

# Fwd: FW: Brooke Popp's eyes only

**township treasurer**

8:38 AM (49  
minutes ago)

to me, Jill, township, Sondra, Richard, William, zoning.clt, Greg, Brian, Mike, William, Dean, Brad, carol

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[nelsonjv@comcast.net](mailto:nelsonjv@comcast.net)>  
Date: Wed, Mar 13, 2024 at 8:10 AM  
Subject: RE: FW: Brooke Popp's eyes only  
To: township treasurer <[treasurer.clt@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.clt@gmail.com)>

Good Morning!

Feel free to share. I hate to think about her again this morning. Actually I feel sorry for her (probably trying to do to others something that has been done to her some way) but I have to clean house for company and don't want my head to go off on a tangent again.

It is too late for people, and I am sure it is not just us, damaged by Amy's tangents, to trust her in the cemetery position. If she could have used her energy to show empathy and not make a tyrannical power play as if involving the city attorney was a club on our situation, there is no stopping her from getting what she wants. If we had not written letters trying to explain to the board what was happening to us, I do not think she ever would have backed down or Jim ever would have been buried.

Please explain to anyone involved she needs to stay away from the cemetery. If it gets out of your hands please let me know and I will write a letter to the editor in the newspaper.

The truth is the truth and it is the right thing to do. I have faced down Judges with that statement in my career with children in danger!

Thank you, Jan Nelson

**From:** township treasurer <[treasurer.clt@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.clt@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 6:34 AM  
**To:** [nelsonjv@comcast.net](mailto:nelsonjv@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Brooke Popp's eyes only

Dear Ms. Nelson,

I am in receipt of your correspondence and I am very sorry for your terrible experience. May I share this with the members of the township board? At the township board meeting at 7 p.m., Mar. 19, the position of township cemetery administrator will be discussed. My goal is to hire a qualified individual for the position.

Thank you for sharing.

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 11:37 PM <[nelsonjv@comcast.net](mailto:nelsonjv@comcast.net)> wrote:

Hi Brooke Popp and  
associates

March 12, 2024

,  
Brooke, would you please let me know if you receive this.  
Thank you!

I am Jerry Nelson's wife, Janice Nelson. Brooke, the summer of 2022 was sad in a way it has never been in our home. My optimistic positive husband of 50 years appeared depressed, unhappy, and frustrated in a way that was just not him before.

Jerry is writing you about his, and our sister-in-law Jan's, difficulties with Amy Ferris getting his brother Jim buried. The service, except for the military visitors from Traverse City, was a pathetic disaster.

I think, Brooke, you would have to put yourself in Jerry's place to grasp his disappointment in his hometown and cemetery and all the confusion and lack of caring or empathy Amy showed. Our family has always loved that cemetery. We would take our two children out there since they were toddlers and stroll around and Jerry would tell stories about this family and that. We knew his different classmates that didn't make it to graduation. Oh, the tales he would tell. Sometimes the kids



would beat him to it with one of the stories. Relatives were all over. Virgin Mary would show us the way to his Dad's burial spot. I never had the privilege to meet his dad, Jim

Nelson, in real life. Sometimes we took a picnic out and talked through it – left no trash!! Jerry and I plan to be buried there in full caskets all the way from Winona Lake, IN. Our whole family together there in the 8 family plots! It means something to us, maybe not to everybody. (Of course we really plan to be in heaven, but you understand).

**I, personally, love the Lord and am thankful to him so much. And yet, at 82 I am afraid to die! If Amy Ferris becomes in charge of our wonderful cemetery, I am so sure she will do to my family what she did to the planning of the cemetery service of that fine Army Veteran and brother-in-law Jim Nelson and destroy the celebration of my life for my children and my husband, just out of spite.**

Of course, some people love Amy and she loves some people, but she doesn't love or treat everyone the way someone should who works with people who have lost a loved one to death. The person who runs a cemetery must be able pacify and comfort all types of personalities, not purposefully antagonize some people at one of the most emotional times of their lives.

I am a retired Licensed Mental Health Counselor. While retired I worked 10 years with CASA and foster children in crisis. Last summer I spent nearly a month in Tanzania, Africa on mission with young girls trafficked as prostitutes. Jerry and I went a couple weeks to Hawaii this winter, on break from multi rentals we own and manage in Winona Lake, rarely ever having to go to court. Why am I spouting all this? We are not easily stressed or intimidated. But, it is as if Amy Ferris almost picked up on the

strength AND the vulnerability of Jerry and myself and wanted to squish us.

Please think a long time and ponder what I have said before you put Amy Ferris in charge of the cemetery where she can destroy the peace of one of the most important times in people's lives. Thank you for your consideration. Jan Nelson 574 453-7842

## My Experience(s) with the Township Supervisor in regard to Crystal Lake North/East Cemetery

In summer 2020 the lilac bushes on the Didrickson family plot ( which had been the over 100 years & were maintained to the best of the families ability) were taken out damaging 5 head stones with 2 being broken—when the lilac roots were ripped out. I let the township office know, then attended a township meeting stated my concerns, and then worked with the Supervisor to rectify the situation.

It was not the most pleasant experience for me in that in the beginning it did not appear that the township would take responsibility and repair/replace the stones that were damaged. My sister and I accepted that the scratches on the stones would eventually not be noticeable, but the broken ones needed to be replaced. We also requested that a tree of some kind be planted by the township in the area where the lilacs were pulled. Yes, these things were done but the way in which the township supervisor interacted with me was not what I would consider 'Professional'

That same year when the supervisor made the connection that my family also had a burial plot at Crystal Lake North and that we had put some stones/cement around the grave marker—she told me that it was "Against the Law" to do this. I know that it isn't again the law. I/we did not know that this did not align with cemetery guidelines. We removed the memorial when we found out it was not allowed. To say that what we did was 'Illegal' is pretty strong language & could have serious consequences. The undue stress this caused was not appreciated.

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One thing I don't understand is the inconsistency of enforcement for what is allowed and not allowed, as well as determining which trees, bushes, plantings were removed during the purge. I know I am not on the cemetery committee (if there is one) but it seems somewhat random and personal in what was removed and where these things were removed from.

MaryAnn Short

March 12, 2024

\*Also, during one meeting being asked my political orientation  
Felt very intrusive