

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
DECEMBER 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on December 14, 2023 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Shari Pomranke, Woody Isaacs, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Joel Jaroch.

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. The minutes of the November meeting were read, and were accepted as read.

Schaedig gave a report on the November 29 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. They are still using the old Echo Unit – the new box still needs doors. Neither interested party wanted the old unit for \$6,000, so he will advertise it once it is no longer being used. Supplies are currently supplied free of charge from the Petoskey hospital, but if that policy ends, it will cost more for supplies in the future. There were 22 Advanced runs, 7 Basic, and 18 No-Transports. 1,223.9 miles were logged, with 2 runs to Ocqueoc and zero to Bearinger.

Counterman gave a report on the Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting December 13. Mike English, Fire Chief of Topinabee, will replace Dallas Hyde as Coordinator for the Ambulance Service. \$550,000 will be received from the government and divided between all ambulance services in the Cheboygan area. They made a down payment of \$114,000 on a road rescue unit. July, August and September had a combined loss of \$64,544.00. Michael Vogler will no longer be handling legal services for the Authority.

Radka reported on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting December 9. The officers will remain the same for 2024. Sandy Brougham made a presentation about building an outdoor classroom, and a committee was appointed to apply for a grant, and will be on the list of projects for 2024. They will apply for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for the accessible kayak/canoe dock and launch, and a handicap accessible pathway, with matching funds possibly from Ocqueoc Township and Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center, as well as fundraising. The next meeting will be January 24 at 1:30 p.m. at the MSU Extension office.

The Ocqueoc Lake Advisory Committee has not had a need to meet, and will disband.

The Special Assessment District paperwork was reviewed, and Radka will have it ready to present to the board at the January meeting. A public hearing will probably be scheduled for the spring, to include residents who are gone from the area for the winter, to include as many residents as possible.

The township has \$42,000 in the American Rescue Plan Act funds. The board will work on a list of ways to distribute the funds, which need to be earmarked by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026.

The township board must adopt the poverty guidelines for 2024 in the December or January meetings. The township adopted the following resolution:

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP POVERTY EXEMPTION RESOLUTION FOR 2024

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board, and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Ocqueoc, Presque Isle County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Supervisor/Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 2024 Assessment Year
Number of Persons Residing Poverty Guidelines
In the Principal Residence Annual allowable income

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| 1 Person | \$14,580 |
| 2 Persons | \$19,720 |
| 3 Persons | \$24,860 |
| 4 Persons | \$30,000 |
| 5 Persons | \$35,140 |
| 6 Persons | \$40,280 |
| 7 Persons | \$45,420 |
| 8 Persons | \$50,560 |
| Each addition person, add | \$5,140 |

The following is a limit on the amount of assets an applicant can have:

- *Limit on Cash Balances: \$2,500 (check/savings). All bank statements must be submitted with application
- *1 personal vehicle is exempt from overall asset value limit
- *Primary Residence is excluded, however, excess land over 5 acres will count toward overall asset limit.
- *Annual dividend income (taxable & non-taxable) must be less than \$1,000.
- *Overall Asset Value Limit: \$34,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Supervisor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption. As this policy and resolution do not establish specific guidelines for granting a 25% or 50% reduction in taxable value as allowed by MCL 211.7u, the Board of Review shall be limited to a 0% reduction (denial) or 100% reduction (approval).

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member Pam Schaedig, supported by Susan Radka

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“Aye”: Pam Schaedig
Jerome Isaacs
Susan Radka
Shari Pomranke
Jerry Counterman

“Nay”: None

Absent: None

The Township Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk, dated December 14, 2023

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to raise the stipend for deputies to \$25 per month, paid once a year (\$300) and \$12 per hour when performing duties. On a roll call vote, ayes all. M.C.

The expense report and financial reports were given.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to pay expenses and per diem for Board of Review training in Alpena in February. M.C.

Croad Salvage would provide a roll-off for Large Item Day for \$100. Counterman will check with Sam Merchant to decide if he will not be able to handle the metal next year before we make arrangements with Croad.

John George will be available if the transfer site needs salt/sand during the winter season.

Joel Jaroch thanked the board for what they do.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk