

WELTON CEMETERY
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
11:00AM

Ms. Arleen Richardson called the meeting to order at 11:05AM

Roll Call: Mrs. Sally Erickson, Mr. David Green, Ms. Arleen Richardson

Recognition of Visitors: Mrs. Lynn Arnold, Mr. Charles Boehnlein, Mr. Rick Smigelski

Ms. Richardson would like to discuss the Rules & Regulations for the cemetery. Ms. Richardson would like to add verbiage regarding Military Veterans and plaques. Mr. Boehnlein stated through the Department of Defense, or the V.A. that every honorably discharged Veteran that passes away is eligible for a plaque. It was determined that no verbiage regarding the military plaques need to be added to the Rules & Regulations. Mr. Boehnlein stated the cemetery as well as the Legion Hall should be notified ASAP if the deceased is a veteran, and their discharge paperwork submitted to village hall. There was an incident involving a deceased male who had fake DD214 papers and it turned out he never served a day in the Military.

Mr. Smigelski stated the cemetery garbage cans looked extremely worn. The Village Street Department poured six (6) concrete pads, three (3) per side. The Go Green Grant was applied for by Mr. Smigelski and was awarded to the village with stipulations. Funding must be used on 100% recycled plastic products. A company was located that supplies 100% recycled products such as garbage cans. The cemetery will have six 45-gallon trash cans which will be placed on the concrete pads. Ms. Richardson is interested in the black-colored garbage cans which Mrs. Erickson and Mr. Green have agreed to. Mr. Smigelski mentioned gravel was brought to the parking area, which is near the Veteran's Memorial, chip-n-seal will be embedded on the driveway, along with a fog sealant to keep the rocks from shifting.

Mrs. Erickson would like to see benches in the cemetery for the elderly. Mr. Smigelski inquired if the Board would like to postpone purchasing the benches until next year. He would like to apply for the Go Green Grant again in 2027 and hopefully have two (2) benches paid for. Ms. Richardson, Mrs. Erickson and Mr. Green have agreed to wait for benches until the Spring of 2027 to apply for the Go Green Grant by the Village of Burton Street Department.

Ms. Richardson would like to revisit the Rules & Regulations with the Board. Mr. Green has agreed to review the Rules & Regs and make necessary changes. Mrs. Erickson made a motion to schedule a separate meeting seconded by Ms. Richardson to discuss any changes to the Rules & Regulations.

Ms. Richardson has moved onto the 2025 year-end report for the cemetery. Mr. Boehnlein suggested that the financials should be listed in the report as well to compare to years past.

Mrs. Erickson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 29, 2025, seconded by Ms. Richardson. All in Favor? AYE! By voice vote motion passed.

Mr. Richardson mentioned the quotes from Mr. Jim Szuszkiewicz who pours the foundations for the cemetery and Mr. Owen Gingerich who digs for the burials. Ms. Erickson would like estimates from other companies concerning the foundations as well as the burial costs. Mrs. Arnold has agreed to obtain outside quotes for the next meeting to compare prices. Mrs. Erickson made a motion to obtain outside quotes from other contractors to compare pricing for burials and foundations seconded by Ms. Richardson. All in favor? AYE! By voice vote motion passed.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the “sell back” of the plot purchased by Ken Stewart in the amount of \$400.00 which was the original price, seconded by Mrs. Erickson. All in Favor? AYE! By voice vote motion passed.

Ms. Richardson mentioned the correspondence from Mr. & Mrs. Fath regarding a plot they no longer need. The note mentioned: if they could transfer the deed(s) to new owners or if the Village of Burton would like to purchase the plot back. After discussion, the board feels it would be an easier solution to have the resident “transfer” the deed to a family member. Mr. Green mentioned the Village of Burton will need a copy of the transferred deed IF she decides to sell the plot privately. Mrs. Arnold agreed and will call Mr. Fath to explain the decision and what will be required.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to record all “transfers of sales” to second parties, and for the owners of said plots the ability to sell and/or transfer a deed to another party of their choice seconded by Mrs. Erickson. All in Favor? AYE! By voice vote motion passed.

Ms. Richardson & Mrs. Erickson have shared a copy of an article she saw in the Maple leaf regarding “Cemetery Data going digital”. Mrs. Erickson would like to discuss this computer program offered by Geauga County once the Welton Cemetery Map has been completed. Mrs. Arnold stated she will call Geauga County and investigate setting up a presentation for the Board regarding the digital data other cemeteries are using.

March 3rd, 2026, at 11:00 will be the Rules & Regulations meeting.

April 14th, 2026, at 11:00 will be the “Maps” meeting.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Green.

All in Favor? AYE! By voice vote motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:36pm.