

Ordinance 2021-178

Adopted November 10, 2021

The following is a summary of an Ordinance adopted by the Township Board on 11/10/2021. Please take further notice that the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained in the Office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours.

Thank you.

Definitions

- A. A cemetery lot-burial space sufficient to accommodate one (1) vault and no more than six cremains.
- B. A burial space means a land area 4 feet wide and 10 feet in length.

Sale of Lots or Burial Spaces

- A. The Township Clerk shall sell burial spaces directly to residents and non-residents.
- B. All sales shall be made on a form approved by the Township Board.
- C. Burial rights may be transferred only with the approval of the Township Clerk.
- D. All unused lots must be returned to the Township for a full refund of the purchase price.
- E. A burial right shall be considered abandoned and reverted to the Township in either of the following circumstances:
 - 1. Where a burial right was issued 40 years or more before the effective date of this Chapter, but has not been used for interment purposes upon the effective date of this Chapter.
 - 2. Where a burial right is issued on or after the effective date of this Chapter, but is not thereafter used for purposed of interment for the subsequent period of 40 years.
- F. Purchase of six (6) burial spaces per household

shall be allowed without prior approval of the Township Board.

Purchase Price and Transfer Fees

A. The purchase price for burial spaces shall be established by resolution (Resolution #2005-41) of the Township Board (Fee schedule is located on the back of this brochure).

Grave Opening Charge

- A. The opening and closing of any burial space shall be by contact with the cemetery sexton.
- B. No burial space shall be opened and closed except under the direction and control of the cemetery sexton.

Markers and Monuments

- A. All markers and monuments including benches used as or having the function of a monument or marker, shall be made of stone, bronze or other equally durable composition.
- B. Only one (1) monument shall be permitted per burial space. The Sexton may allow up to four memorial markers in conjunction with a monument, provided the markers shall be level with the ground so as to not impede the use of lawn maintenance equipment.
- C. The footing shall be eighteen inches (18") deep and four inches (4") larger on all sides with a maximum width of twenty-four inches (24").
- D. All markers and monuments must be set in a neat and orderly fashion in line with the row.

Internment Regulations

- A. Only one (1) person may be buried in a burial space with the exception of a mother/father and infant

- or two (2) children buried at the same time.
- B. Up to six (6) cremains may be buried in the same burial space not containing a full burial; or one full burial and not more than (5) five cremains shall be allowed in a burial space with prior approval by the Township Clerk.
- C. Forty-eight (48) hours' notice shall be given in advance of any funeral.
- D. Ownership or identification of the persons to be buried therein shall be presented to the cemetery sexton.

Vault

- A. All full burials shall be within a standard concrete or steel vault installed or constructed in each burial space before interment.

Ground Maintenance

- A. No grading or leveling upon a burial space shall be allowed.
- B. No shrubs, trees or vines shall be planted. No fences or curbs shall be erected.
- C. The Township Board or its designee reserves the right to remove or trim any tree or shrub already located in the cemetery.
- D. Mounds, memorials, decorations or benches that hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited. No site decoration shall be taller than the headstone unless it is a plant or flower planted in an urn.
- E. All urns, memorabilia, or decorations may be set in line with the headstone and shall be within the boundaries of each grave site. Urns that have become deteriorated may be removed by the sexton.
- F. All refuse of any kind, including, but not limited to, dried flowers, wreaths, papers, and flower containers shall be removed or deposited in containers located within the cemetery.

G. The sexton shall have the right and authority to Remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays or containers that through decay Deterioration or damage are unsightly, would become a source of litter, or a maintenance problem.

H. All encroachments onto adjacent lots are the responsibility of the individual registered lot owners or their designated representative(s).

I. The Rutland Charter Township Board or their designees shall not be held liable for any and all decorations, memorabilia, trees, shrubs, etc.

Records

A. The Township's Clerk shall maintain all records concerning all burials.

Cemetery Hours and Regulations

A. The cemetery exists as a memorial to the deceased. It shall be open to the general public daily from dawn to dusk for the purpose of memorializing the deceased. No alcoholic beverages, disruptive behavior or conduct deterring from the purpose of the cemetery shall be condoned. The cemetery roads and grounds will not be maintained during the winter months unless there is a burial scheduled to take place.

Penalties

A. Any person, firm or corporation who violates any provisions of the within Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil infraction.

Corrections of Errors

A. The Township reserves the right to correct any errors by substituting a site in another location or refunding the purchase price of said burial rights.

Rutland Charter Township Cemetery Fee Schedule

Resident Lot Fees Per Household

\$50.00 per lot for the first two (2) lots

\$100.00 per lot for all lots over two (2)

**\$50.00 per lot for all deceased
dependent children**

Non-Resident Lot Fees

\$350.00 Per lot

If you need any help or have any questions, please contact the Rutland Charter Township Clerk's Office.

2461 Heath Rd.

Hastings, MI 49058

Phone: 269-948-2194

Fax: 269-948-4180

Email: clerk@rutlandtownship.org

Sexton Contact Information

Hallifax Services

Nancy Hallifax

269-948-8668

RUTLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP



Rules Governing the Operation of the Rutland Charter Township Cemetery and Cemetery Fee Schedule