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From: Margaret Steele
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 3:14 PM
To: Skundberg, Inga
Cc: Gillingham, Scott (Councillor);
Subject: Frontage Levy - Cemeteries

Ms. Inga Skundberg

Clerk of E P C , City of Winnipeg

Regarding Agenda - Reports - Item #8, EPC Meeting January 11, 2017

I represent St. James Cemetery, the small Cemetery opposite Polo Park.
We are celebrating 160 years of existence.

Our Cemetery is basically full with no means to expand. Our sparse revenue is derived from a dwindling investment account, the few annual burials, limited sales of ash plot graves and, thankfully some donations.

For many years the City sent a tax bill for "Municipal Taxes" for the amount of $2931.59. By 2013 this had increased to $4311.00 and was designated "Street Renewal - Frontage Levy" In 2015 the charge was $5000.95. In 2016 the increase escalated to $6265.56.

A huge concern to our Cemetery Board is the threat of a re-assessment increasing the Frontage Levy as the adjusters include our Northern and Eastern boundaries. At this point only our Western side, Tylehurst Street, is included. This amount represents the average amount our Cemetery receives in donations from our loyal supporters. In other words, donations sent to maintain and beautify our Cemetery are then turned over to the City to pay the Frontage Levy.

As is stated in the resolution Cemeteries such as ours face only one option under our current circumstances and that is to "turn the keys over" to the City of Winnipeg. I see this in the not too distant future.

Our little Cemetery is a gem, situated in the heart of a bustling commercial neighbourhood, offering peace and solace to our many visitors and a quiet resting place for many of Winnipeg's "founding fathers" and renowned pioneers.

I join with my fellow associates in our Cemetery Community in seeking a solution to this one expense that might provide us with some "breathing room"

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Steele, Manager, St. James Cemetery