

Minutes of March 10, 2009
Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Association Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies by: Gary Laweryson (Pledge Allegiance to Our Flag)

Call to Order and Roll Call of Members: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll Call was taken as follows: **Present** –Gary Laweryson, Glenda Knowlan, Arthur Roy, Mike Clark, David Richmond, Kelley Wynne, Marvin Woodbury, Charles Bennett, Peter Ogden, and Mike Murphy.

Excused –, Kenny Ware, General Libby, William Henshaw **Unexcused Absence** –

Minutes September 2008: *Motion made, seconded and passed to accept minutes of December 2008 meeting.*

Treasurer's Report: Mike Clark

Mike Clark handed out and reviewed the Annual and Quarterly Report.

Motion made, accepted and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report

Mike informed members that a perpetual care account has been started and has a beginning balance of \$200.

Comments - General Libby:

Superintendent's Report: Dave Richmond

Project updates:

- 1. Headstone lifting project at Civic Center Drive:** This project will be put out to bid again this year.
The intent is to lift 850 stone a year until they are all complete. There will be very few other projects done this year.
- 2. Repairs to the Carillon at Civic Center Drive:** The Carillon has been repaired for considerably less than expected. Presently, there will be no need to look for an alternate plan and pricing.

Springvale Cemetery: Springvale is still in progress and they will be working throughout the winter.

The VA is in the process of approving a grant for a committal shelter and Dave is hoping for approval for niche walls in the future.

Dave informed members that the Granite wall directory will need engraving again this year and presented them with the quote from Collette Monument which includes both cemeteries. The invoice will be sent to the treasurer upon completion.

Bureau Director: Peter Ogden

Peter informed member that there are 2 bills going before Legislature on March 20th. One is proposing that a portion of funds raised from the slot machines be given to the cemetery and the other addresses the perpetual care of the cemeteries. Peter would like every one to attend and give their support.

He also would like the Legislature to consider approving the setup of a perpetual care account for the future that would be funded by a portion of the plot allowance.

Peter stated that he wants to set up another working group to discuss ways to handle perpetual care for the future. With four cemeteries on line it is going to be a difficult task to operate them financially.

With Springvale coming on line cuts will need to be made to the Augusta cemeteries. This may include taking half of a full time groundskeeper position from Augusta and eliminating full-sized reservation fills during the winter months at one or both cemeteries. Business practices need changing in order to operate all of the cemeteries.

Peter asked for opinions from members for a picture that would go on a medallion he wishes to have produced and suggested that the Association may be interested in selling them to raise funds.

Chairman: Gary Laweryson

Gary stated that even though donations are not coming in we will keep on trying.

Fund Raising: Marvin Woodbury

Marvin has approached several individuals for donations for the Battle Cross Monument with no results. He is still waiting return calls from a few.

Vice Chairman's Report: Kenny Ware

New Business:

Audit Committee: The Audit Committee met and reviewed the books

Unfinished Business:

Fund raising for the Battle Cross Monument is on going.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held June 9, 2009 at 9 a.m. at the VFW Hall on the Leighton Road