

**Charter Township of Canton
Board Proceedings – January 29, 2019**

A regular study session meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor Williams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Members Present: Anthony, Foster, Graham-Hudak, Siegrist, Slavens, Sneiderman, Williams
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Director Hohenberger, Community Planner - Goulet ,Public Works
Manager – Belair, Facilities Supervisor - Gregg King

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Siegrist, supported by Sneiderman to amend the agenda by removing the possible Board Action and Topic #2. Motion carried unanimously.

STUDY SESSION:

**TOPIC 1: Canton Township Cemeteries. (DPW)
Presenter: Public Works Manager – Bob Belair**

Belair presented a PowerPoint to the board regarding cemeteries in the township.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available through the Clerk’s office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours, or by contacting the Secretary to the Clerk at 734-394-5120.
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Of the five cemeteries in the township, three are municipally owned. Knollwood and Cherry Hill Cemeteries are privately owned.

Maintenance of the cemeteries is contracted by Parks Division to independent contractors. This is funded through the General Fund and costs approximately \$5000 annually. Our DPW handles burials with costs ranging from \$1200 to \$2250. However cremation boxes are only \$285. Belair outlined the process for handling burials.

In 2017 Mannik & Smith performed a detailed survey of Kinyon and Sheldon Cemeteries. All data has been entered into the GIS data base and all records were scanned and entered into the Content Management System. Treasurer Slavens asked where the records are located now. Belair stated all records are now stored at the DPW.

Belair outlined options available to the board for the future of the three township owned cemeteries.

Trustee Graham-Hudak asked if we have all the documentation on ownership of every plot. Belair explained how an ordinance might address ownership. Belair has had inquiries in the past regarding purchasing plots in township cemeteries. The policy has been that our cemeteries are closed, however there is no written policy. Belair outlined options for making plots available to the public.

Clerk Siegrist asked if the township has any concerns regarding the historic value of the cemeteries. Gregg King explained the cemeteries are not covered by the Historic District Commission however there would be a great deal of concern regarding work being done in the cemeteries. Markers may have been moved or stolen, so we are not absolutely positive about “vacancies” within our cemeteries. Historically, cemeteries would have had separate areas for babies, “potter’s field” type of plots, possibly veteran’s areas, etc. Historically, cremations would not have been considered. Garden areas were not part of original designs.

Supervisor Williams requested Belair layout a business case for sale of some open areas in Kinyon Cemetery. Including sub-surface inspections to ensure we are not disturbing any existing unmarked graves. Also, he would like RBA’s to be prepared to close out the other two cemeteries.

Trustee Foster asked if Belair expected the property maintenance costs to remain the same. Belair replied yes.

Clerk Siegrist asked if the Historical Society has been consulted regarding these potential changes in the handling of the cemeteries. King stated he will present this to the Historic District Commission and the Historical Society.

TOPCI 2: Roads Update. (Eng.) – Removed by amendment to the agenda.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OTHER: None

ADJOURN: Motion by Anthony, supported by Sneideman to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael A. Siegrist, Clerk

Pat Williams, Supervisor