

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

April 13, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on April 13, 2023 at the Township Hall. All board members were present – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Susan Radka, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Joel Jaroch and Jim Kure.

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 March meeting were read and accepted as presented. The minutes of the March 27 budget hearing were read and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the March 22 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The proposed 2023 – 2024 budget was approved by all 8 entities. The new Echo Unit isn't available yet. The lifting mats have been ordered. County Clerk Ann Marie Main said that updates to crew quarters may not be an allowable use of ARPA funds. He will reevaluate the request. The Onaway Plus subscription has remained the same for over 10 years, and the board approved raising the rate from \$60 to \$65. New enrollment brochures will be sent out in May. Current subscriptions are valid until June 30, 2023. There were 31 Advanced runs, 9 Basic, and 19 No-transports, with one run each to Bearinger and Ocqueoc.

Counterman gave a report on the April 12 Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting. ARPA funds will be used to update equipment and replace the hot water heater. In February there were 76 ER runs and 28 No-transports, with 3 ER runs each to Ocqueoc and Bearinger. In March there were 90 ER runs and 29 No-transports, with Ocqueoc having 2 No-transports and 3 ER runs, and Bearinger with 1 No-transport and 3 ER runs. So far, the first 12 days of April had 55 calls with 46 transports. The last quarter of 2022 had a subsidy payment of \$90,807.02. There are 2 persons in training class, with one totally covered by a grant, and the other 90% paid. They would like to have a sign on U.S.23 to warn drivers about a possible ambulance entering the roadway.

Radka reported on the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. Plans are made for the Memorial Bench dedication for Dolores Merchant May 20 from 11:00 – 1:00. About 30 people have been invited, including her family members. The Calendar of Events is looking good, including the Huron Pines Coastal Invasive Species presentation July 15. They are always looking for volunteers for necessary projects. Radka is on the Website Marketing Committee to try to make the website more user-friendly. They met and will present their recommendations at the April 26 meeting at the MSU Extension office at 1:30 p.m. The May meeting will be the 17th at the Outdoor Center to get set up for the dedication. The bench has arrived.

The Ocqueoc Lake Advisory Committee is waiting for the attorney to draft the petition for circulation for the Special Assessment District, so may not have a meeting in April.

No written bids were received for the lawn mowing of the township hall and cemetery. Jeff Yaklin is willing to do it at the same rate as last year, \$60 for the township hall and \$275 for the cemetery. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to have Yaklin mow for the season at the above rate. M.C.

Notice was received about a EGLE violation on the Ocqueoc River, and was discussed. The board expects to receive additional updates.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Counterman, to sign the audit paperwork for having J.W. Kieliszewski do the township audit for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year as required. M.C.

The end of budget year expense report was distributed.

Treasurer Pomranke opened a 1-year CD at the Alpena/Alcona Area C.U. (formerly Calcite Credit Union) at a rate of 4.5%. She closed the CDs at Huron State Bank and combined and opened one for 3 months at 4%.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Radka, to have Treasurer Pomranke evaluate the CDs at Awakon Federal Credit Union, CDs #300, #301, #302 and #304 to see about getting a better rate, even if there might be a penalty for withdrawing early, if some may need to be taken care of before the May 11 meeting. M.C.

Schaedig will check on rates for LP gas from Suburban, to see if they might be cheaper in summer.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to continue the semi-annual program for flies at the hall with the new owners of NE Michigan Pest Management, Tom and Tricia Selke. M.C.

Joel Jaroch thanked Counterman for helping them understand the tax process when they attended the March Board of Review.

Counterman will talk to the County Road Commission about a possible alternative site for the transfer station. Schaedig will check with GFL about getting the bigger bins, or at least additional bins, as the busy summer season approaches.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk