

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
May 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on May 11, 2023 at the Township Hall. Board members present were – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Susan Radka and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Joel Jaroch and Deputy Treasurer Danielle Zalewski.

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

Schaedig gave a report on the April 26 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. 3 more lifting mats have been purchased, to be reimbursed by the county ARPA funds. They can lift 700 pounds, and they inflate in a minute and 20 seconds. The replacement Echo Unit will be available soon. The end-of-year financial report showed \$38,900 in the positive from income vs. expenses. The cost of new ambulances has gone up from approximately \$160,000 to \$195,000.

Even the cost of remounting is in the range of \$160,000. The subject of needing to offer health insurance in Onaway may be necessary sooner rather than later – now medics work in Cheboygan and Rogers City full time for benefits, and work in Onaway 1 day a week.

Cheboygan will be losing 3 medics – one going to Rogers City. Cheboygan offers a salary of \$70,000 a year plus benefits, and can't get new employees. It currently costs \$30,000 to train to become a medic.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. Plans are being finalized for the Dolores Merchant memorial May 20 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The marketing committee has made recommendations – the caretaker has been doing a good job posting pictures on the Facebook page, and getting feedback. A suggestion was made to put in a kayak/canoe launch with a floating dock and making it handicap accessible. Radka will meet with a representative from a company from Gaylord for a quote.

Radka reported that the Ocqueoc Lake Advisory Committee has heard from the lawyer about instructions for circulating the petitions, with the deadline being June 15 to have them returned. Property owners not residing on the lake will be mailed a petition. The lawyer will draft wording for a resolution for the township board to consider. If the project goes forward, the first total-lake treatment would be in spring of 2024. Individuals with lakefront property can choose to have their area treated by PLM individually this year, as was done in 2022.

Counterman gave a report on the Fire Board meeting.

Counterman will talk to the county road commission about an alternate site for the transfer site. It was also suggested to eliminate the newsletter permits, and just check people in from the list of taxpayers. The cost of the transfer site was discussed, and a motion was made by Radka, seconded by Isaacs, to raise the price of garbage bags from \$1 to \$2 for the small bags and from \$2 to \$3 for the large bags, to take affect June 1. M.C. Sam Merchant will again handle metal.

Discussion followed on whether or not to continue the newsletter, or just have the information on the township website. Discussion will continue at the June meeting.

The next P.I. County Township Officers Association meeting will be June 6 at Belknap Township Hall, with the potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. and business meeting to follow. Each township is asked to bring a dish to pass – Schaedig will make taco salad.

A FOIA request was received for 2020 election information.

The Bureau of Elections is providing new drop boxes for all townships for absentee ballots. We currently have one, but Counterman said he could find room for two, and possibly have one just for taxes and one for ballots. Surveillance systems were also discussed, though we had one installed before the last election, and just received reimbursement from the state. Not sure if they will require a different system – more information will follow.

An EGLE preapplication notification was reviewed.

Discussion followed on Township funds received from the American Rescue Plan. Of

the \$64,000 received, approximately \$43,000 is still available. Board members are asked to make a list of how they think some of the money should be allocated. It will be discussed at the June meeting. Funds must be earmarked by 2024, and spent by 2026.

The township hall and transfer site LP tanks were filled at \$2,199.

The expense report was reviewed.

Deputy Zalewski reported that Treasurer Pomranke has closed some low-interest CDs and opened new ones at 4.75%.

Joel Jaroch thanked the board members for the work they do, and wished the mothers a Happy Mothers Day. The Board thanked Jaroch for taking the time to attend the board meetings.

Pomranke and Zalewski will remove the stakes and fencing at the township hall.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk