

**BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS
COUNCIL ROOM, CITY HALL
106 W. DIVISION STREET
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners met in City Hall, Chair Clough presiding. On roll call: Council Members Daniel Clough and Rolly Gelhaus, Lori Pekol and City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Winder present. Mandy Krejci absent.

Also present: Cemetery Sexton Regan Barth.

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared approved.

Sexton Barth reported on normal maintenance of Cemetery grounds – lawnmowing, weed whacking, plowing snow, grave care, watering flowers, straightening headstones, trapping and poisoning moles. Fall cleanup is October 1st so they will be able to clean up a little closer to the headstones once the decorations are removed.

Sexton Barth reported that the City has received a bench donation request from a family member of his for a memorial bench for his cousin, Mason Barth. The family is providing their own bench out of granite but would like to place it in the Cemetery near the flagpole where there is already one bench. Sexton Barth stated that it would be a good place for it as it would be near where the Columbarium is set to be placed and this way there would be two benches for people to sit on near it.

Motion Gelhaus, second Pekol, to approve the bench donation request to place a memorial bench near the flagpole in the Cemetery. All Aye.

Sexton Barth reported on updates with the Columbarium. Niche sizes have been picked out and the cost for the Columbarium has been finalized. Sexton Barth stated that the Columbarium itself will cost \$43,466.00 to install, the crane needed to lift it off the truck and set it in place is \$1,400.00 and the concrete needed for the base of the Columbarium and to install pathways is estimated between \$5,000-\$6,000 depending on how the pathways are designed but will be finalized with invoice.

Discussion followed.

Motion Gelhaus, second Pekol, to approve and recommend to the Common Council to authorize the installation of the concrete base and pathways now with the cost estimated between \$5,000-\$6,000 but finalized with invoice and the crane to be used in the Spring. All Aye.

Motion Pekol, second Rolly, to approve and recommend to the Common Council to authorize a 33% down payment to start work on the Columbarium as presented. All Aye.

Sexton Barth presented his 2027 Cemetery Budget. Barth stated that everything was kept at the same amounts as last year's budget with the exception of the wages which reflect a 2.5% wage increase and now include the benefits that have been split between the various City departments

and the Cemetery's portion of the price for a new lawnmower. Barth stated that every 3 years they trade in an old mower towards the purchase of a new mower and this time he included a grass flap to keep the grass clippings from being blown on the headstones.

Motion Pekol, second Gelhaus, to recommend the proposed 2027 Cemetery Budget to the Finance Committee. All Aye.

Sexton Barth presented an application form for the Transfer and Reconveyance of Graves from Martha Appleyard of Grave 2, Lot 44, Division AA, E ½ , Map of 1969 to return the grave to the City of Neillsville at the original purchase price of \$500.00.

Motion Pekol, second Gelhaus, to recommend to the Common Council to allow the transfer and reconveyance from Martha Appleyard of Grave 2, Lot 44, Division AA, E ½ , Map of 1969 to return the grave to the City of Neillsville at the original purchase price of \$500.00. All Aye.

Motion Gelhaus, second Pekol, to adjourn. All Aye.

Daniel Clough, Chair

Debbie Winder, Clerk-Treasurer