

**INTERLACHEN TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022 - 6:15 P.M.  
DICKERMAN BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Costanzo called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Council Members present were, Chairperson Judi Costanzo, Beverly Bakker, Carolyn Bennett, Joni Conner, and Carolyn Meadows. Mayor Larsen was present. Attorney George Young attended virtually via Zoom Communications.

**COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – JUDI COSTANZO**

Chairperson Costanzo dispenses with the formalities.

**COUNCIL AGENDA DISCUSSION:**

***Discussion and Consideration of the Purchase of the South CR 315 Property.***

Chairperson Costanzo stated that the special meeting was called to discuss the counteroffer from Faith Baptist Church on the property located on CR315 South. The Town put in an offer for \$175,000 and the owner countered at \$245,000.00.

Chairperson Costanzo stated that she was hesitant about spending this kind of money in this economy.

Council Member Bakker stated that she was hesitant also and feels that the real estate market is too high right now.

Council Member Meadows asked the Council if the Town should be in the Cemetery business long term, she is concerned about the work that goes into cemeteries.

Council Member Conner asked if there was a comparative market analysis for this property. The clerk stated that the realtor advised that this is a unique piece of property and there were no comparable properties at this time.

Mayor Larsen asked Attorney Young if he was the one who researched the property on the north side of the Pineview cemetery. Attorney Young stated that it was prior to his time but we could follow up with the property owners if the Council desires. Mayor Larsen felt it would be more practical to reach out to the adjacent property owner when the Town is ready to expand the cemetery.

Council Member Conner stated that she felt the market was too high right now.

Public comment was received from local resident David Yonts. He stated that sixty percent of people dying today are being cremated and believes that we will see fewer people being buried in the future. He felt that spending \$250,000.00 is a bad move for the Town.

Council Member Bennett asked if the cemetery has been beneficial to the Town financially. The clerk stated that the cemetery is a profitable business run by the Town. The clerk also stated that the Town has about ten years before the Pineview Cemetery is full and advised the Council that if they didn't want to purchase property at this time, they should revisit the topic in five years with a plan for the cemetery.

Council Member Conner made a motion to reject their offer and not present a counteroffer. Council Meadows seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.