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Date: October 18, 2017
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Shaun Martinho, Manager of Public Works
RE: Request for Amendment to Cemetery By-Law 90-2012
Report No.: MS-2017-052

AIM

This report is to advise council on the current Cemetery By-Law and provide information on the request to waive section 21 d.

BACKGROUND

On September 28, 2017 the Municipal Service Department received a request from Hallmark Memorial on behalf of the Vercruysse family to allow for a monument with an inscription and images on the back of the stone (see attached). As per By-Law 90-2012, a stone should "have only a family name on its back" (see attached).

DISCUSSION

Throughout the year, the Municipal Services Department receives numerous requests for exemptions to the cemetery by-law. Considering the emotional circumstances surrounding these requests, these decisions are typically hard to make. In an effort to remain consistent, the department enforces the regulations as outlined in the by-law. As such, the Vercruysse family's request to incorporate an inscription and images on the back of their monument was respectfully declined. However, it was suggested to the family that the plaque be made into a supplementary marker under Section 23 of the by-law (size limitations: 20"x10" minimum; 24"x16" maximum) and installed on the plot along with the monument.

The provision of one-sided inscription is included in most Cemetery By-laws to make it as easy as possible to distinguish the front of a monument from the back of a monument. As our cemeteries get older and more cemetery plots are sold, it becomes more of a challenge to identify locations for interments. There have been instances where town staff

and contactors have not been able to locate marking pins and have used headstones as a means for locating plot boundaries. In an effort to minimize the potential of improperly locating a plot, only the family name is allowed on the back of monuments.

While Council has the authority to waive the requirements of the by-law, if it makes an exception in this case, there may be additional families that come forward requesting an exemption and Council will be faced with those difficult decisions.

For all the reasons mentioned above, it is Administration's recommendation that the provisions of the by-law be enforced as written.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

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

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations in the report

CONSULTATIONS

Municipal Services
Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct Administration to maintain the standards that are set out in the provisions of the Cemetery By-law (90-2012).

Shaun Martinho

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