

Written Testimony to the House Finance Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, on behalf of Linton Township in Coshocton County I respectfully ask for your support for HB 168. The officials of Linton Township in Coshocton County feel that a respectful burial of the dead is one of their most important tasks they perform during their time in office. In fact, they take this task so seriously that when in the Plainfield Cemetery they speak in hushed tones.

When a burial takes place, they will not drive on the grass. They lay down plywood so as to not damage the soil. They then proceed to number the topsoil in one square foot squares, lay the top soil off to the side and then replace the topsoil in the exact order it came off after the burial. This type of treatment is expected in our area but does add to the total cost of the care of our cemetery.

Linton Township is the largest township (by area) in Coshocton County. We have 646 residents who reside in our township and have over 30 miles of predominately stone roads to maintain, in addition to seven cemeteries. The Plainfield Cemetery is our only active cemetery but we also have six inactive cemeteries that we must maintain. We will undoubtedly inherit a Catholic cemetery within the next two years, per Ohio law.

At the beginning of 2017, we had \$138.00 in our cemetery fund. Our only source of income for our cemetery comes from the sale of burial plots and opening and closing fees.

At the beginning of the year we only had five open plots in our only active cemetery. Because of that fact, we were forced to purchase an additional ½ acre of land that laid next to our cemetery at a cost of \$20,000. The money came from our General Fund since the Cemetery Funds were so limited.

Our total budget for 2018 is \$192,981.00. Our total budget for the cemetery is \$1,500.00. This budget doesn't even come close to the cost of operating the Plainfield Cemetery let alone the other six cemeteries.

Our trustees believe that in order to provide the greatest service to our residents possible, they perform 80% of all work done in our township. An example of how much they care about our residents is evidenced by the fact that we provided a 10# fire extinguisher, a smoke detector, and a carbon monoxide detector to every residence in our township at zero cost to our residents.

A grant to help defray the cost of operating our cemeteries would go a long way in helping Linton Township Officials continue their belief that the dead do indeed deserve our continued respect and care.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you to support HB 168.

Nathan W. McNeal, Fiscal Officer, Linton Township, Coshocton County.