

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
September 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on September 14, 2023 at the Township Hall. All board members were present – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka and Pam Schaedig. Also present were Lena Brown, Kelli Stockwell, Craig and Laurie Goodlock, Joel Jaroch, and Jessica Chandler.

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 August meeting were read and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the August 23 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Coordinator Hyde found a replacement for the Echo Unit from Fernelius in Cheboygan (2021 with 40,000 miles) for the amount remaining in the county ARPA grant. He had checked online with Carvana, but they won't sell to businesses. They still need to get a cow catcher installed, lights, siren and box. They have to decide what to do with the old Echo Unit – Case Township has expressed an interest. The board made a motion to close the CD at Awakon, and open a new one with an investment advisor at Citizen's Bank. The rate is currently 5 – 5.2%, but changes every day. There were 32 Advanced runs, 6 Basic, and 24 No-Transports. Bearinger had 2 and Ocqueoc 4. Hyde again mentioned the critical shortage of EMTs.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting August 23. The website has been updated so that donations can be made to the Center through PayPal. Balance on hand as of July 31 was \$15,952.19. Radka and the Caretaker, Sarah, took an online grant-writing seminar through the Michigan Historical Society. A new Visitors' Log has been created. Fundraising will be done to help offset the cost of a handicap accessible canoe/kayak dock and walkway to the lake. Judy McFalda has donated services of her son, who is a landscape architect, to help determine the best walkway to the lake that would comply with handicap standards. Chad Radka and John Chappa volunteered and installed a workbench countertop in the garage building, and will remove some dangerous trees. Another painting day will be planned for spring, and Laurie and Craig Goodlock were thanked for the time they donated painting. No craft classes are scheduled for fall – plans will be made over the winter for classes for 2024. They are looking for anyone interested in teaching a class. The next meeting will be September 27 at the Center – bulbs will be planted around the Dolores Merchant memorial bench.

Radka reported that the Ocqueoc Lake Advisory Committee hasn't met. They are waiting for the lawyer to get the wording for a township resolution to proceed with the Special Assessment District. MSU has done a sample at 80 different points to identify invasive species, and should have a written report by February. Radka has done some individual research on different aspects of the project.

Counterman gave a report on the September 7 Fire Board meeting. There was one fire call during the past 2 months. The Huron Beach Civic Center donated \$2,000 to the department from their garage sale. 10 new radios were received at no cost from Motorola and with the help of Dave Wojtylko. Training and repairs are being done. There were 9 Medical calls – 8 to Ocqueoc and 1 Bearinger, Rogers City responding to 8 and Onaway 1, 6 ER runs and 2 No-

Transports. The Fire Department is eligible for \$20,000 from the Michigan Fire Equipment Grant, but must be used for very specific purchases.

The next Planning Commission meeting has been changed to October 5 at 7:30 at Belknap Township Hall.

As required by the state, and encouraged by Assessor Allan Berg, the following Resolution was adopted:

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE INSPECTION OF REAL PROPERTY  
Resolution/Policy Number 9-2023**

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Ocqueoc Township, County of Presque Isle, desires to implement and maintain a property inspection program to have accurate property record cards for property tax purposes to the best of their ability.

WHEREAS, the above Municipality has developed a systematic program to inspect all properties within the municipality within an approximate 5-year timeframe. The property inspections would generally rotate each parcel on a 5-year basis.

WHEREAS, as provided by the State Tax Commission policy on "Supervising Preparation of the Assessment Roll" and more specifically, item #10 requires a 'record of site visits to the individual parcels'; the municipality desires to ensure such a system is in-place to record site visits on a routine basis to comply with this policy.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipality has and will continue to implement a systematic program to conduct property inspections approximately every 5 years to ensure accurate property records for property tax purposes.

Yeas: Susan Radka  
Jerome Isaacs  
Pamela Schaedig  
Shari Pomranke  
Jerry Counterman

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstains: None

The Supervisor declared the motion carried and the resolution adopted.

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Pamela Schaedig, Ocqueoc Township Clerk

Schaedig reported on the P.I. County Township Officers Association meeting September 5. County Clerk Ann Marie Main reported on the changes to election rules due to the passage of Proposal 2. She is encouraging entities to consolidate for the 9 days of early voting which will be required for any state and federal election. In 2024 that will include the Presidential Primary February 27, the August Primary and the November Presidential Election. Treasurer Bridget LaLonde reported that all but 2 of the 43 parcels in the public land auction were sold. Register of Deeds Vicky Kowalewski said the document count is down from last year. Probate Judge Eric Stone reported that the juvenile holding facility next to the sheriff's department is on time and on budget. It is funded by a \$500,000 grant, and will hold 2 youths on a temporary basis. The next meeting will be December 5 in Case Township.

A Violation Notice – Order to Restore was received from EGLE regarding a parcel on the river on South River Lane.

A yearly review was done on the transfer site attendant, and the board decided to write a letter and include a job description to encourage her to keep the transfer site neat and orderly.

Each year the township sets the millage rate. A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to keep the millage rate at .7. On a roll call vote, Isaacs, Radka, Schaedig, Pomranke, and Counterman voted Yea, no Nays. M.C.

Radka is working on upgrading the township website.

Lena Brown brought up issues she has been having with several neighbors with bright outdoor lighting, and wondered if the township would consider an Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. Copies of the Ordinance from Presque Isle Township was distributed. Counterman will bring it up at the Planning Commission meeting, and if nothing will be done at the county level, the township will consider an ordinance. The biggest problem is enforcement, but the clerk will talk to the sheriff's department.

Counterman attended the P.I. E & G Liaison meeting. Natural gas rates will remain steady, but electric rates will be increasing. There is also concern that since the state is mandating the shutdown of coal and natural gas generating plants, that it could cause a shortage of power and result in periodic brown-outs in the future.

Presque Isle County is having a residential e-waste collection day on September 26 from 2:00 – 6:00 at the Rogers City Transfer Station open to all county residents. For more information contact [PresqueIsleRecycling.org](http://PresqueIsleRecycling.org).

Jessica Chandler is willing to come to the next Township meeting to answer questions about the 2 millage proposals on the November 7 ballot.

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