

**TOWNSHIP OF COLFAX  
COUNTY OF OCEANA, MICHIGAN**

**Section I: TITLE: Colfax Township Cemetery Resolution 2023-3**

Resolution to establish rules and regulations for interment and burial space maintenance as established in Section 4 of Colfax Township Cemetery Ordinance No. 3 of September 13, 1982.

**Section II: DEFINITION OF CEMETERY LOTS AND BURIAL SPACES**

- A. A cemetery lot shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate from two to four spaces.
- B. An adult burial space shall consist of land area four (4) feet wide and twelve (12) feet in length.

**Section III: INTERMENT REGULATIONS**

- A. Only one person may be buried in a burial space except for a mother and infant or two infants buried at the same time.
- B. The cremains of a spouse, son, daughter, or grandchild may be buried in the same space with a spouse, father, mother, or grandparent.
- C. Cremation remains are limited to two (2) per burial space.
- D. Not less than a 36-hour advance notice of a funeral shall be given to allow for the opening of the burial space.
- E. The appropriate permit for the burial space involved, together with appropriate identification of the person to be buried therein shall be presented to either the Colfax Township cemetery sexton or the Colfax Township Clerk prior to interment. Where such permit has been lost or destroyed, the clerk shall be satisfied from his or her records that the person to be buried in the burial space is authorized before any interment is commenced or completed. The Colfax Township Clerk shall be the final authority in making this determination.

F. No burial space shall be opened and/or closed except under the direction and control of the cemetery sexton. This section shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of remains for which matters are under the supervision of the local health department. Cost of disinterment and reinterment shall be borne by the lot or space owner.

#### **Section IV: MARKERS AND MEMORIALS**

- A. No additional shrubs, trees, or vegetation shall be planted without the approval of the cemetery sexton or township board. This prohibition also applies to plantings commonly referred to as "Earth balls."
- B. Potted plants are permissible from April 1<sup>st</sup> through November 1<sup>st</sup>, so long as all plants are in durable containers not exceeding the dimensions of the individual grave space and do not interfere with ground maintenance. Glass containers are prohibited. Containers placed or remaining at grave sites outside of permissible dates may be removed and disposed of by the township.
- C. All markers must be made of stone or other equally durable composition.
- D. A single upright markers per space is permissible. Secondary markers, as in the case of spaces containing two (2) cremains, must be flush with the ground. Large markers or memorials must be located upon a suitable foundation to maintain in an erect position. Any footing or foundation upon which any marker, monument or memorial is placed shall be constructed with the approval of the township clerk or the clerk's designee, i.e. sexton.
- E. Mounds or above ground structures other than memorials are prohibited.
- F. 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, safety, and use of the cemetery. This includes any decoration or display that creates a hazard to maintenance workers or cemetery visitors.
- G. The township board shall have the authority and sole discretion to remove all growth, emblems, displays, or containers that through deterioration, damage, decay or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter, or maintenance problem.

#### **Section V: INTERPRETATION/APPEALS TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD**

- A. The Colfax Township Board shall have the authority to render binding interpretation regarding all provisions contained in this resolution and Colfax Township Cemetery Resolution 2023-1. The township is also

authorized to waive application of the strict letter of any said provision, so long as any such waiver will not impair the purposes of the cemetery resolutions.

B. Any party aggrieved by any interpretation or decision made by the cemetery sexton or township official or contractor pursuant to this resolution and/or Colfax Township Cemetery Resolution 2023-1 shall have the right to appeal that interpretation or decision to the full Colfax Township Board. Any such appeal shall be in writing and filed with the township within thirty (30) days of the decision or determination. Pursuant to any such appeal, the decision of the Colfax Township Board shall be final.

#### **Section VI: RESOLUTION SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS**

A. This resolution and the provisions of Colfax Cemetery Resolution 2023-1 is adopted in accordance with Colfax Cemetery Ordinance No. 3 adopted September 13, 1982 and does not repeal this ordinance. All provisions of Colfax Cemetery Ordinance No. 3 of 1982 governing conduct remain in effect.

#### **Section VII: EFFECTIVE DATE**

Resolution adopted on July 5, 2023 with immediate effect.

Daryl J. Lewel Supervisor 7-5-2023 Date

Connie Noth — Clerk 7-5-2023 Date