

- - RULES AND REGULATIONS - -

**COURTLAND TOWNSHIP CEMETERY
LOCATION: MYERS LAKE AVE, AND PETERSON ST.
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION 2010-11

At a regular meeting of the Courtland Township Board held at the Township Offices, Rockford, Kent County, Michigan, on July 7, 2010, at 7:00 pm, the following resolution was offered by Brown and supported by Porter:

The rules and regulations to protect the public health, safety, general welfare, and beauty of the cemetery by establishing rules and regulations relative to the operation, control, and management of the cemetery owned by Courtland Township, Kent County, Michigan, and to repeal all rules and regulations in existence upon the adoption of said. It is also intended that these rules and regulations will serve as a means of achieving a peaceful and respectful setting for the burial of the deceased while permitting reasonable opportunities for persons to care for, beautify, adorn and improve gravesites within the cemetery.

THE TOWNSHIP OF COURTLAND APPLIES:

Section 1: Title and Applicability

These rules and regulations shall be known and may be cited as the Courtland Township Cemetery rules and regulations. Courtland Township owns the cemetery located on the corner of Myers Lake Ave. and Peterson Road in Courtland Township, Kent County, Michigan

Section 2: Definitions

A "Grave" is a burial space for human remains, which consists of a land area four (4) feet wide by eight (8) feet in length. The head (west side) of a grave shall be defined as the end and boundary of a grave nearest to the location where monuments and markers have traditionally been located in the cemetery. Section "E" has been laid out with half of all graves having markers at the foot (east) side of the grave. If it is unclear as to which end of the grave is the "head" as to a particular grave, the decision of the Township shall be final.

A "Lot" is a group of several graves. Lot sizes vary from 4 to 16 graves. All lots have a designated number and graves are numbered from 1 to 16 and/or A, B, C, & D in these lots.

A "Section" is a group of several lots. A section is used for orientating the placement of lots and graves. Each grave has a section, lot, and grave number.

A "Walkway" is an open space located at the foot of, or in some cases, the head of each grave and in between the lots. Section "E" has walkways at the head and foot of graves. Walkways vary in width.

A "Service Drive" is an area on which equipment/vehicles may be driven without traversing a grave.

The "Tribute Area" is that part of the surface of a grave located within twenty-four (24) inches of the head (boundary) of a grave, including the monument or marker, except where monuments and markers have been permitted at the foot of the grave, in which case, the Tribute Area will be located within twenty-four (24) inches of the foot (boundary) of the grave, including the monument or marker.

Section 3: Sale of Graves or Burial Rights

The Township may sell one or more graves in the cemetery for the purpose of granting to the purchaser the right of interment and burial of human remains within the cemetery. The sale of a grave, and the issuance of a Burial Grant, grants only a right of interment and does not convey absolute title to the grave or any other interest in real property.

The person to whom a Burial Grant has been issued, and their heirs and assigns may transfer and assign all the rights contained therein by execution and delivery to the Township Supervisor or Clerk of such transfer document as may be required by the Township.

The price of a grave site shall be established by the Township Board.

All graves shall be subject to the rules, regulations and terms contained herein and as may be amended by the Township Board from time to time.

Section 4: Monuments, Markers, and other Adornment of Graves

A. The tribute area within the boundary of a grave may only include a monument, marker, urn, floral displays, weighted small novelty statue, approved plantings, one white/clear non-blinking solar light on a stake only, and/or other approved adornments. Only two (2) items are allowed within the tribute area excluding planted flowers. Benches may not be used. No floral display, planting or other adornments may be located outside the tribute area.

B. Any border located around and within the perimeter of a tribute area shall be of a non-wood durable material may not have a height in excess of three (3) inches above grade. No loose stones or artificial ground cover may be located on any part of a grave including within a tribute area.

C. Bushes, shrubs, or trees may not be planted within the tribute area without the approval of the Township sexton.

D. Floral ground displays such as a wreath or funeral spray may be left on that portion of a grave outside of the tribute area following a burial for up to twenty one (21) days.

E. Each monument or marker shall be of durable permanent material, such as stone, and shall not exceed 72 inches in height from ground level. Nothing in the tribute area, other than monuments shall exceed twenty-four (24) inches in height.

F. A monument or marker that commemorates more than one person on contiguous graves may be centered on such graves within the tribute area.

G. Each monument or marker shall be placed on a foundation, which shall be constructed by or at the direction of the Township sexton. The cost of such foundation shall be paid by the purchaser.

H. Each monument or marker shall be placed at the head, or in some cases (section “E”) at the foot of the grave and in line with other nearby monuments or markers.

