

**ORDINANCE #33**

**BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP  
CRAWFORD COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**CEMETERY ORDINANCE  
UPDATE OF CEMETERY ORDINANCE #16 DATED 8/14/1998**

**ADOPTED: November 14, 2005**

**SECTION I: TITLE**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Beaver Creek Township Cemetery Ordinance. The purpose is 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 Beaver Creek, Crawford County, Michigan; to provide penalties for the violation of said ordinance; and to repeal all ordinances in conflict therewith.

**SECTION II: DEFINITIONS OF CEMETERY BURIAL LOTS**

The cemetery is divided into two sections known as the "OLD" section and the "NEW" section.

A. In the "OLD" Section, a cemetery block (24' x 35') shall consist of 12 burial spaces sufficient to accommodate 12 burial graves. Each block consists of two parts, A (containing grave numbers 1,2,3,7,8,9) and B (containing grave numbers 4,5,6,10,11,12). There are a total of 82 blocks, numbered 1 through 82. A burial space shall consist of a plot of land 5.83' wide and 12' long.

	6	12	
	5	11	PART B
BLOCK	4	10	
	3	9	
	2	8	PART A
	1	7	

B. In the "NEW" Section, a cemetery block (24' x 25') shall consist of 10 burial spaces sufficient to accommodate 10 burial graves. Each block consists of one part containing numbers 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10. There is a total of 24 blocks, numbered 86 through 109. A burial space consists of a plot of land 5' wide and 12' long.

	5	10
	4	9
BLOCK	3	8
	2	7
	1	6

Block #109 consists of 28 burial spaces and has typically been sold to those wanting only one or two burial spaces. These are 5' x 12' each.

2	3	6	7	10	11	14	15	18	19	22	23	26	27
1	4	5	8	9	12	13	16	17	20	21	24	25	28

**SECTION 3: SALE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES**

A. Cemetery lots shall be sold only to residents or taxpayers of the township or someone with family ties, for the purpose of the burial of said purchaser and his or her heirs or next of kin. No sale shall be made to funeral directors or others who plan to resell the space. The township clerk, however, is hereby granted the authority to vary the aforesaid restriction on sales where the purchaser discloses sufficient personal reason for burial within the township through previous residence in the township or relationship to persons interred therein or residents.

B. All such sales shall be made with a "Cemetery Lot Certificate" which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the lot or burial space sold. The township clerk shall complete this form.

C. Burial rights may only be transferred to people eligible to be original purchasers of burial spaces or lots. Burial rights may only be changed if the township clerk is advised by present owner and both owner and township clerk endorses the lot certificate and officially records the transaction in the cemetery record book.

D. Anyone desiring to sell his or her cemetery lot must notify the township clerk before the transaction is made. The resale price of lots shall not exceed the current market value established by the Township Board. The Township may purchase unused grave sites back at the price the owner originally paid for said lots.

#### **SECTION 4: PURCHASE PRICE & TRANSFERS**

A. Each burial space shall cost the sum of \$100.00 as of 8/14/1998.

B. Any transfer of one or more burial spaces from an original purchaser to a qualified assignee shall be done at no charge by the Township Clerk.

C. The lot charge shall be paid to the township treasurer.

D. The township board, by resolution, may periodically alter the burial space fees to accommodate increased costs. A review of these charges shall be done on a yearly basis at the beginning of each new fiscal year.

#### **SECTION 5: GRAVE OPENING CHARGES**

A. The opening and closing of any burial space, shall be at a cost to be determined from time to time by resolution of the township board, payable to the township. Present charges for opening and closing of an adult grave (over 36") are \$350.00 as of 9/12/2005, child's grave (under 36") \$125.00 and for cremation opening \$50.00. A review of these charges shall be done on a yearly basis at the beginning of each new fiscal year.

#### **SECTION 6: MARKERS, MONUMENTS AND FOUNDATIONS**

A. All markers, monuments or memorials must be of granite, bronze or other permanent acceptable material.

B. Any marker or monument must be located upon an approved foundation to maintain the same in an erect position. The foundation will be 4" larger than the marker or monument all around and even with the ground for easy mowing, trimming and lawn care.

C. No foundation, monument, marker, memorial or other material shall be installed without the specific approval of the township clerk, township board or cemetery sexton. The township clerk or cemetery sexton shall mark the area where the foundation, memorial or monument will be set.

D. The location of the monument, marker or foundation shall be at the head of the burial space, parallel to the head of the burial space line.

E. Inscriptions on monuments, marker or other memorials must not be offensive or improper, as judged by the township board. The owner of any such memorial will be responsible for all expenses for removal.

F. If a marker or monument becomes unsafe in the opinion of the township board, notice of the condition will be sent to the last known address of the owner and after 30 days if no action is taken, the structure will be removed or repaired at the owner's expense.

## **SECTION 7: INTERMENT, DISINTERMENT AND REINTERMENT REGULATIONS**

- A. Only one person may be buried in a burial space except for a parent and infant or two children buried at the same time or cremation urn placed at the foot of a burial lot.
- B. A maximum of two cremains shall be allowed to be placed in one burial space, unless permission is otherwise granted by the township board.
- C. The township clerk shall receive notice of the time of the funeral as soon as possible (at least 24 hours) to allow for the opening of the burial space.
- D. Families cannot open their own burial spaces. Arrangements must be made through the funeral home, township clerk or cemetery sexton.
- E. The appropriate permit for the burial and appropriate identification of the person to be buried, where necessary, shall be presented to either the township clerk or cemetery sexton at the time of interment. If a 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 space is authorized and appropriate before starting any interment.
- F. All graves shall be located in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.
- G. The township assumes no responsibility for errors in opening graves when others cause such errors.
- H. Scattering cremains over a family lot or anywhere in the cemetery is prohibited.
- I. No burial spaces shall be opened or closed except under the direction and control of the township clerk or cemetery sexton. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of bodies and remains, as this matter is under the control of the local health department.

