

# **The North Kern Cemetery District**

## **Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 08, 2026**

The North Kern Cemetery Board meeting was held at 627 Austin St., Delano, CA., at 4:24 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Andrew Mendoza, Present were Pearl Rivera, George Chase, Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye, Jorge Jaime Jr, Manager, and Connie Sandoval. Absent Alicia Santiago

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**Audience:** No audience.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

### **OPEN SESSION:**

**Approve Transfer of Revenue December 2025 to the County Treasurer for \$76,152.53.**

Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve the December 2025 Bill List in the amount of \$57,061.70.**

Motion made by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye and seconded by Pearl Rivera to accept the bill list. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve Financial Report for September 2025.**

The District Manager notified the board that the county was on winter break for two weeks and returned to work on January 2, 2026. There has been no further update. The board tabled the September 2025 financial report.

**Approve Financial Report October 2025.**

The board tabled the October 2025 financial report.

**Approve Financial Report November 2025.**

The board tabled the November 2025 financial report.

**Approve Financial Report for December 2025.**

The board tabled the December 2025 financial report.

**Approve Profit and Loss Report for December 2025.**

Motion made by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye and seconded by George Chase to approve the profit and loss report. Motion passed. No nays.

**Approve December 11, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.**

Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Pearl Rivera to approve the board meeting minutes for December 11, 2025. Motion passed. No nays.

## **Regular Agenda**

### **Price for Affidavits**

The District Manager notified the board that the district does not charge families for affidavits. Affidavits are needed to bury cremations in existing graves. It's taking time away from the secretaries to get the information and type the affidavit for the families not to return. The District Manager showed the board a thick folder containing affidavits made for families who did not return. Andrew suggests charging a \$30.00 flat fee, then any additional page is \$2.00, mimicking the county.

Roll call vote to charge \$30.00 for affidavits and \$1.00 for each additional page:

Pearl Rivera Aye

Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye Aye

George Chase Aye

Andrew Mendoza Aye

Motion passed. Unanimously. Effective immediately.

### **Price Change for West Side Columbarium**

The District Manager presented the board with an updated price list for the West Side Columbarium. It was noted that there were no opening and closing fees for the West Side niches. This is being addressed today. The price change adds a \$500.00 opening and closing fee for the West Side niches. It also adds a \$500.00 opening and closing fee for the 2nd urn. George Chase suggests rounding the 2nd urn fee to \$800.00. The District Manager will update. Motion made by Pearl Rivera and seconded by George Chase to update the West Side Columbarium price list. Motion passed. No Nays.

## **REPORTS**

Manager's/Trustee's Reports: Burials: December Casketed: 15 Cremations: 5 Infants: 0

Disinterment: 0 Monthly Total: 20

YTD: 367 YTD Casketed: 261 YTD Cremations: 98 Infant YTD: 7 Disinterment YTD: 367

The District Manager reports to the board that it is getting back to normal, and his vacation was great. There was a leak at the rental house. The leak was underneath the house, and apparently, rats chewed it out. J's plumbing was called out, and they fixed the issue. Now the tenant claims there is lots of humidity inside the house. The tenant showed the District Manager pictures of mildew built up in the closet. The tenant is asking for a dehumidifier to catch the humidity. He did some research and found one for \$260 and an industrial for \$799. The tenant does have a small one, but she is requesting a bigger one. The District Manager asks the board if they should be responsible for purchasing one. Is the district responsible for mildew? The plumber states that there is a lot of mildew built up. The District Manager states it is a health concern, and we are doing our due diligence by purchasing the dehumidifier. George Chase suggests purchasing the \$300.00 dehumidifier, but the district should get the machine back. The District Manager reports to the board that the second canopy will be installed by tomorrow morning. Andrew Mendoza states that the former mayor of McFarland complained to him that there were no greens set up for his family's funeral service at the cemetery. The family did not like the dirt mound. Andrew

explained to him that, weather permitting, the greens will be set up. The District Manager also reports that Trinidad, instead of calling the office, emailed him to complain about a cave-in. She wanted documentation. She does not understand that it is a process. Davila took care of it, but she didn't give the manager a chance to respond by email. She called the office and left a message, and Davila spoke with her regarding the issue. George Chase states he did not know the office would be closed the day after New Year's. The District Manager notified the board that most of the staff were pre-calling in for that day, and in lieu of the Wreaths Across America event, the staff did not charge for overtime to take the day after New Year's off.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Susana Valenauela-Ajiboye to go into closed session at 5:03 p.m. Motion passed. No Nays.

### **CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Government Code Section 54957: PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION District Manager Evaluation Review.**

### **OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session to report that the District Manager has been granted a salary raise of \$52.28 per hour, retroactive from December 1, 2025, to present. Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye to return to open session at 5:10 p.m. Motion passed. No Nays.

George Chase reports that he is retiring from the district board, and his final meeting with the board will be next month.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by George Chase and seconded by Susana Valenzuela-Ajiboye that the meeting be closed at 5:22 p.m. Motion passed. No Nays.

Minutes recorded by Connie Sandoval, Executive Assistant