December 11, 2024

 A regular meeting of the Gridley-Biggs Cemetery District Board of Directors was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairperson Larry Evans. Roll call of the board:

Larry Evans, Chairperson

Joe Hughes, Trustee

Larry Hamman, Trustee

Kurtis Upton, Grounds Superintendent

Angie Cote, District Mgr./Board Secretary

PUBLIC ATTENDEES: David Choate & Matt Squires

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY AGENDA ITEM – OPEN OR CLOSED:

1. David Choate came today to voice his concerns about our outdoor speakers. He recently attended a large funeral service and felt the sound was an issue for many people who could not fit inside of the gazebo. There were maybe 100 people standing around the gazebo that could not hear a word being said inside over the crowd standing outside. He feels like the board should look into additional speakers and is willing to help donate if funding is the issue. Angie Cote responded that she is aware of the issue he’s bringing up, however the past few larger services have been an issue simply because of operational error. Families did not turn up the volume of the speaker because it was too loud for those sitting inside. She will make it a point to be out at the future services held in the gazebo to ensure the speakers are set at the appropriate volume. David felt like that may have been the case, however he would like to see additional speakers added or maybe look into replacing the existing speakers. Larry Evans agreed something should be done and asked Angie & Kurtis to create a plan of action to resolve this matter.
2. Matt Squires introduced himself from Gridley Block Funeral Chapel. Matt has some concerns regarding new policies. He feels the policies are not in the best interests of families. He would like to see some changes to the policy that staff be present during services. He would also like to see more participation from staff. Angie explained there is always staff there for services but also gives families their privacy to say their final goodbyes. Angie also informed him that no new policies have been made, we are simply following the rules and regulations according to how they were implemented. Staff will continue to work with funeral homes and the public to see each burial is completed as safely as possible while allowing families to grieve. Stability of the grounds will also impact this decision. Once the family has left, staff to bring in the heavy equipment needed to complete such burials Staff will allow families to witness the lowering of caskets, however we will not complete the burial until the family has returned to their vehicles and moved them from the graveside. Families will be allowed 1 hour at the graveside or 1 hour in the gazebo but not both. Matt thanked the board for their time.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS:

 A. District Manager’s Monthly Report:

1. Report on grounds – Kurtis has been in contact with Caddyshack regarding the gophers. They will be coming out next week to service the district. North Valley Tree Service will be out next week to cut down the dead tree. We also have a guy working on Community service hours and he seems to be doing a good job.
2. Report on current burial and pre-need burials. See the attached report.
3. Report on road work progress – Speed bumps were installed by Fairbanks paving. They look great and have already slowed down traffic. Larry Evans would like to see us add more speed bumps along Gridley Rd to slow down traffic as they leave the cemetery.
4. Report on Pearl Harbor & Wreaths Across America. The Pearl Harbor bell did not ring this past December 7. It was very sad to see the tradition lost as our local VFW has dissolved and joined with the VFW Oroville chapter. Angie will be reaching out to Oroville to see if the local post would like to take the lead on that for 2025. Wreaths Across America is scheduled for this coming Saturday at 9am sharp! Staff will be working to assist the distribution of the wreaths to our fallen veterans.
5. Sexual Harassment Training and Ethics: Angie will be setting up a web video to play to keep board and staff compliant with trainings. Scheduled for January 15, 2025, at 1pm in the district’s office.
6. BOARD DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:
7. Review of Annual Salary Schedule & Employee Evaluations. After discussing cost of living increases Larry Hamman motioned to increase all employee wages by $1 per hour and adjust the approved wage brackets to be in compliance with minimum wage. Larry Evans 2nd the motion. All ayes, motion passed.
8. Larry Hamman presented a motion for each employee to receive a $200 incentive bonus. Angie will consult with legal counsel to confirm legality. Joe Hughes 2nd the motion. All ayes, motion passed.
9. Larry Evans presented a motion to add more speed bumps along Gridley Rd upon the completion of filling and sealing the asphalt. Joe Hughes 2nd the motion. All ayes motion passed.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

 A. Approval of the November 13, 2024, board meeting minutes and Approval of December 2024 Check Registers: Upon a motion presented by Larry Hamman and 2nd by Joe Hughes, the minutes of the November 13, 2024, meeting were approved as presented and the check register including checks 019871 to 019907 were approved. All ayes, motion passed.

7. TRUSTEES DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS, AND COMMENTS: None

8. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the board, Larry Evans presented a motion to adjourn at 9:37AM; the motion was 2nd by Joe Hughes; all ayes, motion passed. The date of the next board meeting is set for Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Larry Evans, Board Chair Angie Coté, Dist. Mgr./Board Secretary