

**ORDINANCE REGULATING THE
OPERATION OF THE CEMETERY**

A regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Blissfield, Lenawee County, Michigan, was held in the Township Office on the _____ day of _____, 2018, at _____ p.m.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

The following Ordinance was introduced by _____ and seconded by _____.

WHEREAS this Board wishes to regulate the Blissfield Township Cemetery to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the citizens of the Township.

NOW THEREFORE THE TOWNSHIP OF BLISSFIELD ORDAINS:

TOWNSHIP OF BLISSFIELD

COUNTY OF LENAWEE

MICHIGAN

CEMETERY ORDINANCE

An ordinance to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare by establishing regulations relating to the operation, control, and management of the cemetery owned by the Township of Blissfield, Lenawee County, Michigan: to provide penalties for the violations of said ordinance; and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

TOWNSHIP OF BLISSFIELD

COUNTY OF LENAWEЕ MICHIGAN

ORDAINS:

SECTION I

TITLE

This ordinance shall be known and cited as BLISSFIELD TOWNSHIP CEMETERY ORDINANCE.

SECTION II

DEFINITIONS OF CEMETERY LOTS

AND BURIAL SPACES

- A. A cemetery lot shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate from one to three burial spaces.
- B. A burial space shall consist of a land area four feet wide and ten feet in length. (10' x 4')

SECTION III

SALE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES

- A. Hereafter, cemetery lots or burial spaces shall be sold to those who are residents and non-residents. Entrance fees will also be charged to those who are not residents.
- B. The Township Board also specifies that any burial spaces sold in the Township cemetery is for human burial only and does not convey any title to the lot or burial space.

SECTION IV

PURCHASE PRICE AND ENTRANCE FEE

- A. The purchase price of each burial space and any fees shall be determined by the Blissfield Township Board.
- B. All the charges shall be paid to Blissfield Township.
- C. The Township Board by Resolution may periodically alter the foregoing fees to accommodate increased costs and needed reserve funds for cemetery maintenance and acquisition.
- D. Prices for the burial of vaulted cremation containers shall be the same as the above described burial space unless otherwise determined by the Resolution of the Township Board or a representative thereof.

SECTION V

No burial spaces shall be opened and closed except for under the direction and control of the cemetery sexton. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the local health department.

SECTION VI

- A. All markers and memorials must be of stone or other natural aggregate.
- B. All headstones and monuments shall be set upon a concrete foundation fulfilling requirements given below: Every foundation shall be at least eight inches wider and eight inches longer than the base of the stone resting upon it and shall be finished level with or no more than one-half inch above the ground and thirty-six inches in depth. All foundations will be installed by the cemetery sexton.
- C. Only one monument, marker, or memorial shall be permitted per burial space.
- D. The footing or foundation upon which any monument, marker, or memorial must be placed and shall be constructed by the cemetery sexton at a cost to the owner of the burial right.

SECTION VII

INTERMENT REGULATIONS

- A. Only one person may be buried in a burial space, except for a mother and infant, two children, or up to six cremains.
- B. Not less than forty-eight hour notice shall be given in advance of any time of any funeral to allow for the opening of the burial space. In cases where there is frost to be removed from the ground, seventy-two hour notice is required.
- C. 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 either the

Township Supervisor or the Cemetery Sexton prior to the interment. Where such permit has been destroyed, the Township Supervisor shall be satisfied from his or her records that a person to be buried in the burial space is an authorized and appropriate one before any interment is commenced or completed.

D. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial spaces involved.

E. Vaulted cremation containers may be buried on existing lots or on a new lot.

SECTION VIII

GROUND MAINTENANCE

A. No grading, leveling, or excavating upon a burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the Township Supervisor or the Cemetery Sexton. Mounds which hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.

B. No glass containers will be allowed in the cemetery.

C. No decorative or loose stones are to be placed around footers or in flower beds. Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited.

D. There will be a spring cleanup on April 1 and a fall cleanup on October 1. All deteriorated decorations will be thrown away if they are not removed by this time.

E. No fences are allowed within the cemetery or around graves.

F. No trees or shrubs shall be planted on graves. The Township Board reserves the right to remove or trim any already existing tree, plant, or shrub located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.

G. One (1) shepherd's hook per grave is allowed. This decoration must be placed close to the headstone.

H. Grave blankets will be allowed from November 1 to March 15.

I. Artificial floral arrangements and other non-biodegradable decorations that are not placed on the footer or headstone shall be limited to two (2) items placed close to the footer.

J. The cemetery groundskeeper shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays or containers, that through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter, or a maintenance problem.

SECTION IX

FORFEITURE OF VACANT CEMETERY LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES

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

A. Notice shall be sent by the Township Clerk by First Class Mail to the last known address of the last owner of record informing him/her of the expiration of the twenty-year period and that all rights with respect to said lots or spaces will be forfeited if he/she does not affirmatively indicate in writing to the Township Clerk within sixty days from the date of mailing

of the within notice his/her 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 their heirs or legal representatives within sixty days from the date of mailing of said notice.

SECTION X

REPURCHASE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES

Only the Township may repurchase any cemetery lot or burial space from the owner for the original price paid the Township upon the written request of said owner or his legal heirs or representatives.

SECTION XI

RECORDS

The Township Supervisor shall maintain records concerning all burials and issuance of burial permits separate and apart from any other records of the Township and the same shall be open to the public.

SECTION XII

VAULT

All burials shall be within a vault and installed or constructed in each burial space before interment.

SECTION XIII

CEMETERY HOURS

A. The cemetery shall be open to the general public in accordance with Township Ordinances.

B. No person shall be permitted in the Township Cemetery at any time other than the foregoing hours, except upon permission of the Township Board or of the Cemetery Sexton.

SECTION XIV

PENALTIES

Any person, firm, or corporation who violates any of the provisions of the within Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil infraction and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$100. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. Any criminal prosecutions hereunder shall not prevent civil proceedings for abatement and termination of the activity complained of.

SECTION XV

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 decisions 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 and effect.

SECTION XVI

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BLISSFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD

Nancy Cranor, Clerk

The above Ordinance was voted upon by the Blissfield Township Board and declared adopted, the Board voting thereon as follows:

YES:

NO:

Al Navarro, Supervisor

Nancy Cranor, Clerk