

## **The North Kern Cemetery District Minutes of Regular Meeting held August 08, 2024**

The North Kern Cemetery Board meeting was held at 627 Austin St., Delano, CA., at 4:15 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Mendoza, Present were, Jose Hernandez, Pearl Rivera, George Chase, Susana Valenzuela, and Connie Sandoval, Absent Jorge Jaime Jr, Manager

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**Audience:** Fernando Bravo, Alicia Santiago, Jorge Davila, and Xochitl Tabian

**Public Comment:**

Alicia Santiago asked when will Caltrans take down the gates on Garces Highway it is getting closer to October, if district can find out if Caltrans will clean and if the public will be able to park there as well.

Jorge Davila commented that the City of Delano is responsible and in charge of cleaning Garces Highway.

**OPEN SESSION:**

**Approve Transfer of Revenue July 2024 to the County Treasurer for \$132,895.49.** Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Jose Hernandez. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve July 2024 Bill List in amount of \$93,056.97.** Motion made by Jose Hernandez and seconded by Susana Valenzuela to accept bill list. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve Financial Report for July 2024.**

July 2024 financial report tabled for next month's agenda.

**Approve Profit and Loss Report for July 2024.** Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Jose Hernandez to approve the profit and loss report. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve July 11, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.**

Motion made by Jose Hernandez and seconded by Pearl Rivera to approve Board Minutes for July 11, 2024, with date correction to Board agenda. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve July 18, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.** Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Pearl Rivera to approve Board Minutes for July 18, 2024, master planning meeting. Motion passed. No Nays.

## **Regular Agenda:**

### **Sally Medrano / Wreaths Across America**

Sally Medrano updates the Board via teleconference. Wreaths across America event is on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at North Kern Cemetery District. There had been a delay due to Sally getting diagnosed with Valley Fever. So far, Sally has met with the coordinator from the Bakersfield National Cemetery who will assist and guide her. In two weeks, she will attend her first planning meeting. The Wreath Across America has Facebook, Instagram, and website page. On the website you can see the progress, so far sixty-six wreaths have been sponsored and two organizations donated \$500.00. Sally has reached out to news anchor Ruby Rivera and asks the Board if they will approve for Ruby Rivera to come out to the cemetery to advertise the event. Pearl asked what if someone wanted to purchase a wreath. Sally clarified to the Board that the public is sponsoring a wreath they are not purchasing. They can search for Wreaths Across America, search North Kern Cemetery District, click on the link and they have the option to sponsor 1 or 2 wreaths. They also have the option of sponsoring a wreath and getting one delivered to their home. The other option that they have is that they can request to lay the wreath on their loved ones' grave. The wreaths cost \$17.00, and the public can order as many as they would like. Sally will research QR code and flyer to post in the office. Sally states the Lions Club of McFarland has reached out and they will provide donuts and coffee. Also, Delano Hometown Heroes are volunteering.

### **Delinquent Accounts**

Executive Assistant presented the Board two accounts that are delinquent for non-payment. Motion was made by George Chase and seconded by Susana Valenzuela to follow the same procedure and terminate the current delinquent accounts for Isabel A. Campos Romero and Lisa Cuevas Martinez & Sonia Cuevas if account is not made current by August 15, 2024. All payments shall be forfeited to North Kern Cemetery District. Motion passed. No Nays.

## **REPORTS**

Manager's/Trustee's Reports: Burials: July Casketed: 23 Cremations: 4 Infants: 0 Monthly Total: 27

YTD: 180 YTD Casketed: 148 YTD Cremations: 29 Infant YTD: 3 Disinterment YTD: 0

The Board was informed disposition for the lawsuit was cancelled by the plaintiff. Also, the Board was informed the Delano Police Department was called out due to a family threatening the employees. It all started about 3 weeks ago when a man came into the office asking for burial prices. He became angry and left the office upset when he was told that Bakersfield was not part of the district and there is a fee for non-residents. Yesterday, that same man and seven of his family members, came into the office to plan arrangements for their loved one who passed away. The family was taken out to select a plot for the burial by Davila. After selecting a plot, they were given the total amount due for the burial, the man became really upset. Davila attempted to calm him and his family and explain to them the rules for non-resident families. The man became aggressive threatening and cussing at Davila. One of the family members stated to the secretaries that his family members outside would likely call other people to come to the office,

at that point the 911 call was made. The officers responded quickly, and they assisted the family in finalizing the paperwork that needed to be signed by the next of kin. The funeral home had scheduled the service and provided a Delano address knowing the deceased resided in Bakersfield. Andrew suggests in the future asking the mortuary for a working copy of the death certificate it will provide the deceased's current address. Andrew Mendoza requests for the District Manager to download recording of the 911 call and archive the recording. The supervisor Jorge Davila suggests that body cameras could be helpful when the employees are addressing complaints or having security during business hours. The employees involved filed an incident report with the Delano Police Department. Also, in another incident the Delano Police Department was called out because a man was drinking on cemetery grounds during a service, by the time the officer responded the man did not have any beer. Davila was told by the officer that he can only cite an individual if they are seen drinking. Jose Hernandez states the cemetery grounds need a security guard during business hours as a trial bases. The Board requests for the District Manger to get prices on security for next month's agenda. The Board suggests, due to safety issues, keeping the office door locked and only allowing three people in the office at a time. The Board would like to revisit the office policy on next month's agenda. Also, the Board would like to invite the Chief of Police to next month's meeting to inform him about the incidents that have occurred.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Jose Hernandez and seconded by George Chase that meeting be closed at 5:22 p.m. Motion passed. No Nays.

Minutes recorded by Connie Sandoval, Executive Assistant