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By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

- Leader & Times

The county has agreed to protect Springfield Cemetery.

Seward County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tony Herrman spoke about restoring and protecting the Springfield Cemetery at the county commission meeting Monday evening.

According to Herrman, a discussion began back in 2012 between Tony Whisenant and the commission regarding the clean-up and resetting of stones and fencing around the Springfield Cemetery.



Since road and bridge was asked for help, they visited with the landowner and determined the approximate location of where the original stones had been set and went from there to reset stones and put a fence up around that area.

The road and bridge department absorbed the costs of clean up, resetting the stones and

placement of the fence, Herrman said.

“Back in May, we were addressed with concerns,” Herrman said.

He also noted that when he went out there, there were only some remnants left.

“It was destroyed,” he said. “We cleaned up the area and found an extra stone and pieces of some extra stone and tried to identify it as best as we could.”

One of the commissioners noted that he had not seen the particular stone when he had driven by.

“That wasn’t out there,” C.J. Wettstein said.

Herrman replied that, “No, It was a piece that was buried. I have no idea what it was for. There are no markings on it, so I’m thinking it is possible that it was the face of a tall stone similar to another one found in a pile of rubble.”

The department recommended spending around \$2,500 to set a stone memorial in the location with the names of others buried in the cemetery whose monuments are missing.

Herrman suggested a memorial marker for the cemetery.

The names go back with 1910 being about the latest date that anyone was buried in the cemetery.

“What I’m asking you for is somewhere between \$2,000 to \$2,500 for a memorial stone. I think it would be nice to also mark out on the highway, ‘Springfield Cemetery,’ and check with KDOT,” Herrman said.

He added, “In the event that somebody wants to go back and look up a family member, they would have this location to go to.”

He continued, “I know that you are very much in favor of us doing the work that we did, but as far as more money, I wanted your permission and your direction.”

Wettstein said that planting buffalo grass would be a good idea for the cemetery as well.

“I was thinking that maybe next spring, putting Buffalo grass. farmers always get as close as they can to try and get all the weeds... grass all the way around it and it would be fairly low maintainace grass,” he said. “I think it’s a good idea and it looks really nice.”

“Yeah, I don’t want them out there by the rocks,” commission chair Ada Linenbroker added.

Motion to approve the \$2,500 for Springfield Cemetery to be taken out of the General Fund passed 4-0, with Jim Rice absent.

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