Here are minutes generated from the provided source transcript of the Wolcott Cemetery Meeting held on May 27, 2025:

Wolcott Cemetery Meeting May 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM. Attendees include Mike Green, Bradley Horstman, Cornelious Reed, Crista Peck, and Lucien Gravel. An agenda was distributed.

Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes prepared by Bruce Wheeler (generated through NotebookLM) based on the previous meeting's Zoom recording. The motion carried.

Treasury Report: No treasury report was provided as nothing had happened financially since the last meeting in April. No checks had been written.

Gravedigger Contract (John Contract):

- Discussion centered on the contract with John for grave openings and burials.
- The current contract was signed in 2003.
- According to the contract, John is required to do all grave openings and burials, including cremations.
- John had reportedly been upset about instances where he was not involved, stating he didn't want to take legal action.
- The current contract remains in effect until next year (2026). Changes can only be made to the contract effective the first of the year, requiring a notice to John before the upcoming January (before January 2026).
- To allow others (such as family members) to perform cremations, the contract would need to be revised. A suggested wording change is to have John do all grave openings and burials *aside from cremations*, or do all openings *unless the cemetery commissioners allow the family to do cremations*.
- Notice of changes must be sent to John via certified mail at PO Box 830 by December 1st, with 30 days' notice required for changes.
- The contract currently refers to the "Gulf cemetery associations," which should be changed to "commissioners".
- John is the gravedigger, not the sexton.
- The contract automatically renews unless notice is given.
- It was noted that there haven't really been problems with the current contract, other than an issue addressed with Linda Willie.

Cemetery Cleanup and Donations:

- Fairmont Cemetery needed work done at the entrances—they had been washed-out.
- Through Cornelious' connections, he had Gravel Construction graciously volunteer to do the work as a donation with no charge. The work has been completed.
- It was agreed that a thank you note should be sent to the company.

- Cleanup needed at Fairmont, specifically near the area with stones that have the name "Bron" or similar. The brush needs to be cleaned out, possibly 12 feet out.

Tree Removal:

- A **dead tree near the Hearse House (HH)** was identified for removal. It was suggested this should be done by a professional.
- Another tree further down past the HH also needs to be taken down.
- It was suggested to contact Michael Reno to potentially give him these two jobs.
- There is **another tree at Fairmont** in an area near where half of this tree is rotten. Due to its location on a hillside, it would likely need to be dropped up the bank and potentially require cutting in sections with a cable attached from the top to prevent it from sliding down. This tree would require a professional. A fellow with experience will be able to handle placing the tree parts, but accessing this specific location is difficult.
- **Motion Proposed:** Look into getting bids or estimates for the professional removal of the dead trees. It was agreed that Reno would be contacted for an estimate first. The two dead trees around the bend of the HH were considered tiny and easy to take down, but the cleanup might be difficult as they could shatter when they hit the ground.

Mower Payment:

- An order is needed to pay the mower for the entire season.
- The mower covers all seven cemeteries.
- The cost for the season is $14,700, paid twice a month.
- The contract includes mowing and trimming, including banks.

Fixing and Replacing Cemetery Stones:

- Bradley is interested in fixing up some stones, particularly resetting smaller ones that don't require professional help.
- A **chain hoist** was discussed as a potential tool for resetting stones. It was noted that a chain hoist would be helpful and that they are relatively easy to use.
- The cost of purchasing a chain hoist was discussed: around $225 based on prices seen.
- It was decided to **borrow Crista's husband's chain hoist** to try it out rather than purchasing one. Bradley is willing to do this instead of having the Commission buy one.
- **Work in Davenport Cemetery:**
    - The smaller stones in Davenport are manageable for the commissioners to fix themselves.
    - Some stones need to be put back in the ground.
    - One stone is broken into many pieces and needs to be replaced.
    - Another stone has the top piece broken off.
    - A couple of stones have snapped in half and would need to be hoisted and glued.
    - **Three stones definitely need markers**. It was suggested that replacing them with level markers would be better than trying to piece them back together.

    - John's cost for a 24x12x4 granite flush marker was $350, with an additional cost per letter for transcription. The cost for three together would be a little over $1000. Adding a date later costs more due to matching font.
    - The stone broken into many pieces is Leonard's. It was suggested that pieces of Leonard's stone could be preserved for historical purposes.
    - **Motion Made:** A motion was made to replace **these three stones** in Davenport with markers. Bradley and Crista would be in charge of getting them. The names would be needed when ordering the markers. A new plot map for Davenport is available to help identify the locations.
- **Work in Fairmont Cemetery:**
    - There are **three stones in Fairmont** that are too big for non-professionals to fix.
    - These stones are close together. One is crooked, one is face down, and one is sizable and disheveled.
    - These three stones are considered an obvious eyesore.
    - A previous bid to clean/fix a whole section of Fairmont was $24,000.
    - Fixing these large stones requires a professional.
    - **Motion Proposed:** Get a professional to fix these three stones. It was suggested to take pictures and send them out to get prices or bids. It was noted they can't fix all stones at once and should start small.
    - Mike seconded the motion to look into getting prices/bids.

Cleaning Cemetery Stones:

- Discussion occurred about cleaning cemetery stones.
- Pressure washing is not recommended for stones.
- Jim Holton of the fire department is interested in helping.
- The fire department could potentially be a water source, adapting their hoses to a garden hose size to reduce pressure.
- They could team up with the fire department to do a **test cleaning night at Fairmont** using the steps there. This could potentially become an event with more people involved.
- The fire department was already looking into washing some stones, possibly firefighter ones.
- The procedure involves **no power washing, no wire brushes, and no bleach**.
- Purple Power was mentioned as a cheaper alternative ($10/gallon vs. a more expensive gallon they previously got), but testing it on a non-critical stone.
- The approach for cleaning would be to focus on one cemetery or a section at a time, such as cleaning all stones in Davenport one year, and then moving on to a section of Fairmont the next year. They would volunteer their time, potentially with the fire department volunteering and acting as a water source, and they would buy the chemicals.
- At Fairmont, they could start with the stones visible in the loop and then expand over the years. This would improve the appearance for visitors.

Flag Pole and Flag:

- The flag pole has been painted.

- The eagle on top was broken and spray-painted gold. The wing needs to be glued back on with cement glue.
- The current flag is in the HH waiting and was donated by Crista.
- String is needed for the flag pole. It was suggested this could be purchased at Ace Hardware, with a receipt brought back.

Hearse House Lock:

- A padlock with a combo lock was placed on the hearse house.
- The combo is 1781, referencing the town's charter year, chosen for ease of remembering.
- Cleaning supplies purchased are stored in the HH.

Flag Eligibility Verification:

- A list of names for flags exists, made years ago.
- There is a question about how to verify if anyone is missing from the list or who should have flags.
- The names on the monument are people who served from Wolcott, but it's unclear if all were buried there.
- It was suggested the VFW might know how to verify this information.
- A digital version of the list does not yet exist, but there is an effort to scan and potentially extract text from the old list.
- A map list exists for Fairmont people, and Davenport and Taylor have also been mapped. The aerial view will be marked with flag locations so anyone can put them up.

Thank Yous:

- A thank you will be sent to **Gravel Construction** for donating their time and resources in fixing the washed-out entrances at Fairmont. This does not require a motion.
- **Lucian** was personally thanked.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made.