

Goshen Cemeteries Board of Trustees

Chairman: Colin Yoder
Vice Chairman: Peter Weddell
Secretary: Michelle Kercher
Member: Jim McKee

Meeting Agenda

March 6, 2025

- Approve Dec. 5 minutes
- Clerk-Treasurer's Report
- Old business
 - Update on Indiana Trust information
- New business
 - 2024 burial numbers
 - Property updates
 - Theresa Sailor on Oakridge Cemetery
 - New member – any applicants?

Upcoming meetings

June 5, 2025

September 4, 2025

December 4, 2025

Goshen Cemeteries Board of Trustees

December 5, 2024

Members present: Colin Yoder, Jim McKee, Michelle Kercher, Pete Weddell,
Burt Matteson, Jeffrey Weaver, Erin Fowler, Mayor Gina Leichy
Absent: Doug Nisley

The meeting was called to order by Colin at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes of June 6, 2024 - Jim McKee motioned to approve and seconded by Pete Weddell. Approved.

Clerk Treasurer's Report:

- Migrating finances over to new software.
- The report reads 12/31/2024 but Jeffrey said there are some things to do before the end of year.
 - Some transfers from different line items may move around.
- General funds have 9% remaining due to payroll still to be paid.
- Additional expenses – Big Purchases
 - \$105,000 for Excavator, 2 trailers, mower, stump grinder

New Business

- From the Mayor
 - The State wants all public meetings open to the public.
 - Meetings will now be held in Council Chambers to livestream.
 - Commend Burt for helping family about the grave site damage.
- Personnel Changes
 - John Fowler is no longer with the city in the Assistant Director Position.
 - Last Day was 10/29/2024
 - The position has changed from Assistant Director to Cemetery Manager.
 - The pay rate is about the same.
 - A new candidate for this position has accepted the offer.
 - Cathrynne “Cadi” Swartzentruber will begin job December 9, 2024, and will begin orienting as Cemetery Manager. Cadi has worked for us previously through grounds season.
- 2025 Budget was approved by City Council.

Old Business

Options for Placement of Funds

- Endowment funds
 - Revenues are earned through interest, openings/closings
 - Total \$396, 265.19
 - Colin thinks we will move the Cemetery Permanent Fund
 - Jeffrey asked about **Indiana Trust**
 - The state has vetted everything
 - Interest is about the same as the banks
 - Might be worth looking at
 - Record of being continuously stable
 - 12-year CD but then goes back to liquidity, not sure CDs are an option anymore
 - Jeffrey will get website and contact information to Colin.
 - Community Foundation of Elkhart County
 - Involving more legal stuff
 - Will they match the funds we put in like donations?

- Less flexible
- Make donations from General Fund to Endowments
- Jeffrey talked to the Legal Dept; they could not find an ordinance.

Burt Report:

- Grounds Crew
 - Most of Part Time. Temporary staff have departed for year. A couple have a few days of work left.
- Assistant Director/Cemetery Manager – see information above under personnel changes.
- Equipment
 - Stump Grinder which mounts on our new compact excavator.
 - Money left over from excavator purchase was used.
 - It should last a long time.
- Budget 2025
 - With the approval of the 2025 Budget, several proposed projects will be moving forward.
 - The fourth columbaria planned for Violett Cemetery Garden.
 - Several updates to the West Goshen building include updates to office and restroom, new LED lighting, repairs to garage doors and new gutter guards.
 - Replacement fencing for the backyard compound at Oakridge.
 - Grass pavers for the service drives around south part of West Goshen 3rd addition.
 - A new signage package for all the cemeteries
 - Mark historic and unique elements at Oakridge
 - All cemeteries will have matching signs
 - Maps are a possibility at the entrance of each cemetery
 - In addition, replace 2 of the Grasshopper mowers.

Motion to Adjourn – Pete Weddell motioned, and Jim McKee seconded to adjourn. Adjourned at 2:55.

Upcoming Meetings for 2025:

March 6

June 5

September 4

December 4