

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
November 9, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on November 9, 2023 at the Township Hall. Board members present were – Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka and Pam Schaedig.

The meeting was called to order by Clerk Schaedig in the absence of Supervisor Counterman at 7:00 p.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Isaacs, to have Treasurer Pomranke chair the meeting. M.C. The agenda was distributed and approved. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to dispense with the reading of the minutes. M.C.

Schaedig gave a report on the October 25 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The new Echo Unit is still in the process of getting the necessary changes made to make it usable for the ambulance service. The Awakon savings account has been closed and the funds being put into a CD at 5 ½ % through a vendor at Citizen's National Bank. Coordinator Hyde will have new ambulance quotes at the next meeting – after researching for Cheboygan, the last one cost \$170,000 and now, 3 years later, is \$230,000. Another problem is that the price is only good for 30 – 60 days, but it could take over a year for an ambulance to be built and received. Hyde had several inquiries about the old Echo Unit (2009 F-350 Heavy-duty, with 170,000 miles). The board is having Hyde ask for \$6,000, and the price can be negotiated. The November meeting will be changed to the 5th Wednesday, November 29, due to Thanksgiving. The December meeting will remain on the 4th Wednesday, December 27. There were 28 Advanced runs, 7 Basic and 19 No-Transports, with 1,509.4 miles logged, 1 run to Ocqueoc and zero Bearer.

The Ocqueoc/Bearer Fire Board met on November 2. The EMS Coordinator reported that there were 7 medical calls and transports to the ER. 6 were from Ocqueoc and 1 from Bearer. The Fire Chief's report showed 2 false alarms and 1 large structure fire on a farm. The permit has been approved for dry hydrant repair at the refuge harbor. If weather permits, it will be completed this fall. The tires were replaced on 701, the main pumper – the tires were 25 years old. New turn-out gear has been ordered through the Michigan Fire Equipment grant, \$18,000.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. She reviewed the projects completed in 2023 and plans for 2024. The Center will be closed for the winter and pipes have been drained. A mural grant has been received, and the plans are to make the garage into an art studio. Several craft classes are scheduled for fall of 2024. Chad Radka and John Chappa did some work on the dormers. The mess hall has been painted, and more painting will be needed. Sandy Brougham has offered to build an outdoor classroom, but the county will have to be consulted, since they own the property. A committee was appointed to work on the project and solicit grants.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka not to have a light installed at the corner of Orcutt Highway and Ocqueoc Road. M.C.

A discussion of the Special Assessment District documents was tabled until the December meeting.

A motion was made by Radka, seconded by Isaacs, to approve the consolidation agreement with Moltke, Bearinger and North Allis Townships for the 9 days of early voting for the elections in 2024. M.C.

Counterman is attending the Planning Committee meeting this evening, and will give a report at the December meeting.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to use funds from the American Rescue Plan to purchase the projector, mount and screens, and also a Dymo LabelWriter, at a total cost of \$697.39. M.C.

A motion was made by Radka, seconded by Pomranke, to give Clerk Schaedig extra compensation of \$500 for the recent school millage election. M.C. (with Schaedig abstaining).

There was a theft of an angel statue from the cemetery. The sheriff has been notified, and the picture was put on the website, but no one has come forward with any information.

Schaedig reported that there were 144 voters in the November 7 school millage election, with 88 being absentees and 56 in person.

The date of July 13, 2024 will be Large Item Day. Sam Merchant said he lost money on the metal this past July, after paying his workers, and may not do it next year. The Clerk will check on the cost of a roll-off through Croad, and we could perhaps offer to pay Sam something for his time next year.

A letter was received from Sabrina McGirr, expressing an interest in assessing for the township. The Clerk will contact her to invite her to come to a township meeting in the future.

The expense report was reviewed. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to move \$2,500 from Stabilization to the following line items - \$1,000 to Township Board fees, \$1,000 to Attorney fees, and \$500 to Election Supplies. M.C.

Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report. She is working on the newsletter, and tax notices will go out the end of the month. Pomranke closed the Awakon account and opened three \$50,000 CDs at Alpena/Alcona Area C.U. at 5%.

The next P.I. County Township Officers Association meeting will be December 5 in Case Township.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk