

Rules Relative to the Management,
Care and Supervision of the
Public Cemetery within the
Township of Boyne Valley.

Section 1

The care, management, and preservation of all public cemeteries and grounds including the improvements therein, shall be vested in the Board of the Township of Boyne Valley.


Section 2

The Township Board shall have authority to employ such assistance and help as is necessary to carry out the provisions of these rules provided no expenditure or liability shall be incurred in any one year over and above the amount appropriated for cemeteries for that year.

Section 3

The Township Board shall have the authority to adopt such rules in regard to public cemeteries and the burial of the dead within, not contrary to law, as it may deem necessary provided said Township Board shall spread such rules so adopted on its record and shall post in some conspicuous place for at least two weeks in said Township of Boyne Valley.

These rules shall take effect within twenty days from the date of their adoption.

Clerk 

I hereby certify that the foregoing rules were duly passed, adopted and posted in the Township of Boyne Valley that required two weeks.

Clerk 

Adopted 5/30/17

Rules Governing the
Boyne Valley Township Cemetery

Rule 1

The Township shall appoint a Sexton who shall hold such office at will of the Township Board.

Rule 2

The Township Sexton shall have charge of the cemetery and look after minor matters of same, and, if advisable, bring to a meeting of the Township Board to report them.

Rule 3

The Township shall ask for the immediate resignation of the Sexton at any time when, in their judgement, he/she is not giving public satisfaction.

Rule 4

The Township Board may allow any one or any Association to expend money or time in beautifying and improving the cemetery as they see fit under its supervision and according to the rules adopted.

Duties of the Sexton

Rule 5

The Sexton shall perform all such duties as laid down in the rules governing this cemetery and shall receive such compensation as determined by the Township Board.

Purchase of Lots

Rule 6

Persons desiring to purchase lots must first call the Township Clerk who will give them the lot numbers offered for sale. The Clerk will contact the Sexton who will show them to the actual lots. After the selection of a lot, the Township Clerk will be contacted by the purchaser who will pay for the lot and receive a deed for the same, giving the number of the lot and the price, after which interment in the lot can be made at any time on application to the Sexton or Township Clerk.

Rule 7

The Township Clerk may, at his/her discretion, allow an interment on a lot not paid for. No lot is considered sold until paid for. In case interments have been made in unpaid lots, the right is reserved to remove such remains from the lot to a single grave section in the potter's field at any time after a reasonable time and notice.

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Rule 8

Lots are not transferrable without the special permission of the Township and no lot shall be use for any other purpose than for the burial of the dead.

Rule 9

Lots that will not be used can be bought back by the Township Board for the amount paid in the original transaction.

Rule 10

No Improvement can be commenced on any lot until fully paid for and a deed obtained from the Township Clerk.

Rule 11

No wood fence or cement curb shall be erected around any lot.

Rule 12

Owners of lots shall not build mounds of graves, or build up lots above the grades established by the Township Board.

Rule 13

No construction of anything permanent is allowed without permission, in writing, from the Township.

Rule 14

Owners of lots may not add nor remove trees, shrubs, or flowers without the consent and approval of the Township.

Rule 15

If any tree or shrub standing on any lot shall be by means of its roots and/or branches or otherwise become detrimental to the adjacent lots, alleys, or avenues or shall become unsightly or inconvenient, the Township shall have the right to instruct the Sexton to enter such lot and remove said tree or shrub or such part there of as may be detrimental, unsightly, or inconvenient.

Rule 16

If any monument, effigy, or any other structure or any inscription shall be placed in or on any lot and shall be determined improper, offensive, or detrimental to the general appearance of the surrounding lots and grounds, it shall be the right and duty of the Township to enter in and upon said lot and remove or cause to be removed any such offensive or improper thing.

Rule 17

In order to produce a natural and pleasing effect over the entire grounds, the grade of each lot shall be determined by the Township Board and any such article which will interfere with the

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action of the lawn mower, such as shells, crockery, stones, glass, toys, etc., placed on or about the graves are prohibited. Owners of lots may cultivate flowers and ornamental shrubs (see Rule 13) on their lots so long as they are properly trained and cared for. If abandoned or neglected by their owner, the Sexton may remove them. All flowers and pots will be removed after November 1st by the Sexton.

Rule 18

Foot markers will be placed level with the ground so the lawn mower can pass over them.

Interments

Rule 19

Persons applying for an interment must file with the Sexton a burial permit from the Michigan Department of Public Health and pay for the same in advance. A permit must also be obtained to dig up or rebury.

Rule 20

No person other than the Sexton or some person acting under his direction shall open any grave in the cemetery or in any manner interfere with the duties assigned to him as a Sexton.

Rule 21

No burial will be done if the ground is frozen or snow covered.

Cemetery Courtesy

Rule 22

Children will not be admitted unless attended by some person who will be responsible for their conduct.

Rule 23

No rapid driving will be permitted. No driving on the lawns or in any place except for the driveway, except for the placing of monuments, during funerals, and improving the lots, all of which shall be under supervision of the Sexton.

Rule 24

Neither refreshments nor liquors will be allowed. No persons with fire arms or dogs will be allowed at any time (except for military funerals and Seeing Eye dogs).

Rule 25

All persons are strictly prohibited from picking any flowers, either wild or cultivated, breaking or injuring any trees or plants, writing upon or defacing or injuring any monument, fence, or other structure. No person shall use any obscene language, loud or profane conversation, or other improper conduct while on the grounds.

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Monuments

Rule 26

The erecting and placing of monuments must have at least a foundation of 4 inches deep, built of cement and stone and must be 8 inches longer and wider to provide 4 inches all around for the lawn mower to mow close to the monument. Foundations for very large, heavy stones will be at the discretion of the Sexton.

Rule 27

Any person violating any of the foregoing Rules will be immediately expelled from the grounds and shall be subject to such penalties as provided by the law.

Cremation Lots

Rule 28

Spaces 30" by 30" are available for cremation burial and only flat markers installed level with the grounds will be allowed.

Rule 29

These rules can be updated and amended at the discretion of the Township Board as needed.

Boyne Valley Township Cemetery Rules Addendum

November 11th, 1996

Motion to allow field stone grave markers if they are permanently mounted and engraved or have a rust free metal plaque attached with Sexton or Township Board approval.

Motion to require artificial flowers be removed by 10/15 to allow leaf removal and clean-up. Upon failure to do so, the Sexton will remove them.

May 12th, 1997

Resolution that all flags for Servicemen's graves shall be new every year.

September 15th, 1997 – Winter Storage Policy

Residents will be allowed winter storage, without charge, until ground is not snow covered or frozen and grave can be dug for burial.

Proof of burial space is required within 30 days.

If any resident has to go to a nursing home or a siblings' home for care, they would still be considered residents.

Non-residents will not be stored.

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May 10th, 1999

Motion to require a vault for all burials and incorporate it in Rules Governing the Boyne Valley Township Cemetery.

March 21st, 2000

Motion to reimburse, at original purchase price, for grave spaces no longer needed and returned to the Township.

May 13th, 2002

Motion that cremains require a vault.

October 14th, 2002

Motion to extend the cemetery resolution regarding winter storage free to residents to include free to lot owners also.

August 11th, 2003 – State Burials

We require the full amount that we charge for the burial space and grave digging even though the State of Michigan does not pay that much.

June 15, 2005

Plastic flowers have to be in urns to prevent weed whip destroying them.