY CEMETERIES:

A short discussion was held on the pros and cons of installing traffic spikes at the exit gates of Arbor Vitae and Calvary cemeteries. It was decided not to proceed at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:50 p.m.