

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MAY 12, 2022

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on May 12, 2022 at the Township Hall. Board members present were - Jerry Counterman, Shari Pomranke, Jerome Isaacs, and Susan Radka. Absent was Pam Schaedig. Also present were Quintin Meek and Steve Kellar, as well as 13 residents from the Ocqueoc Lake area.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Counterman and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and accepted with one addition.

The minutes of the April meeting were read, and were accepted as presented.

Pomranke gave Schaedig's report on the April 27 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Subscription brochures will be available soon. Paperwork will be sent to the auditor for the yearly audit. The service will lose one employee who is getting her nursing degree, but hope to add some that are currently in a Basic class. There were 33 Advanced runs, 10 Basic, and 20 No-transports. There were 3 runs each to Bearinger and Ocqueoc.

Radka gave a report on the April 27 Ocqueoc Outdoor Center Board meeting. A website is being developed with pictures and history of the OOC, with links to a reservations calendar and PayPal. Presque Isle County distributed a survey for public input on what improvements are needed at recreation facilities, including OOC. Feedback will be incorporated in PI County 2022-2027 Recreation Plan. OOC buildings need new roofs, siding and updated electrical. A grant application was submitted in February for construction of a pavillion but was not selected. Plans for a pavillion will be included in the county's 2022-2027 Recreation Plan for MDNR recreation grant funding. OOC Friends will have a table in front of the post office and will distribute brochures and OOC historical books at the June 10 Art Walk in Rogers City, to raise public awareness of the history as a CCC site. Reservations for the May 21 Basket Making Class from 10:00am - 4:00pm at the OOC, can be made by contacting Mary Ann Heideman at 989-351-9700. An upcoming photo essay on the New Deal will appear in MI History Magazine, and will include OOC. Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meet at 1:30pm on the 4th Wednesday each month at the MSU Extension Office in Rogers City.

Counterman gave a report on the May 6 Fire Board meeting. There were 15 medical runs. Of them, 10 were answered by Rogers City and 5 Onaway, 6 were from Ocqueoc and 9 from Bearinger. 14 were transported and 1 no-transports. A banner is posted, to recruit volunteer firefighters and EMS. This continues to be a challenge because of the extensive training required and time commitment.

Quintin Meek from Lappan Agency presented an insurance proposal through Michigan Township Participating Plan Property & Casualty Dividend Program (MTPP). The annual premium is \$3,529, with up to a 5% annual return dividend after the first year. We pay \$2,521 through MML, plus a \$200 annual membership fee, minus a 2022 \$253 pool renewal dividend. - We will compare coverage at our regular June 10th meeting to determine if there are additional benefits offered under the MTPP plan that warrant the extra premium.

The floor was given to Steve Kellar, to present information about weed control in Ocqueoc Lake. Discussion ensued and input was given by members of the public in attendance. Excessive weed growth and algae are having a negative impact on fishing and watercraft navigating. Kellar will lead a work group to improve the situation. Next steps are:

1. Bring in a consultant to determine what types of weeds and invasive species are in the lake, and recommend a treatment plan. Kellar will contact Huron Pines in Gaylord to find out when their 2022 invasive species inventory is scheduled. This inventory is being funded by a grant.
2. Get cost to remove/control lake weeds. Kellar has a list of preferred contractors that was provided by EGLE.
3. Counterman advised that Ocqueoc Township board previously voted to pay for 1/2 the cost, with property owners paying the other 1/2. That offer is still in effect.
4. Kellar, Radka and Counterman agreed to meet to proceed with the project. Tim McGee will be contacted to participate as well.
5. Janet Stephens will create a FaceBook group to connect and inform residents on the status of the project, and to solicit feedback.

Pomranke received a quote of \$200 from Todd Curtis to spread gravel and fill potholes in front of and inside Transfer Station site. A motion was made by Isaacs, supported by Pomranke, to proceed. M.C.

Counterman received a quote of \$4,053 from Ron MacDonald in Alpena to sand and resurface the Ocqueoc Township Hall wood floors. Work to be completed May 20-21, 2022. A motion was made by Counterman, supported by Isaacs, to authorize this work. M.C.

P.I. County Township Officers Association picnic/meeting on June 7, 2022, 6:00 p.m. - Schaedig has offered to make a taco salad as our dish to pass.

Pomranke suggested raising the cost of garbage bags in order to have the transfer station become financially self-sustaining, and in turn budget more for road gravel projects. We would need to formally evaluate transfer station costs and projected revenue before we consider raising the cost of the bags. For road gravel projects, we are required to submit to the county a list of roads to be included in their project list.

Loose garbage at the transfer station continues to be a problem. We are on a waiting list for workers from the work release program to do a clean-up. In the meantime, Pomranke will ask Suzanne Foster to work on cleaning up the area as she is able. This duty is included in the Transfer Site Attendant Job Description. Pomranke will include a reminder in the June newsletter to bundle plastic bags together before dumping them in the recycle bin. We may need to consider having dumpsters emptied more frequently during heavy use times.

Michigan Election Law is requiring townships to use video monitoring of ballot drop boxes. We will discuss this further at our June 29 meeting.

The women's bathroom toilet needs replacement of internal tank hardware and water shut-off valve. A motion was made by Isaacs, supported by Radka, to contact a plumber for repair. M.C.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed.

Treasurer Pomranke reported that Ocqueoc Township population decreased by 111, from 655 to 544, which resulted in a decrease of \$1,831.50 for the first 2-month payment received from Constitutional Sales Tax. Projected annual revenue loss is between \$11,000-\$12,000 for 2022. We received \$5,437 from the county for the last of the delinquent taxes collected. Of that amount, \$2,250.75 was for Ocqueoc Emergency Services.

Our portion of the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Department 2022/2023 Budget Contribution is \$22,514.01. One-half is due May 2022; One-half is due October 2022. Pomranke will send a check for the first half in the amount of \$11,257.01 to Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Department, c/o: Beverly Rossetto, Financial Officer.

Counterman received a legal description on the Ken Schaedig property parcel to be purchased by the township. Per Assessor Allan Berg, the seller (Ken Schaedig) must complete a list of items for split of his land.

A motion was made by Radka, supported by Isaacs, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Radka", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Radka, Trustee