## **SECTION 8: CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND CARE**

- A. No grading, leveling or excavating upon a burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the township clerk or the cemetery sexton.
- B. Permanent plantings of shrubs, trees or vegetation of any type shall not be done without the approval of the township clerk or cemetery sexton. Also, all existing shrubs, trees or vegetation are not to be removed from a lot without the approval of the township clerk or cemetery sexton. Any of these items mentioned which are planted without such approval may be removed by the township or the cemetery sexton.
- C. 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.
- D. Mounds, which hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.
- E. The cemetery sexton or maintenance person shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays, silk and plastic flowers or containers that show decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter, or a maintenance problem. All artificial flowers and winter grave blankets or displays can be placed on graves after November 1<sup>st</sup> and **must be removed by April 15<sup>th</sup>** to enable cleaning the cemetery for spring and getting ready for the summer mowing season. Between April 15<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>, graves shall be free of any artificial flowers, decorations, emblems, displays etc. to give our maintenance people time to rake, reseed, fertilize etc. Decorations can again be placed on the graves after May 15<sup>th</sup>, but within 6” of the monument, marker or foundation.
- F. Memorial ornamentations are to be placed within 6” of the marker or headstone and may not exceed the width of the grave to facilitate care. No ornamentations will be permitted in the pathways or center of burial grave. To locate benches, seats etc. on a lot, permission must first be obtained from the township clerk or cemetery sexton.

G. Surfaces other than earth or sod are prohibited on the top of any cemetery lot or grave. Artificial grass, white stone or pebbles, railroad ties, etc. are not permitted.

H. Cemetery care only includes seeding, top dressing, cutting and trimming grass, shrubs and trees and the general upkeep of the cemetery. Cemetery care does not include the maintenance of markers, monuments, memorials or foundations.

I. Fences, curbs, steps or any structure of perishable material are prohibited. Any presently existing structure as above mentioned will be removed by order of the sexton or maintenance person if or when they become unsightly by neglect or age.

J. If a family has been maintaining, mowing and trimming their own lots, it is acceptable with permission from the township clerk or cemetery sexton. But if said family fails to keep the lot or lots in perfect order, the township will do said maintenance at the same time they are doing the regularly scheduled maintenance such as mowing, trimming etc.

## **SECTION 9: FORFEITURE OF VACANT CEMETERY LOTS AND BURIAL SPACES**

A. Cemetery lots or burial spaces sold after the effective date of the original cemetery ordinance on 8/1/1998 and remaining vacant 40 years from the date of their sale shall automatically revert to the township upon occurrence of the following events:

1. Notice is sent by the township clerk by first-class mail to the last known address of the last owner of record informing him or her of the expiration of the 40-year period and that all rights with respect to the burial spaces or lots will be forfeited if the owner does not indicate in writing to the township clerk within 30 days from the date of mailing the notice, the desire to retain the burial rights.

2. Upon written request by an owner, an owner's heirs or an owner's legal representative, the township will repurchase any cemetery lot or burial space from the owner for the original price paid to the township.

## **SECTION 10: RECORDS**

The township clerk shall maintain records concerning all burials, issuance of burial permits and perpetual care funds separate from all other records of the township. The records shall be open to the public during regular business hours.

## **SECTION 11: VAULT**

All burials shall be within a non-perishable standard vault ("outside container") made of cement, fiberglass or other acceptable material, installed or constructed in each burial space before interment. This shall be a condition to burial in the cemetery.

## **SECTION 12: GENERAL REGULATIONS**

A. The cemetery shall be open to the general public during daylight hours.

B. Animals, except leader dogs, are not permitted in the cemetery. Also, no animal shall be buried in said cemetery.

C. No person shall obstruct any drive, walk or alley.

D. No person shall injure, deface or destroy any burial space, marker, monument, fence, flower, tree, shrub or other item in the cemetery.

E. Alcohol is not permitted in the cemetery.

F. No vehicles should drive faster than 5 miles per hour on cemetery roads.

G. Driving off the established roads is prohibited.

H. No firearms are allowed in the cemetery without written permission from the township clerk or cemetery sexton, except in the case of military funerals or ceremonies by official veteran's organizations on federal holidays.

I. No advertising will be allowed on cemetery premises.

J. Cemetery property may not be used at any time for a recreation area. All recreation equipment will be prohibited on the premises.

K. Parents and guardians will be held responsible for their children's behavior while on cemetery premises.

L. There will be no burials in the cemetery from December 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup> as a general rule, but depending on the weather and amount of snow. During this time bodies must be temporarily stored. The township does not have facilities for such storing and arrangements must be made through a funeral director.

### **SECTION 13: PENALTIES**

Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of the ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$500.00 and/or imprisonment for up to 90 days in jail as maybe determined by a court of competent jurisdiction. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. Any criminal prosecutions here under shall not prevent civil proceedings for abatement and termination of the activity complained of.

### **SECTION 14: 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 and effect.

### **SECTION 15: EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication as required by law. All ordinance or parts of ordinance in conflict of this ordinance are hereby repealed.