

**MAPLEGROVE (West) and OAKWOOD (East)  
CEMETERIES**

**GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRASS LAKE  
COUNTY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN  
CEMETERY ORDINANCE  
ORDINANCE NO. 91-1

An Ordinance to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by establishing regulations relating to the operation, control and management of cemeteries owned by the Charter Township of Grass Lake, Jackson County, Michigan; to provide penalties for the violation of said Ordinance, and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict there with.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GRASS LAKE  
COUNTY OF JACKSON, MICHIGAN  
ORDAINS:

SECTION I

TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Grass Lake Charter Township Cemetery Ordinance.

SECTION II

Definitions

- A. A cemetery lot shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate from one to six burial spaces depending on the location within the cemetery.
- B. An adult burial space shall consist of a land area four feet wide and twelve feet in length.
- C. Decorations on a burial space include all emblems, displays, religious symbols, plants, cut flowers or artificial flowers; anything other than the marker. A flag holder on a veteran burial space is considered part of the burial space marker.

## SECTION III

### Sale of Burial Rights

- A. All burial sites to be used only for human remains.
- B. Hereafter, cemetery lots or burial rights shall be primarily reserved for residents of the Township for the purpose of the burial of such purchaser or his/her heirs at law or next of kin. The Township Clerk, however, is hereby granted the authority to vary the aforesaid restriction on sales where the purchaser desires burial within the Township or disclosed sufficient personal reasons for burial therein.
- C. All such sales shall be made with the Cemetery Deed which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the lot or burial space sold. Cemetery Deeds shall be executed by the Township Clerk.
- D. The owner of a lot purchased by Cemetery Deed is entitled to sell the lot to another person. The new owner must contact Township Clerk with new owner information.
- E. Burial rights may be transferred only by endorsement of an assignment of such Cemetery Deed upon the original Certificate form issued by the Township Clerk, approved by said Clerk, and entered upon the official records of said Clerk. Upon such assignment, approval and record, said Clerk shall issue a new Cemetery Deed to the Assignee and shall cancel and terminate upon such records, the original Certificate thus assigned.

## SECTION IV

### Purchase Price and Grave Opening Charges

- A. The Township Board may by resolution establish the purchase price for burial spaces for township residents, and non-residents who are permitted to purchase space in the cemetery.
- B. The opening and closing of any burial space, prior to and following a burial therein, and including the interment of ashes, shall be at the cost to be determined from time to time by Resolution of the Township Board, payable to the Township.
- C. Any transfer of one or more burial spaces from an original purchaser to be qualified assignee shall cost no fee.
- D. The Township Board may periodically alter the foregoing fees to accommodate increased costs and needed reserve funds for cemetery maintenance and acquisition.
- E. No burial space shall be opened and closed except under the supervision of the Sexton under the direction of the Township Clerk. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for removal and reinterment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the County Health Department.

## SECTION V

### Burial Space Markers

- A. All burial space markers must be of stone, bronze or other equally durable composition.

- B. Any upright markers must be located upon a suitable solid foundation to maintain the same in an erect position.
- C. Only one marker shall be permitted per burial space. Multiple names are allowed on same marker. A bronze veteran plaque must be mounted on the same marker. A flag holder may be located next to the marker of a veteran.
- D. The footing or foundation upon which a burial marker is placed shall be constructed by the Township with cost to the owner of the burial right. All foundations shall extend at least three inches beyond the base of the marker.
- E. The Township has the right to bury broken or irreparable markers on existing grave site if persons or family show no sign to repair such. Township Clerk will record same. The broken marker will be buried flush with the ground with engraving showing, if possible.
- F. All burials shall be made so as to allow sufficient room at the end for footings and marker.

## SECTION VI

### Interment Regulations

- A. Only one person may buried in a burial space except for a mother and infant or two children buried at the same time.
- B. Cremations are limited to four to six per burial space. One cremation with full burial first.
- C. Not less than 48 hour notice shall be given to Township Clerk in advance of any funeral to allow for the opening of the burial space.
- D. The appropriate permit for the burial space involved, together with appropriate identification of the person to be buried therein, where necessary, shall be presented to the cemetery Sexton or the Township Clerk prior to interment. Where such permit has been lost or destroyed, the Township Clerk shall be satisfied from his or her records, that the person to be buried in the burial space is an authorized and appropriate one before any interment is commenced or completed.
- E. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.
- F. No cremains shall be scattered or dispersed within a township cemetery.

## SECTION VII

### Ground Maintenance

- A. **All decorations** shall be located **on and within the burial space** next to the headstone.
- B. During summer months (April 1 thru November 30) all decorations shall be contained within a clay pot, concrete urn or metal vase, hanging baskets on Shepherd hook and solar lights are all permitted. Landscaping blocks, glass or plastic containers are prohibited. Silk or plastic flowers must be contained in a pot not just stuck in the ground. There shall be a limit of three decorations on each burial space.
- C. During winter months (November 1 thru March 31) decorations may include a grave blanket and a wreath.