I. A temporary marker indicating the name of the deceased person may be placed on a grave only for one year after burial. After one (1) year a permanent marker (see “E” above) shall be installed.

J. The Township is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage to any monuments, marker, floral, display or other adornment located within the cemetery including those located within a tribute area.

Section 5: Ground Maintenance

A. Grading, leveling, or excavating of a grave shall be the responsibility of the Township sexton. Surfaces other than earth are not permitted. Mounds that hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.

B. The Township reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant, or shrub located within the cemeteries in the interest of reasonable maintenance of the cemetery. This includes bushes, shrubs and/or trees that hide monuments.

C. The Township may remove from a grave and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays, containers, solar lights, or other adornment that through decay, deterioration, or damage, has become unsightly or a hindrance to maintenance without notice to any person. Any floral display, planting, or other adornment located outside a tribute area may be removed by the Township without notice to any person.

D. In the event that a decoration or other type of structure or object for the intended purpose of beautifying a grave site is not mentioned in this section, then it is understood that such shall not be permitted without prior approval of the Courtland Township Board. The Township may remove any decorations or structures not authorized without notice.

E. No floral display, planting, or other adornment is permitted in a walkway.

Section 6: Interment

A Burial Grant, which has been purchased from the Courtland Township office, must be confirmed by the sexton and/or Township Supervisor/Clerk prior to interment.

All burials of a human body shall be in a vault in the ground. All cremation ashes must be placed in an airtight, non-decomposable container and buried. The Township sexton shall prepare a grave for interment. The fees to prepare a grave for interment shall be established by the Township Board and paid for by the burial grant holder, its successors and/or assigns.

A grave may contain the human remains of one person, one person and one infant, one person and one cremation, or two cremations.

Section 7: Cemetery Hours

- A. The cemetery shall be open to the general public from day light to dusk.
- B. No loitering, littering, alcoholic beverages, signs or notices, or animals are allowed.
- C. No person shall hunt, or discharge a firearm, air rifle or pistol, bow and arrow, cross bow or other weapon in the cemetery. This does not prohibit discharge of blank rounds as a salute by an authorized escort as part of a funeral or memorial service, nor the possession of firearms or weapons as authorized by federal or state law. (Amended 1/5/2011)

Section 8: Forfeiture of Vacant Graves

In the event that any grave sold by the Township remains vacant forty (40) years from the date of the last sale transfer of the grave, the Township Supervisor and/or Clerk may initiate a reversion process as described below:

Notice shall be sent by the Township via first class mail and Certified Mail to the last known address of the last known owner of a Burial Grant as evidenced by the Township records. Informing such person(s) of the expiration of the forty (40) year period and that all rights with respect to said grave will be forfeited. If no written response to such a notice indicating a desire to retain rights to such grave is received by the township within sixty (60) days after the date of mailing of such notice, then all rights to use of the grave shall be deemed reverted to the Township.

Section 9: Repurchase of Graves

The Township may repurchase any grave from the then current owner of a Burial Grant upon payment to such owner of an amount equal to the original purchase price, provided the Township has received a written request from such owner.

Section 10: Records

The Township Supervisor and/or Clerk shall maintain a permanent record concerning all burials and issuance of Burial Grants including the name and address of the person or persons to whom each Burial Grant is issued. Such records shall be kept separate and apart from any other records of the Township, and the same shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable business hours.

Section 11: Violations existing at time of adoption of Rules and Regulations

As of July 7, 2010, there are various graves in the Courtland Township Cemetery that have been adorned outside the tribute area or otherwise may be in violation of our rules and regulations. Any such adornment that is/are in violation of the rules or regulations and allowed to remain in place past thirty (30) days subsequent to notice or general mailing will be removed upon the approval of the supervisor and/or clerk. If necessary, the Township shall give notice to the last known owner (if known) of the Burial Grant by first class mail to the last known address (if known) of such owner, that the Township intends to remove such condition if it remains in place thirty (30) days after the sending of such notice. Nothing in this paragraph shall allow the existence or continued placement of any adornment or other items within a walkway or service drive, or any grave edging or border that is over three (3) inches in height above grade.

SECTION 12: Sexton

The sexton is a general contractor who has the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Cemetery per the Township Rules & Regulations.

Section 13: Effective Date

These changes are adopted July 7, 2010 and will become effective upon publication.

Yeas: Andersen, Brown, Crosby, Davis, Kinney, McIntyre, Porter

Nays: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I, Marilyn Crosby, Clerk of the Township of Courtland, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution offered at the Courtland Township Regular Board Meeting, held on Wednesday, July 7, 2010, and that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

Marilynn Crosby, Clerk

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