

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 12, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on January 12, 2023 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were Richard Colonna and Joel Jaroch. The group practiced social distancing.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 7:00 p.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and approved with several additions. The minutes of the December meeting were read and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the December 28 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The ambulance service is eligible for \$35,900 from the County ARPA funds, but must purchase items and be reimbursed by the county. There is a 2017 Ford Explorer in St. Ignace, which would be a good replacement for the Echo Unit, which is rusting badly. It would cost approximately \$9,000, for the unit, adding logos, and moving radios. And Hyde has talked about lifting mats for each unit, since they have a lot of "lift assist" calls, and sometimes only one person available. They lift up to 980 pounds, and cost approximately \$1780. The board authorized Coordinator Hyde to purchase 2 lifting mats, as well as the replacement for the Echo Unit, and get reimbursed from the county. Purchases must be made by June of 2023. He will also see what might be beneficial to purchase, perhaps an ultra-sound unit, which would help locate veins. There were 32 Advanced runs, 11 Basic, and 36 No-transports, with 1797 miles logged. Ocqueoc had 5 runs and Bearinger zero.

Counterman gave a report on the Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting December 14, 2022. In October there were 72 ER runs and 33 No-transports, with 2652 miles logged. Ocqueoc had 2 No-transports and 5 ER runs, Bearinger had 2 No-transports and 1 ER run. In November there were 76 ER runs and 33 No-transports, with 2730 miles logged. Ocqueoc had 5 ER runs and Bearinger had 1. They presently have one paramedic opening, with 2 retiring soon. They are trying to order a new chassis, but it may be 2 years before they can get one.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. Fund balance is \$15,375.15. One roof has been replaced, and they will make a schedule for others as needed. They have researched companies to make a bench in memory of Dolores Merchant, and plan on a dedication in May. A motion was made by Pomranke, supported by Schaedig, to have the township pay for half of a memorial bench in memory of Dolores Merchant not to exceed \$450. M.C. Mary Ann Heidemann is working on a Historical Society grant. The next meeting will be January 25 at 1:30 at the MSU Extension office.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Lake Weed Control Advisory Committee meeting January 9. They discussed which parcels to include in the Special Assessment District, with updated information from Equalization – lake property owners only, or including back lots and lagoon properties. They are working on wording for the petitions, on the advice of their attorney. There must be 2 public hearings, and will possibly be scheduled in the spring.

Counterman gave a report on the Fire Board meeting. There was one major farm structure fire in the past 2 months. There were reports on equipment that needs to be replaced, as well as ongoing training. The Medical Coordinator reported 10 runs, 7 from Ocqueoc and 3 from Bearinger, Rogers City responding to 7 and Onaway Ambulance to 3. They

discussed the proposed 2023 – 2024 budget. Copies will be sent to the townships for review, and will be finalized at the Tri-Board meeting March 2 at the Fire Hall.

Radka gave a report on the township website. It is in the development stage, and they hope to have it going by January 25.

Todd Curtis is raising the monthly lease fee for the transfer site from \$100 to \$150 per month. The board suggested a 2-year contract instead of 5, and look into the possibility of finding an alternate location. A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to draw up a 2-year agreement, for the \$150 per month, and look into the possibility of an alternate location. M.C.

Mapping Solutions is accepting ads for the upcoming plat book, with a ¼ page ad the same rate as the last plat book, \$350. A motion was made by Counterman, supported by Isaacs, to have a ¼ page ad, with the same information as the last one, except to ad the township website information. M.C.

Treasurer Pomranke will give a report at the next board meeting on township funds in CDs, when they mature, and what rates are compared to available rates.

The expense report was reviewed. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to move \$250 from Stabilization to Election Supplies to cover maintenance costs on the election equipment. M.C.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to give \$3,000 to each ambulance service from the township ARPA funds, as was budgeted. M.C.

A motion was made by Pomranke, supported by Counterman, to give \$3,000 from the township ARPA funds to the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Department for premium pay for members. M.C.

Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report. Winter taxes on 860 parcels out of the 1660 have been paid. Summer taxes have been paid on 1580 parcels. Swampland tax has been received – Ocqueoc has 14,596 acres, and the state pays \$4.73 per acre, half going to the township and half to the county. Revenue sharing in the amount of \$10,289 was received.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to pay per diem and mileage for Counterman and Board of Review members to attend mandatory training. M.C.

Richard Colonna asked when the land division problem would be settled, and the clerk will check with the assessor. After talking to Attorney Michael Vogler, it appeared that the issue will be resolved.

Pomranke reported that the 2020 census had Ocqueoc at 544, which was a decrease from the previous census, and it is reflected in revenue sharing monies.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk