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## **Big Prairie – Everett Cemetery Rules and Regulations**

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### **Acknowledgement**

In May of 1991, as a result of several meetings and intense thought, this booklet was developed for the purpose of informing the residents of Big Prairie-Everett Townships of the rules and regulations of the Big Prairie-Everett Cemetery. The cemetery board voted to form a cemetery committee to address these and other issues concerning the cemetery. The members of the original cemetery committee were Marvin Webster, Fred DeMint, and Robert Meyers. Special appreciation is given to these citizens for their long hours of dedicated work in preparing this booklet. At that time, the cemetery board voted to develop a perpetual care fund. This fund, for now and in the future, will help maintain the cemetery for posterity.

The completion of this booklet could not have been made without the support and approval of the cemetery board and their dedication to the improvement of the issues concerning Big Prairie-Everett Cemetery. At that time the members of the board were Donald M. Dumford, Judith Baker, Carolyn Westgate, Robert Myers, Harold D. Harmon, Catherine Bowman, Janice K. Parrish, Norman Clary, Fred DeMint, and Roger Smith.

The current Cemetery Superintendent is Timothy Frisbie.

The board hopes all the residents of Big Prairie and Everett Townships find this booklet helpful and informative.

With Respect,

**David Wright, Big Prairie / Everett Township Cemetery Chairman**

**First update of this booklet was in April 1, 2001.**

## Definitions

1. **Adult** – Any person 13 years of age or older.
2. **Board** – The term board shall mean the Big Prairie and Everett Township Cemetery Board.
3. **Burial Opening** – The term burial opening shall apply to a space of sufficient size to accommodate one adult interment approximately five feet by twelve feet.
4. **Cemetery** – The term cemetery is hereby defined to include a burial park for earth interments.
5. **Cemetery Clerk** – The Cemetery Clerk shall maintain records pertaining to all burials, issuance of certificate of ownership, all cemetery funds, separate and apart from any other records of the township and the same shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable business hours. Also the cemetery clerk shall send to the last known address of the owner any notices informing him/her of all rights to said lots or openings.
6. **Cemetery Office** – Cemetery office shall mean the township clerk's office.
7. **Certificate of Ownership** – The term certificate of ownership shall apply to the original conveyance given by the cemetery board to the original purchaser.
8. **Child** – A person between the ages of 2 and 12 years of age.
9. **Disinterment** – To dig up or remove a dead body from a grave or tomb.
10. **Infant** – A child between the ages of 0 to 1 year of age.
11. **Heirs** – One who succeeds or is to succeed another in the possession of property.
12. **Interment** – The term interment shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of only a deceased human body by cremation, inurnment, entombment or burial.
13. **Lot** – The term lot shall consist of burial openings sufficient to accommodate from one to five burial openings.
14. **Lot Marker** – The term lot marker refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate lot corners.

15. **Memorial** – The term monument shall include a tombstone or memorial of granite or marble, which shall extend above the surface of the ground.
16. **Monument** – The term monument shall include a tombstone or memorial of granite or marble, which shall extend above the surface of the ground.
17. **Partial Lot** – The term partial lot shall mean less than five burial openings.
18. **Perpetual Care** – A trust fund established for the purpose of maintaining the cemetery.
19. **Superintendent** – The term superintendent shall mean the person or persons duly appointed by the cemetery board for the purpose of conducting interments, directing funeral processions, grounds keeper, general maintenance, grave locator, administrating the cemetery policies, rules and regulations and dispersing general information.
20. **Unit** – A single person.

### General Rules

1. No vehicle shall be driven or parked on, other than established drives except for maintenance purposes.
2. Visitors shall be allowed access to the grounds if they observe the rules and regulations.
3. Visiting time is from dawn to dusk each day.
4. No children allowed in the cemetery without adult supervision.
5. No person shall allow any animals into the cemetery.
6. All artificial flowers must be in containers other than glass and not less than 6" across.
7. Ornaments under 8" tall must be affixed to head stone or foundations.
8. Ornaments over 8" tall can be placed 12" or less in front of the headstone (east).
9. Urns must be placed on either side of headstone (north or south).
10. Nothing can be placed behind the headstone (west).
11. Urns and flowers shall be your own responsibility. Rubbish or debris of any kind or nature including, among others, dried flowers, wreaths, papers, and flower containers must be removed

- or deposited in containers located within the cemetery on or before November 1, of each calendar year. With the approval of the cemetery superintendent, Christmas decorations (grave blankets or wreaths) may be placed beginning November 15, and must be removed by April 1.
12. Rubbish or debris shall be removed and disposed of properly by the person bringing it.
  13. Flowers, trees or shrubs are not to be picked, disturbed or mutilated. The cemetery board may give the superintendent the right to enter any lot and remove any trees and shrubs or such parts thereof as are detrimental, unsightly or inconvenient.
  14. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on cemetery premises.
  15. No one is permitted to walk upon or across lots or lawns unless it is necessary to do so to gain access to one's own lot. The cemetery expressly disclaims liability for any injuries by anyone violating this rule.
  16. No firearm is to be discharged on cemetery property. This prohibition shall not apply to authorized volleys at burial services. The liability rests upon the authorized party.
  17. Employees of the cemetery are not permitted to do any work for lot owners except upon order of the superintendent but are required to be courteous to all visitors.

### **Burial Opening Ownership**

1. Description of all burial openings shall be in accordance with the cemetery plot record, which is kept on file in the township clerk's office.
2. The cemetery board reserves the right-to-enlarge, reduce, re-plot or change the boundaries or grading of the cemetery or a section thereof. If such a procedure becomes necessary, the cemetery board will re-issue certificates of ownership, amending any rights affected by the changes.
3. The cemetery board reserves to its employees the rights of ingress and egress over burial openings for the purpose of maintenance or

4. Cemetery lots or burial openings shall be sold to residents and non-residents of the townships for the purpose of the burial of such purchaser or his/her heirs at law.
5. Individuals who must sell their property and establish residency elsewhere outside the township for medical reasons, shall not lose their right to purchase burial openings at the prevailing rate for residents and property owners of the township.
6. The superintendent shall handle all sales of cemetery burial openings and all sales shall be in accordance with the current price schedule.
7. Before any burial is made in a burial opening, complete payment for the opening must be made to the cemetery superintendent.
8. The certificate of ownership issued by the clerk, a copy of the rules and regulations and a copy of the cemetery ordinance shall constitute the agreement between the cemetery board and the burial opening owner. The statement of any employee or agent, unless confirmed in writing by the cemetery board, reflecting rules and regulations shall in no way bind the cemetery.
9. It is the responsibility of the burial opening owner to notify the board of any changes of address.
10. The board reserves the right to repurchase burial openings at the original price from owners who desire to sell.
11. No burial opening shall be sold or transferred to a third party without cemetery board approval.
12. No burial opening shall be used for any purpose other than the burial of human bodies.
13. Nonresidents may purchase burial openings at nonresident rates. All rules and regulations must be adhered to.

### **Care of Burial Openings**

1. The general care of the cemetery is assumed by the superintendent and includes the cutting of grass, the raking and cleaning of the grounds and the pruning of shrubs and trees that may be planted by the superintendent.

2. The general care assumed by the cemetery shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial placed upon burial openings, nor the doings of any special or unusual work in the cemetery. Nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marble or granite work on any sections or plot, or any portion or portions thereof, in the cemetery, caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots or by the order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.
3. There shall be no individual planting of shrubbery except by permission of the superintendent
4. The placements of flowers must be in line, north and south, with the headstone. All flowers must be in containers of dirt not less than 6" across.
5. The placement of flowers and/or ornaments must be within one (1) foot east of the headstone. Nothing can be behind the headstone (west).
6. The board shall not be responsible for any kinds of individual plantings damaged by the elements, vandals, and thieves or by other causes beyond its control.
7. The superintendent will assume no responsibility for the care, protection or maintenance of vases, urns or other objects. Such articles, when left, will be entirely at the risk of the owner.
8. The cemetery board shall have the authority to authorize the removal of any and all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants or herbage of any kind from the cemetery as soon as, in the judgment of the board, they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental or diseased, or when they do not conform to the standards maintained.

### **Funerals and Interments**

1. The cemetery will be open for interments the year-round, provided weather conditions do not endanger the health or well being of the employees. There will be additional charge between November 15 and April 1.

2. No interment will take place without an appropriate burial permit, together with appropriate identification of the person to be buried therein, shall be presented to the cemetery superintendent, by the funeral director upon arrival at the cemetery.
9. All interments and funeral processions shall be under the control and direction of the superintendent.
10. Funeral directors making arrangements for burials shall be responsible for all interment charges.
11. Burial of resident indigents shall be placed in Potters Field.
12. Only one person may be buried in a burial opening except for a parent and infant or two children buried at the same time. No more than two containers of cremated remains may be buried in one burial opening.
13. Concrete vaults shall be used for all burials.
14. Burial opening owners shall not allow interments in their burial openings for remuneration of any kind.
15. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the cemetery, no funeral director nor his embalmer, assistant, employee, or agent shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body without consent of the legal representative of the deceased or an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

### **Disinterment**

1. Disinterment of a body, once properly interred, shall not be made without a properly executed disinterment permit from the county health department and a circuit court order within competent jurisdiction.

### **Monuments and Memorials**

1. All plans, specifications and locations of markers or memorials are subject to the approval of the superintendent. All markers or memorials placed without approval shall be removed.

2. All monuments must have a foundation or base. Said foundation or base must be installed by or under the supervision of the superintendent, with the following specifications:
  - a. Must go to the head (front) of the grave.
  - b. Must be 4" thick with a 2" border all the way around.
3. For the best interest of burial opening owners, memorials of cement, artificial stone, composition, wood, tin or iron are at the discretion of the superintendent.
4. No fences. Walls or copings are permitted and burial openings shall be maintained at grade level.
5. Should any structure whatever, or any inscription be placed in or upon any burial opening, which shall be determined by the cemetery board to be offensive or improper or injurious to the appearance of the surrounding lots or grounds, said board shall have the right to authorize the superintendent to enter upon such lot and remove the said object.
6. No advertising is permitted in the cemetery.
7. All workmen employed by outside firms while within the cemetery are subject to the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

### **Other Rules**

1. The cemetery board shall have the right to correct any errors which may be made, either in making interments or disinterments, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as near as possible, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of that purchase. In the event the error shall involve the interment of remains of any person in such property, the cemetery board shall have the right to authorize proper authorities to remove and reinter said remains in such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed by the cemetery board.
2. The purchaser of the burial rights waives any claim or right of action or of liability against the cemetery board/townships arising out of or



relating to any errors in conveyance of burial rights, improper placement of interred remains or any other event that may result in the disturbance of the interred remains place don a burial opening, and further, that the extent of liability, if any, shall in no event exceed the consideration paid for the burial rights.

3. The laws of the State of Michigan pertaining to the armed forces will be followed. Veterans will not be buried in Potter's Field.
4. Other rules and regulations as prescribed by the State of Michigan shall be strictly adhered to.
5. The Big Prairie or Everett Township clerk, along with the superintendent shall maintain the records.

### **Perpetual Care**

1. The purpose to eventually make the cemetery self-supporting.
2. All funds paid to or donated for perpetual care shall be deposited by the cemetery board treasurer to the credit of the "perpetual care fund" to be administered by the cemetery board and held in trust and invested by the cemetery board. The interest there from, shall be used for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

**Big Prairie Everett Cemetery Prices  
Effective April 1, 2009**

**Burial Openings for Residents or Property Owners.....~~\$175.00~~ 200.00  
Per opening**

**Burial Openings for Non-Residents  
or Non-Property Owners.....\$500.00  
Per opening**

<b>Burial Rates:</b>	<b>April 1 to Nov 15</b>
<b>Adult Casket</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>Child Casket</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Infant Casket</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Cremation (Ashes)</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Disinterment (Per Unit)</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

**Above rates will be doubled on Sunday and triple on Holidays.**

**Donations will gladly be accepted for our perpetual care program.**

