

REPORT TO Council

FROM: Becky Belfour, Tax Collector/Deputy-Treasurer

DATE: March 4, 2010

RE: Winter Burials

With regard to winter burials:

- Potentially we could have approximately 4- 5 winter burials a year this will all depend on the amount charged for winter burials and the family wishes.
- Hanover has been doing winter burials for a long time approx. 10 since Dec/09. They do not have any added costs associated with winter burials. They contract out their grave digging for both winter and summer burials at a cost of \$75.00 a dig.
- The Douglas Hill, Catholic, Formosa, Riversdale, Chepstow, Wingham and Chesley Cemeteries as a rule do not do winter burials.
- The municipality of South Bruce discourages winter burials however their fee structure is 2 times the normal burial fee. North Bruce Peninsula charge \$500.00 plus tax for winter burials (\$350.00 regular amount) which are at the discretion of the designate. Currently Hanover has no extra fee associated with winter burials as their contract person charges a flat fee for winter or summer burials.
- The staffing issues around winter burials relate to the removal of the snow getting to the various plots as the roads are very narrow. The frost may come out of the ground which will make a real mess during this procedure. With the settlement of graves spring clean-up will be more work. It will be very difficult to locate grave markers which would increase the risk of hitting another grave. If municipal workers are out plowing snow the entire grave opening would have to be contracted out, we would have to have someone in place to be ready if this was winter burials were implemented. There will be times in early spring when the soil will be too wet and it will be impossible to do a grave opening. We are not set-up with equipment to properly do a winter burial. There are concerns for the safety of the families getting to the burial plot at the time of burial.
- Currently there is no shortage of space for the storage over the winter months so this is not an issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Content Review



Richard Radford, CAO/Clerk



Becky Belfour, Secretary Cemetery Committee