

EMMETT CHARTER TOWNSHIP, CALHOUN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Cemetery By-Laws

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Cemetery by- Laws

Article 1: Management

A. the Clerk of the Township shall act as Superintendent of the Cemetery and shall direct the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

B. The enforcement of this ordinance shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of the cemetery.

C. There will be certain circumstances that this ordinance will not cover. In this case, it will be up to the direction of the Clerk of the Cemetery to take appropriate action.

Article 11: General Care and Maintenance

A. Lots are granted and sold with the promise that the Cemetery shall be mowed sufficiently to maintain a clean, neat appearance and that weeds and wild grass shall be controlled.

B. Proper Cemetery level shall be maintained; that is, all sunken graves shall be refilled and resodded.

Article 111: Burial Site/Lot Requirements

A. Burial sites are for human remains only.

B. All burials, except for cremated remains, shall be in a non-deteriorating container, acceptable to the Township and shall be accompanied by the burial certificate identifying the deceased.

C. The following burials is allowed currently per burial site:

- a. One coffin burial
- b. One cremation burial

D. The Sexton shall be allowed to move monuments for access to dig a grave or to repair monuments without being held liable for damages.

E. The purchase price of burial lots shall be established by the Township Board. A copy of the price list is in print and is held by the Township Clerk.

F. The Township Board may at their discretion, permit the burial of any indigent person who has been a resident of the Township in a single grave or cremation site, of the Township's choosing. The Township Board however, reserves the right to require payment of interment fees before allowing family or friends to place a marker or monument foundation on the grave of such indigent person where law applies.

G. No burial space shall be opened or closed except under the direction and control of the cemetery Sexton, or in his absence, the Clerk of the Cemetery. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and re-interment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the local health department.

H. All burial certificates must have cemetery name, lot number and site number.

Article IV: Urns, Vases and Artificial Decorations

A. All urns, vases, pots, baskets and boxes more than "8" inches in diameter or in the largest dimension are desired to be placed on permanent foundations at the head of the grave and in line with the stone.

B. One pot of plants, less than "8" inches in diameter may be placed at the head of each grave. An exception to this regulation is made for one year after burial. During this time more than one pot shall be permitted.

C. Lot holder is responsible for the care of plants, urns, vases, pots, etc. Pots of dead plants will be removed as they detract from the appearance of the Cemetery.

D. All winter artificial wreaths and sprays will be removed by May 1st.

E. All summer artificial wreaths and sprays will be removed by October 1st.

F. Any artificial decoration that detracts from the neat and orderly appearance of the Cemetery may be removed by the Sexton.

G. In case of a burial, the same exception shall be made for cut flowers and potted plants, as for artificial wreaths and sprays.

H. Plantings that do not accord with this ordinance or that have become unsightly, or that interfere with the rights of the other lot owners, or make the care of the cemetery difficult and expensive, or that detract from the landscaping plan of the cemetery may be removed by order of the Supervisor (Clerk) of the Cemetery.

Article V: Trees and Shrubbery

A. No planting of trees or shrubbery on Cemetery lots are permitted.

Article VI: Memorials and Foundations

A. Memorials shall be placed only at the head of the gravesite.

B. All memorials shall be of durable materials and dignified design. Makeshift memorials will not be permitted.

C. Installations of foundations and setting of headstones are to be done by the Sexton or under his or her direction.

D. The foundation must be four "4" inches larger in all directions than the stone that it is to support.

E. For large stone (double markers) the foundation shall be thirty "30" inches in depth.

F. Foundations for single markers must reach the sand level, but no foundation shall be less than "30" inches in depth.

G. It is desired in addition to this basic foundation, an extension, or wash, ten "10" inches in all dimensions and "8" inches in depth be poured as part of the regular foundations for urns or potted plants.

H. All single markers shall be placed (rest) on inset foundations and within boundaries of the lot.

I. When ground is uneven, the foundation shall be leveled to the highest point and the ground shall be graded to the foundation. Where the ground is too sloping to permit this, the ground shall be partly graded and wash shall be sloped sufficiently to give an attractive appearance and to permit easy mowing.

J. Along with being the final resting place for generations of Township citizens, the Cemetery grounds are intended to be used by the living as a place of respectful meditation. Traditional uses include the depositing of flowers, flags and related items at gravesites and quiet visitations of family members and friends of the deceased. Generally stated all uses are permitted related to the burial ceremony and perpetual visits, within traditionally accepted guidelines, are permitted 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset only. Special ceremonies and observance after sunset or before sunrise may be scheduled with the written permission of the Township Board.

K. The main gate, where applicable, shall be open from sunrise to sunset in each day. The Sexton is authorized and directed to enforce these regulations.

Article VIII: Prohibited Uses of Cemetery Grounds

A. Vehicles are prohibited in any area, except the designated Cemetery drives. In addition, vehicles may only enter the Cemetery grounds for the purpose of conveying people for burials, gravesite visitations or maintenance purposes.

B. Littering, defacing or destruction of property, these activities are never allowed.

C. The Township is not responsible for destruction or vandalism.