

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD  
JANUARY 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on January 11, 2024 at the Township Hall. Board members present were - Jerry Counterman, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were Laurie and Craig Goodlock, and 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, and several additions were made. The minutes of the December meeting were read, several corrections were made, and the minutes were approved as corrected.

Schaedig gave a report on the December 27 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The fabricator is still working on the box for the new Echo Unit. Hyde is still waiting for a quote for a new rig. The budget committee will meet January 16 to have a proposed budget for the January meeting to be taken back to townships for approval. There were 41 Advanced runs, 10 Basic and 23 No-Transports. 2090.3 miles were logged, with 2 runs to Ocqueoc and 1 to Bearinger.

Michael Vogler will still do light duty work for the township, but would not do any heavy litigation. Clerk Schaedig was asked to contact the new law office in Rogers City, to see what they would charge for possible work for the township in the future.

Radka had information on the proposed floating dock and walkway to the lake at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. The total project could cost in excess of \$150,000. A grant application will be submitted to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and requires a public informational meeting. The meeting will be with the Planning Commission meeting January 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Room of the courthouse in Rogers City. The county would have to submit the grant application, since they own the property.

Counterman reported on the January 4 Fire Board meeting. The Fire Chief reported 3 calls during November and December. Members can get information through their cell phones from the Dispatch Notification System. The agreement for statewide mutual aid is in effect. Turn-out gear has been purchased through a grant. One person has shown interest in joining the department and taking Firefighter I and II classes. The medical coordinator reported on 8 calls – 5 answered by Rogers City ambulance and 3 by Onaway, 6 calls from Ocqueoc and 2 Bearinger, 7 transports and 1 no-transport. In 2023 there were a total of 63 Medical calls. A preliminary budget is being prepared.

Special Assessment documents were reviewed. It was determined that there are 74 parcels included. Approving the resolution was tabled until the February meeting. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to tentatively set the first public hearing for May 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Radka will check with the representative from PLM to see if he would be available. After lengthy discussion, Radka will also get clarification from the lawyer on several issues.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative has asked for a letter of support for their high-speed internet project. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Radka, to send a letter of support:

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD

14101 N. Allis Highway

Millersburg, MI 49759

January 11, 2024

Michigan High-Speed Internet Office

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity

Subject: Letter of Support for PIE&G's Fiber-to-the-Home Project

Dear Michigan High-Speed Internet Office:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Ocqueoc Township Board, Presque Isle County, to express our full support for Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op's (PIE&G) commendable effort to deploy a fiber-to-the-home network within its electric service territory.

We recognize the significant impact that reliable high-speed internet access can have on our community's well-being, educational opportunities, and economic development. PIE&G's ongoing project, encompassing the construction of 3,200 miles of mainline fiber infrastructure at an estimated cost of \$135 million is a testament to their commitment to enhancing the lives of the residents they serve.

As the Board of Ocqueoc Township, we have witnessed the positive effects of technological advancements o education, communication, and overall community connectivity. PIE&G's initiative aligns with our vision for a digitally inclusive and thriving community.

We understand the financial challenges posed by rising costs and interest rates, and we believe that seeking funding through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program is a strategic move to ensure the project's success. The program's allocation of approximately \$1.8 billion in federal funding, administered by the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI), presents a valuable opportunity to support PIE&G in achieving its goals.

We wholeheartedly endorse PIE&G/s application for funding through the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program. The impact of this initiative extends beyond utility services, positively influencing education, healthcare, business, and overall community development.

We are confident that PIE&G's commitment, coupled with the support of our community, will create a foundation for a resilient and digitally connected future. Please consider this letter as an expression of our firm support for PIE&G's Fiber-to-the-Home Project.

Thank you for your dedication to improving the quality of life for our community members. We look forward to the successful realization of this transformative project.

Sincerely,

Ocqueoc Township Board

A resident asked about the possibility of having a light installed at the corner of Ocqueoc Road and U.S. 23. Schaedig will check with Road Commission manager David Kowalski.

A motion was made by Counterman, supported by Radka, to pay the \$100 to begin the process of having PIE&G install internet services to the township hall. M.C.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Pomranke, to move \$2,000 from Stabilization, with \$1,000 added to Election wages and \$1,000 to Election equipment. M.C.

Treasurer Pomranke reported that approximately 800 of the 1600 parcels have had their taxes processed. Constitutional Sales Tax was received in the amount of \$10,677 and Swamp Tax of \$32,172.

The election commission will meet at 6:45 p.m. before the next Township meeting on February 8, 2024 to appoint election inspectors for the February 27 Presidential Primary election.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk