

**DISTRICT OF BARRIERE**  
**MINUTES OF A CEMETERY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held on January 25, 2011  
In the Council Chambers at Municipal Hall  
4936 Barriere Town Road,  
Barriere, BC

- Members: Councillor Pat Paula - Chair  
Councillor Virginia Smith  
Lorraine Thorn  
Bonnie Cruzelle-Myram  
Leanne Hamblin  
Brent Hamblin
- Advisor: Drake Smith -entered as indicated
- Regrets: Colleen Hannigan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Father Donal O'Reilly
- Staff: Nora Johnson, Financial Officer  
Lynn Wright, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Ms. Cruzelle-Myram  
Seconded by Councillor Smith  
THAT the January 25, 2011 Cemetery Committee Agenda be approved.

CARRIED

**2. FEES – COST COMPARISONS**

Ms. Johnson reviewed the comparison chart with fees from other cemeteries. It was established that Barriere only charges citizens what the District is charged by the contractor for open/close of grave site. Discussion regarding raising the present fee for open/close or creating another category for aftercare such as reseeding, leveling of the site and marking of the grave may be needed.

Moved by Ms. Cruzelle-Myram  
Seconded by Councillor Smith  
THAT the Open/Close fee for full burials be increased by \$100.

CARRIED

Ms. Cruzelle-Myram questioned the use of the TNRD share of the funding (\$13,000) and was informed that it is put into a revenue account for the Cemetery and helps pay for maintenance such as reseeding and wages.

Mr. Drake Smith entered the meeting

### 3. STAFF REPORT – WINTER CREMATION REMAINS BURIAL

The Committee was informed that Clearwater allows winter burials. Their staff uses a special saw to cut the frozen earth. Upon speaking to their CAO Isabelle Hadford, she indicated that the community she came from opened a number of spaces to use in the winter months and if necessary moved the ashes in the spring. Cache Creek does not allow winter burials. Both Chase and Ashcroft allow winter burials and use a torch to heat the ground. Logan Lake also allows winter burials and they have a hydro-vac truck that they use.

Moved by Councillor Smith  
Seconded by Ms. Cruzelle-Myram  
THAT the information be accepted.

CARRIED

Councillor Smith expressed the need to investigate further the cost and feasibility of facilitating winter cremation burials.  
Ms. Cruzelle-Myram voiced her opinion that Barriere needs to provide this winter service. Staff will research further.

Mr. Smith noted that in Clearwater, their staff would open a cremation plot before the service, and Mr. Smith would close after the service to help save the family some money. Councillor Paula questioned whether other funeral service providers would be willing to do so as well.

Ms. Johnson pointed out that finishing is not an issue for winter, as reseeding and cleaning up the site would not be done until spring. Liability issues were raised regarding cremation plots being left open in the Cemetery overnight.

Mr. Hamblin would like to see winter services provided equally for cremation and full burials. He suggested the fee reflect a portion of the extra winter cost so that a separate winter fee is not needed.

Councillor Smith suggested an extra \$15.00 be added to the open/close cremation fee to accommodate the winter cost.

Mr. Smith commented that it is common for Kamloops to cover their cremation plots with plywood overnight.

He suggested contracting someone to open and close cremation plots for the winter while Parks personnel are off.

Moved by Councillor Smith

Seconded by Ms. Thorn

THAT staff research the costs of winter cremation burials.

CARRIED

#### 4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Hamblin reported on the possibility of using a ground penetrating radar system to assure the accuracy of the Cemetery map. The purchase price was prohibitive, but the possibility of rental or lease was discussed. The soil make-up would be conducive to using this technology. The machine would be able to survey approximately 100 graves per day and no special operator would be needed.

Ms. Johnson suggested the cemetery may have already been surveyed along with the parks and will research this further.

Councillor Smith reported on the possibility of a Columbarium for Barriere. In Clearwater their final cost was \$27,000. for a unit with 124 niches. Clearwater did not find any grants available for this capital expense.

Ms. Johnson researched the scattering of ashes at the Kamloops Cemeteries and reported to the Committee that there is an Ash Garden containing an ossuary to receive all ashes. Mr. Smith pointed out that it is legal to scatter ashes anywhere, with permission on private land. It was decided to table the Ash Garden until the District receives requests for such.

Questions regarding the formation of the 2011 Cemetery budget showed that in the minutes from the November 9, 2010 meeting the quote from "2. Draft Terms" was:

**"The Committee will be advisory in nature and report directly to Council for administrative and budget matters and to the Parks Committee for maintenance matters."**

5. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Smith  
Seconded by Ms. Cruzelle-Myram  
THAT the meeting adjourn at 4:05 pm

CARRIED

Original Signed by,  
Councillor Paula, Chair

Original Signed by,  
Nora Johnson, Finance Officer