

Patty Hillebrand

From: Greg Hyer
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 4:21 PM
To: Patty Hillebrand; Jennifer Broberg
Subject: Fwd: Considerations Around 2026 OA-006 Regarding Private Burials

Please add to PC and Board agendas with this and Hans email.

Thanks

Begin forwarded message:

From: Renee Lauber <lauberconsulting@gmail.com>
Subject: Considerations Around 2026 OA-006 Regarding Private Burials
Date: October 5, 2026 at 14:44:56 CDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;

Dane County Town Boards,

Towns subject to county zoning have the opportunity to vote on Dane County Ordinance Amendment 2026 OA-006, which would allow private burial sites as permitted by right on all lots 5 acres or larger. This was described in a September 3 memo to towns from Interim Zoning Administrator Hans Hilbert, available here:

<https://dane.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=8060280&GUID=578C56D1-3A6C-463A-94ED-21D8E3D17521>

The Town of Middleton voted against the ordinance amendment with these objections:

The Town Board believes that the unplanned establishment of a burial site at any location on parcels of 5 acres or more in the Town is not a good policy. Such a policy may make it difficult to plan around such sites in the future when there may be a proposal to develop the subject property or adjoining land, as future development will need to avoid disturbing the burial site when laying out future streets, utilities or structures which may otherwise be in the public interest. The Town Board, representing an urban town, believes that approval of the location of a burial site that is compatible with future planning is important to the Town. The Town is willing to participate in preparing revisions to the proposal in the future.

Here are additional considerations based on DCTA board discussion:

- The term "private burial site" is not defined. The statutory definition of "burial" includes entombment in a mausoleum.

- The minimum size of 5 acres would not allow a family with graves on a smaller lot to add new graves.
- There are no restrictions on size or prohibitions on plot fees.
- The requirement for a survey could involve the cost of surveying a metes-and-bounds parcel in order to place survey markers.
- There are no requirements for maintenance or access.
- There is not a requirement to notify towns about burial locations which could affect planning for future land use and roads.

Renee Lauber

Executive Director
Dane County Towns Association
www.danecotowns.net

608.577.9997