Michael Reaves, Emmet County Administrator 200 Division Street, Suite G74 Petoskey, Michigan 49770-2486

May 20, 2020

Mr. Reaves,

Greenwood Cemetery is in the process of developing a new section of the Cemetery for burial plots. We purchased this 10-acre piece of property on Eppler Road that adjoins the Emmet County Fairgrounds in 2011. The parcel was purchased because it adjoined the Cemetery and because of the scenic views that would be available once the trees were cut and the terrain leveled.

There is a large ravine located on this property and over the years we have been filling that ravine with rough fill (no compostable material) at one level and with clean fill at the upper level to allow us to make burials on the entire parcel. As with any construction, the mid-point before the finish grading and seeding looks a little rough and that is the state that some of the property is in right now. We are working with Gibson Excavating and with Jason Fate at the City of Petoskey to ensure that soil erosion is addressed.

My reason for approaching the County is to ask if we could move soil from a raised area on the Fairgrounds (South of the Eppler Road entrance) into our ravine for fill. The purpose for this would be to fill the portion of our ravine running along Eppler Road and to address any potential soil erosion from our work on the entire site.

The process:

- 1. Move the raised potion of land, beginning at the Fairground's Eppler Road entrance into the West end of the Cemetery's ravine.
 - a. We would cut necessary trees, remove the stumps, strip the topsoil, move the subsoil into the ravine and replace the topsoil on the Fairgrounds portion with what was removed from that area. We would not re-seed this area.
 - b. It is our understanding that the Fairgrounds desires some of the soil for a project in the actively used portion of the Fairgrounds. We

- would pay to move the required soil to that area. We would not be involved in stripping topsoil or replacing topsoil for the location of that project.
- c. We continue to work with the City of Petoskey in regards to any erosion along Eppler Road.
- 2. Cut the thin strip of trees on the hillside between the Cemetery and the Fair Grounds. The purpose of this is to maximize the view of Little Traverse Bay from the burial plots adjacent to these trees. The view of the Bay is an integral part of Petoskey life and that view gives comfort to grieving families as well. Many more families purchasing burial plots at Greenwood desire a view of the Bay than those who do not.
 - a. We would cut the trees, chip the brush, dig the stumps, strip the topsoil, grade the hillside and replace the topsoil that was removed. We would not be responsible for seeding this area. Any usable firewood would be saved and would be given to Emmet County if so desired.
- 3. Cut existing scrub trees along our joint West line for views of the Bay from the Cemetery.
 - a. We will cut the trees and dispose of the brush.

We believe that this is a mutually beneficial project for both Greenwood and Emmet County. We will improve our views of Little Traverse Bay and gain some needed fill dirt. The County will gain parking at the same level as the Eppler Road entrance and the desired move of the dirt to a project within the Fairgrounds at no cost to the County.

I have attached photos of the project to help you to visualize what the existing conditions are. I would be pleased to meet with you at the site to discuss this. This is a project we would like to do as soon as possible to give plenty of time for seeding to take hold before inclement weather.

Thank you for considering this,

Karl Crawford, Superintendent

Cc: Michael Reaves, Emmet County Administrator Gordon Coffin, Greenwood Cemetery Board President Jason Fate, City of Petoskey Construction Supervisor Blaine Gibson, Gibson Excavating, LLC



































