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**Date:** March 11, 2019

**To:** Mayor and Council

**Author:** Roberta Baines, Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services

**RE:** Graceland Cemetery – Bulk Purchase Request

**Report No.:** CS-2019-03

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## **AIM**

To provide Council with information to consider the proposal made by the Old Colony Mennonite Church (the 'Church') to purchase 40 graves at the Graceland Cemetery, located at Olinda Sideroad, Kingsville.

## **BACKGROUND**

Mr. Henry Kroeker from the Church, approached Administration on January 14, 2019, to seek approval to purchase 40 full burial graves from Section 9, Blocks C and D and Section 10 Blocks C and D at Graceland Cemetery (see Appendix 'A') at a price of \$24,000 (\$600 per grave), plus H.S.T. Attached is the letter received from the Church dated January 14, 2019 (Appendix 'B').

Mr. Kroeker previously approached the Town to purchase bulk cemetery graves and received Council's approval. In February 2016, The Church purchased 47 full burial graves for \$600 each, plus H.S.T. from the Town. It also purchased 48 full burial graves for \$150 each from the Town in December 1994. The majority of these graves from the 1994 bulk purchase have been used: only four graves remaining. As shown in Appendix A, the Church purchases have been confined to a specific area of the cemetery.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Town of Kingsville currently has eight active cemeteries offering over 4,700 full burial graves. Of that, Graceland Cemetery alone has 1,224 full burial graves available for sale now and in the past 3 years (2016 – 2018) sold 75 graves (excluding the 47 graves purchased in 2016 by the Old Colony Mennonite Church).

The Corporate Services Department is responsible for the administration of burials, interments, vital statistics reporting and the sale and purchase of cemetery graves, annual cemetery license reports, all in accordance with Provincial legislation and Town of Kingsville By-laws.

By-law 120-2018 establishes rules and regulations to be used in connection with all cemeteries owned and operated by the Town of Kingsville and was approved on February 11, 2019. The by-law contains the regulations and contracts for interment and disinterment, markers and monuments, general care and maintenance of the cemeteries, lots and plots.

The current Town's Fees and Charges By-law sets out the price for the sale of cemetery graves at \$750.00 (\$450.00 interment rights, plus \$300.00 for care and maintenance). As noted above, the Church is seeking to purchase 40 graves at a cost of \$600.00 per grave, plus H.S.T., from the Town. This is a savings of \$150.00 per grave, for a total savings, if approved, of \$6,000.00.

The Municipality has not, as a practice, offered for sale cemetery graves at a bulk discount price. The price of \$750, plus H.S.T. per grave is established to offset the costs incurred by the Town for care and maintenance. The opening and closing of the grave costs are covered separately by an interment contract.

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The current price for the sale of cemetery lots is \$750 per grave, plus H.S.T. The sale of 40 graves at \$750 each is \$30,000 plus H.S.T. If Council accepts the bulk purchase proposal, the Church would purchase 40 graves at \$600 each plus H.S.T. This amounts to a \$6,000 savings for the Church.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Management Group

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council consider the request of the Old Colony Mennonite Church to purchase 40 burial graves at Graceland Cemetery at the price of \$600.00 per lot for a total purchase price of \$24,000, plus H.S.T.

*Roberta Baines*

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