

**LAPORTE COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERY COMMISSION
COURTHOUSE SQUARE
LAPORTE, IN 46350**

---Board Members---
Dale Ellis, President Wilma Marsh, Vice President
Kenneth Baker, Financial Secretary Patricia Harris, Recording Secretary
George L. Earle

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Budget and Expenditures for Calendar Year 2007

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Office Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 71.54 **
Postage	50.00	45.02
Paint-Painting	1,000.00	-0- **
Mileage	600.00	484.52 +
Landscaping	1,100.00	330.00 **
Tombstone Repair	7,000.00	6,900.00 **
Cemetery Maintenance	17,000.00	15,440.00 ++
Fencing & Gates	2,000.00	4,089.00 *
Board Members	1,004.00	1,004.00
Head of Department	5,498.00	5,497.96
Social Security & Medicare	<u>421.00</u>	<u>320.68</u>
Totals	\$ 36,173.00	\$ 34,382.76

Unexpended Balance \$ 1,790.24

* Although some of these items were over individual budget, funds were transferred among accounts (**) to meet specific needs, while staying within our total budget.

+ Mileage costs were less than budgeted because one inspection tour had to be cancelled because of weather and health situations.

++ Cemetery Maintenance costs were less than budgeted because one mowing of cemeteries was not done due to dry weather conditions.

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2007 Activities

Monthly Meetings – Structured monthly meetings for board members.

Availability to the Public – We are available 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. first Friday of each month.

Cemetery Visitations – We incorporated with one of our monthly meetings visitations, as a board, to seven pioneer cemeteries. This was done to acquaint all members with the La Porte County cemeteries and to determine individual cemetery needs as an aid to determining priorities on maintenance, repair and restoration.

Historians/Liaisons Volunteers – Volunteers watched over our cemeteries and reported any act of vandalism or cemetery need.

Stone Restorations – Stone restoration reached 2/3 completion at Nickel Plate Cemetery by Mark Davis of Stone Saver Cemetery Restoration and he restored a stone broken in a storm at Morgan Cemetery.

Fencing – The second old and deteriorated fence enclosure at Hudson Lake Cemetery was replaced by Rustic Fencing.

Documentation/Photographs – We continued to photograph and document tombstones before they become illegible or vandalism occurs. We have also continued to seek out locations of old cemeteries not known to us previously and then research and document.

Written Reports on Cemeteries – Board members are assigned certain cemeteries that are to be checked by them for caretaking condition and other items throughout the year and they then report their findings on a Cemetery Inspection Report Record.

Request for Bids and Contracts – We continue to use a standardized forms for Request for Bids for Cemetery Maintenance and Contracts for Cemetery Maintenance as well as for Uncontracted Maintenance of Cemeteries.

Cemetery Maintenance – Pioneer Cemeteries without any funding were maintained by contracted firms. Others that had caretakers and/or some funding for maintenance were aided with funds budgeted by the Cemetery Commission. With the aid of the County Hiway Dept. downed trees were removed at Beatty's Corners. Cooperated with the Coolspring Twp. Trustee and an Eagle Scout project to paint fence, remove shrubs and low hanging limbs and install a historical sign at Low Cemetery and the trustee has agreed to take over maintenance of the cemetery.

New signs were procured for Sharp, Norton, Foster and Posey Chapel and will be installed as weather permits.