- D. One shepherd hook will be allowed in line with the grave monument or behind it parallel and next to the concrete foundation.
- E. Hereafter the planting of shrubs, plants, trees, bushes or flowers in the ground on burial space is prohibited.
- F. All summer decorations shall be removed by December 1<sup>st</sup> and all winter decorations shall be removed by April 1<sup>st</sup>, or they may be removed by the Sexton.
- G. The Township Board reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant or shrub located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.
- H. The Sexton shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, decorations, containers or other refuse which does not conform to the requirements above or which, through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise, become unsightly, a source of litter, or a maintenance problem.
- I. Use of hoses and sprinklers for watering burial sites is prohibited.
- J. All mowing of burial sites shall be performed by Township employees or contractors.
- K. Should any monument or memorial become unsightly, dilapidated or a safety hazard, the Board shall have the right at the expense of the owner, to correct the condition or remove the same.
- L. The cemetery shall take reasonable precautions to protect plot assignees, within the cemetery, but it disclaims responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, including without limitation, damage caused by the elements, acts of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosives, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral.

## SECTION VIII

### Forfeiture of Vacant Cemetery Lots or Burial Spaces

Cemetery lots or burial spaces sold after the effective date of this Ordinance and remaining vacant sixty years from the date of the sale shall automatically revert to the Township upon occurrence of the following events:

- A. Notice shall be sent by the Township Clerk by registered mail to the last known address of the last owner of record informing him of the expiration of the sixty year period and that all rights with respect to said lots or spaces will be forfeited if he does not affirmatively indicate in writing to the Township Clerk within sixty days from the date of the mailing of the said notices his desire to retain the burial rights.
- B. No written response to said notice indicating a desire to retain the cemetery lots or burial spaces in question is received by the Township Clerk from the last owner of record of said lots or spaces or his heirs or legal representatives within sixty days from the date of mailing of said notice.
- C. The township may repurchase any cemetery lot or burial space from the owner for the original price paid for the cemetery lot or burial space upon written request of said owner or his legal heirs or representatives.

## SECTION IX

## Records

- A. The Township Clerk shall maintain cemetery deeds, all burials and burial permits, separate and apart from any other records of the Township and the same shall be open to the public inspection at all reasonable business hours.
- B. The Clerk shall keep a register and record of all interments in the cemetery. The record shall disclose the name of the deceased, name of the nearest relative, last known address, and name and address of the funeral home. The record shall be part of the public records of the Township.

## SECTION X

### Vault

All adult burials shall be within a standard concrete vault installed or constructed in each burial space before interment. Cremains may be buried in a hole a minimum of 30" deep. The space between the burial of cremains shall be a minimum of 12".

## SECTION XI

### Cemetery Hours

- A. The cemetery shall be open to the general public from the hours of daylight to dark.
- B. No person shall be permitted in the Township cemeteries at any time other than the foregoing hours, except upon permission of the Township Board or the Sexton of the cemetery.

## SECTION XII

### Cemetery Conduct

- A. No alcohol or refreshments
- B. No picking flowers or damage to shrubs
- C. No firearms
- D. No animals
- E. Speed limit of 10 mph
- F. No children permitted without adult supervision
- G. No motorcycles, snowmobiles, dirt bikes, ATV's
- H. No motor vehicles permitted off of driveways with permission of Sexton or Township representative.
- I. The use of metal detectors is prohibited.
- J. No person shall disturb the peace or unreasonably annoy, harass or disturb any other person who is lawfully present on the grounds of any township cemetery.
- K. There shall be no placement of surveillance cameras, video cameras or any type of recording devices allowed.

## SECTION XIII

### Authority of the Township to remove authorized or unlawful items from a township cemetery

Even if such an item is authorized to be installed, kept, maintained or left in a township cemetery, the township shall have the discretion to remove any such item at any time and

dispose of the same without prior notice to, consent from or liability to the person or persons who installed, maintained or left such item in a township cemetery.

#### SECTION XIV

##### Errors May Be Corrected

- A. The Township Clerk shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made, either in making interments, disinterment, or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as near as possible, or as may be selected by the Township Clerk, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of that purchase.
  
- B. In the event the error shall involve the interment of remains of any person in such property, the Township Clerk shall have the right to remove and reinter the remains in such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

#### SECTION XV

##### Penalties

Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of the within Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$100.00 and/or imprisonment for up to 90 days in jail as many be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. Any criminal prosecution hereunder shall not prevent civil proceedings for abatement and termination of the activity complained of.

#### SECTION XVI

##### Severability

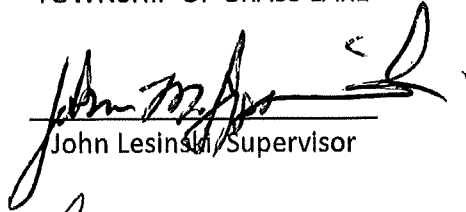
The provisions of the within Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and should any provision, section or part thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall only affect the particular provision, section or part thereof involved in such decision and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of such Ordinance which shall continue in full force or effect.

#### SECTION XVII

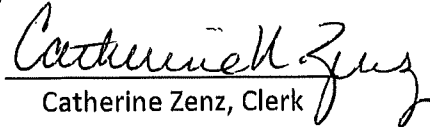
##### Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect on November 28,1991. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

TOWNSHIP OF GRASS LAKE



John Lesinski, Supervisor



Catherine Zenz, Clerk

Amendment of Ordinance – June 14, 2011 Board Meeting –  
effective immediately after publication – July 1, 2011

Amendment to Ordinance – March 8, 2022 Board Meeting –  
effective immediately after publication – March 15, 2022