HATCH CEMETERY MEETING

June 22,2026

Cemetery Board Present: Mason Lefevre, Russ Torgersen, Nikki Dinges, Betty Kabonic & Kerry Barney
Staff Present: Carly Burrows
Public Present:

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting began at 7:06pm with Kerry Barney offering an opening prayer and leading in the pledge of allegiance.

2. Petitions, Remonstrations and Communications

2.1 April Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved by Russ Torgerson and second by Betty Kabonic, the vote was unanimous.

2.2 Financials

The board reviewed the current financial statements and confirmed that the cemetery is in a positive financial position, with credits and balances reflecting a mix of cash, liabilities, and equity. They noted that the budget appears skewed due to the upfront purchase of the backhoe but expect this to balance out as additional tax revenues are received. A tax meeting to approve the cemetery tax rates was scheduled for November 16, and the board acknowledged that any tax-rate increase for the next year would need to be initiated before September 1, 2026. It was also noted that tax revenues are being deposited into the Zions Bank account, with the option to transfer funds into the PTIF if desired. Following discussion, the board voted to approve the financial statements as presented.

2.3 Prairie Dog Update

Kerry Barney reported that prairie dog control work is ongoing at the cemetery. Holes have been filled several times, some animals have been trapped, and Jake with DWR is following required non-lethal steps before any stronger measures can be considered. Prairie dogs remain active in the area, but Jake with DWR has been in regular contact and will continue efforts.

2.4 Skidmore Plot

The board discussed Dennis Skidmore's request to bury the cremated remains of his friend (James) near Dennis's plot. They confirmed that, consistent with current rules, all burials—including cremations—must be placed in a cement vault, typically about 2' x 2' x 2', and that a 2-foot-deep hole is standard for cremation vaults. They reviewed the map and records to verify which Skidmore plot is vacant and confirmed the location matches the new cemetery map and receipts. The board agreed Dennis may dig the hole himself if he wishes, with board members available to help mark/locate the spot and supervise as needed, and they discussed that if staff must assist or use town equipment, a fee (possibly about half the normal cremation opening/closing fee) may apply, while a self-dug hole with minimal involvement may not be charged. They also tied this into a broader discussion of fees and rules about one casket or up to two cremations per plot, use of cement vaults, and how headstones/monuments can cover one or two adjacent plots.

2.5 Fee Schedule Review and Update

The board reviewed the cemetery fee schedule and agreed to keep all current fees in place ($250/$500 plot prices; $250 casket and $150 cremation opening/closing), with a correction to the misplaced decimal in the grave-reopening fee. They discussed allowing a reduced fee (about half the normal cremation fee) when a family digs a cremation hole themselves, while the full fee would apply when town equipment or staff are used. Related rules will be clarified in writing to confirm one casket or up to two cremations per plot, a cement vault required for all burials, and one monument per plot. Kerry Barney motioned to approve the changes Betty Kabonic 2nd it, the vote was unanimous.

2.6 Public Comment

During public comment, members discussed ongoing water supply and irrigation problems affecting the cemetery (and the town park). It was reported that when residents use the irrigation system in town, there is often insufficient pressure to get water up to the cemetery, resulting in dry conditions despite attempts to run water at night. They noted the irrigation company has cut deliveries to about 60%, is considering odd/even watering schedules, and may dedicate one irrigation day specifically to the cemetery.
There was discussion about whether to switch the park to culinary water to reduce demand on the irrigation system, and whether it is worthwhile to evaluate and possibly clean or improve the cemetery well, which is older and relatively shallow. The board agreed to contact a well professional (Rick Miller) for an opinion on the cemetery well and to report back with recommendations. They also acknowledged that if the water situation cannot be improved, some form of reduced-water landscaping/zero-scaping at the cemetery may eventually be necessary.

3. Adjournment

Russ Torgerson motioned to adjourn, Mayor Barney 2nd the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm