

In the Wheatland Township, the Collector's sole responsibility is the management of the Township's 6.1 acre cemetery per Illinois Statute 60 ILCS Sec 1/130-10.

Background: The Wheatland Cemetery Association was established circa 1840 and managed by local volunteer descendants for 160 years. In year 2000, the Association petitioned the Township to assume the management of the Cemetery. At the Annual Township meeting in April 2002, the citizens voted to have the Township assume the responsibility and management of the Cemetery, with agreement that the cemetery be managed by the Township and never be sold.

Per the Illinois Statute, an acquired cemetery is to be managed by the Tax "Collector" who is designated the Cemetery Board President with no more than two appointed volunteer Trustees. (All Tax Collection duties had been transferred to the County many years ago.)

The Township Board oversees the cemetery operation to insure efficient expense control and the Collector/Manager's compliance with Illinois statutes for Cemeteries, specifically the 2010 Cemetery Care Act (ILCS 760 100) which defines the required licensing of the Cemetery Manager and the Cemetery Operations, including the preservation of Perpetual Care funds, recording sales, interments and other procedural records. The Cemetery Manager (elected 'Collector') and 2 volunteer Trustees develop and execute internal processes to manage sales, respond to inquiries, meet with families, arrange and cover funerals, collect required burial documents, update required Illinois Burial Data Base, maintain ambiance of the cemetery, arrange for installations of grave Monuments, conduct tours, develop budget, approve bill payment by Township Board, etc. Occupants need a measure of flexibility in their daily lives to be effective participants with their work at the cemetery.

The Collector/Cemetery Manager attends monthly Township meetings but has no voting authority on the Township Board.

For more information about our cemetery, please see the Cemetery web page for brief videos and links to other sites of interest.

Ben Peterson, Cemetery President/Manager (elected Tax Collector).