



Staff Report

Report Title: 2024 Cemetery Fees

Prepared By: Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

Department: Treasury

Date: Dec. 4, 2023

Report Number: TR-2023-12-76

File Number:

C11 TR 23

Attachments: 2024 Consolidated Fees Draft Schedule D

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report 2023-12-76 prepared by Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer;

AND FURTHER THAT the proposed Cemetery rates be included with the Township of Huron-Kinloss Consolidated Fees By-Law amendment and that the appropriate by-law be brought forward.

Background:

Cemetery operations are regulated by the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002. The Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) is the government delegated authority responsible for administration of the Act and ensuring compliance of licensees. Ontario Regulation 30/11 prescribes the information to be included in the price list.

Discussion:

In addition to regulating the fees to protect consumer rights, the BAO regulates the establishment of the required care and maintenance funds for perpetual care of the cemetery. The municipality must report annually on the fees collected, operational expenditures and care and maintenance fund contributions. The interest earned on care and maintenance funds is used to fund the operations of the cemetery. During periods of low interest rates, this creates a challenge. The Ripley Cemetery only averages 18 interments annually, the majority being cremations. Sale of plots are significantly lower, but niches are becoming more popular since the installation of the columbarium.

Financial Impacts:

The recommended fees are compliant with the Act and BAO reporting regulations. Staff will continue to monitor fees in conjunction with current lifestyle trends. Recent interest rate adjustments provide opportunities to maximize returns on care and maintenance funds that will offset operating costs.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the municipality's Vision & Mission.

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having amenities and services nearby and being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Jodi MacArthur, Treasurer

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer