

**Update on Whispering Maples Memorial Gardens, Inc. (Whispering Maples)
August 25, 2016**

Work on the reconstituting of the files of the former Whispering Maples operations is nearing its conclusion thanks to the hard work of Receiver Connie Goedert.

As we previously reported, the towns of Plattsburgh and Ellenburg have continued to work with state officials, consultants and the Receiver for Whispering Maples on the restoration activities for the state abandonment of the mausoleums. There has been a great deal of review and behind the scenes effort dealing with the financial and organizational condition of the cemetery operations.

On July 20, 2016 we received State Cemetery Board approval of the application for the first \$100,000 in engineering and bidding work to be conducted for both mausoleums. This work is being overseen by the Receiver. That same day the engineers were notified of this approval and began work on the bidding documents and repair drawings for the facilities. Two days later we received the formal written notice of the funding for the bidding phase of this restoration from the state, and on August 10, 2016 the Ms. Goedert received the first check for the \$100,000.

The facilities have been rebranded and new names for the mausoleums will be in place once the towns assume control from the Receiver. Both towns have recently updated rules and regulations for the facilities. These changes will be sent to those that have registered with the cemetery offices and made available for residents of the towns.

The Receiver continues to advise family members that mementos and other items placed at the mausoleums should be removed immediately to allow for maintenance and construction activities. If these belongings are not removed by family members, they will be removed by interim staff to facilitate the cleanup.

At this time, the towns have agreed to request an extension of the receivership, with the Receiver's consent. This will give Ms. Goedert more time to finalize the financial documents, files, and personnel, at the facility.

In the coming weeks the towns will also be discussing a potential agreement for shared services relating to the operation of the facilities utilizing income from entombments and state funding. We will also be working with state representatives on the fall transfer of \$150,000 to each town for ongoing maintenance of the facilities which was included in the 2016 state budget.

We have been advised that the engineers are currently developing base plans and coordinating with our consultants. They are conducting code review, schematic design (site, floor plans, building section, and elevations), generating clean-up plans, and other site details. This is all being done to complete the bidding package which will go out to public bid.

If you have any specific questions about ownership activities and operations of the cemetery during this period of receivership, please feel free to contact Ms. Connie Goedert at 518-594-7500.

Thank you.

Michael S. Cashman
Supervisor

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