

**GOLF & CEMETERY BOARD  
MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 MEETING**

**Time: 5:45 P.M.**

**At: Department Offices**

**CTO**

**Approve Minutes of prior meeting**

**Public Input**

**Agenda Items**

- a. Review Annual Report**
- b. Tentative opening discussion**
- c. Joint Use/DWU (see end of report for info.)**
- d. 2015 projects**
- e. Transition Progress update from Eric**

**Executive Session**

**Department Report**

We have been busy. Lots of funerals to defrost and grave openings in the last few weeks. Year end report, five year major capital outlay planning and mandatory meetings. We also have been dealing with last minute service and repairs, scheduling those repairs, parts and supply order and seasonal hiring. At least we did not have to plow much snow the last 30 days.

We were given Surface Pro laptops recently and had our first training sessions on those. I am learning about different programs for the laptop. There will be a lot to learn and I hope I am not too technically challenged. The bright spot for these little machines is their immense power, efficiency of reporting and City savings of \$ 18,000 plus a year for labor and paper for Council Reports. Not to mention assembling the books, printer supplies, etc.

Rather than spending \$ 12,000 to \$15,000 on a new sandtrap machine I rebuilt the old one and re-designed the sand drags to the newest style rubber levelers. Cost around \$2,500.00 for a new motor and the new drag system. We will need to add more sand to the edges of the traps to get the full benefit but it was needed anyway. I have been unhappy with the seasonal staff on the maintenance of the traps. The new system should eliminate a majority of the sand drug out along the edge of the traps. I was impressed when I saw the new machines operate last fall. We will be spending some time on trap edges this spring to shape the traps up.

Community Garden signup has been going well. Over half have already paid for their 2015 spot. As soon as we can, we will be expanding the garden. Most of the expansion spots have already been spoken for.

Our 2015 Spring Educational Seminar is in Sioux Falls starting March 9<sup>th</sup>. I will only be able to attend one day and looking at the educational agenda, that will be Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> and only if things work out.

**Tentative opening:**

The million dollar question for next two weeks! With frost very hard in the top foot of soil and going deeper in the ground I am going to have to call it day by day.

In 2014, I was able to get nine cup holes in with a lot of difficulty due to frost about 4 inches to 10 inches deep. Two days later, I was able to get 15 holes total in. We then had some warmer nights and a rain that helped eliminate the balance of the frost down to a foot deep. We still had ice in sandtraps for about a week after a March 13 opening last year.

The last few days of below Zero nights and the short time above freezing during the day has kept the frost very solid. I will do the best we can to get open and it will probably be no sooner than Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup>. As long as the frost is out of the top four inches, we can let carts go. I will not put carts on the greens (dragging sand) until the frost is totally out to avoid damage to the root system. With thawed surface and frozen root zone we can have a shearing effect of tearing the roots loose from the surface. That would slow down spring recovery.

We have had some timely moisture, but are in need of a good rain or melting snow. I have seen a little snow mold on some greens, due to wet thawing conditions we have had several times. The good thing is it appears to be all "gray" snow mold (yes, there are several different pathogens) and any damage from the gray will be minimal. Pink snow mold fungus is usually devastating in small patches.

Greens: As far as desiccation of the greens (freeze drying), I have not observed any yet.

We will not be out of the woods on this until the top six inches of frost is out of the greens. Frozen roots in dysfunction will not allow the crowns of the plants to rehydrate if we get strong and dry windy conditions. I am hoping we do not have to water with trucks but will be ready to do so. Watering does not always save them but it helps 90% of the time. The greens are frozen solid today( 3-6-2015) to the top ¼ inch and that is good since it denotes adequate soil moisture to protect the grass.

Capital Outlay for Equipment and major projects

In 2016 I have projected that we will need to start replacing our 3 large area mowers and the biggest fairway mower we have. This will take at least 3 to 4 years depending on the reserve. These machines are in excess of \$55,000.00 each. This will be a major undertaking. The machines are currently in the range of 3,500 to 4,500 operating hours each. We will be in the ranges of 4,500 to 5,500 when these are traded. Their value at that time will be less than \$10,000.00 trade. We may have to do a 3 year lease/purchase for more than one a year if they do not hold up the next four years.



