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July 19, 2018

Ontario Premier Doug Ford
Huron Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson
Bereavement Authority of Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Dear Madam/Sir:

The Township of Howick Cemetery Boards made up of volunteers representing the Fordwich, Gorrie, Wroxeter and Lakelet Cemeteries, recently met to discuss how to cover expenses such as grass cutting, road repair and tree maintenance/removal on their limited budget. Howick cemeteries have anywhere from 10-20 burials/year and sold 12 plots in 2017. All Howick Cemetery Boards have money in a Care and Maintenance Fund which can only be used to purchase land. Interest earned from these accounts, approximately \$2 - \$84/month, can be used to cover operating expenses.

At its meeting held July 17, 2018, the Council of the Township of Howick passed the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Harding; Seconded by Councillor Scott:

Whereas; Ontario Regulation 30/11 states the Capital portion of the Care and Maintenance Trust Fund cannot be accessed, the only exception is to purchase land adjacent to the cemetery to increase the capacity of the cemetery;

And whereas; none of the Howick Township Cemetery Boards have a need to purchase land to increase capacity at this time or in the near future;

And whereas, only the interest generated from the Care and Maintenance Trust Fund can be used for the care and maintenance of the lots, markers and grounds of the cemetery;

And whereas, Howick Township Cemetery Boards have minimal funds to cover the cost of minimal maintenance in their cemeteries;

And whereas; major maintenance projects such as road repair and tree maintenance/removal could be arranged if the Cemetery Boards could borrow/loan funds from the Care and Maintenance Trust Fund;

Therefore, be it resolved that Council petition the Bereavement Authority of Ontario to amend Ontario Regulation 30/11 to allow borrowing of funds from the Care and Maintenance Trust Fund for capital improvements and purchases when other municipal cemetery funds are exhausted. Carried. Resolution No. 169/18

Please accept this correspondence for your consideration and support. If you require any further information, please contact this office. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Carol Watson

Carol Watson, Clerk, Township of Howick