

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
FEBRUARY 8, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on February 8, 2024 at the Township Hall. Board members present were – Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Joel Jaroch.

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, seconded by Isaacs, to have Treasurer Pomranke chair the meeting. M.C. The agenda was distributed and approved as presented. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Radka, to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Schaedig gave a report on the January 26 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The new Echo Unit is still not usable, waiting for the box to be built. Hyde won't use that company again, since it has been months since they've been working on it. The last rig purchased was \$160,000, a new one to replace it will be \$240,000, and the cost went up \$1,000 per month in 2023. If we commit now, it will be 1 ½ - 2 years before we receive one. They would "lock in" the cost except the cost of a chassis. The board authorized CFO Hyde to sign the purchase agreement paperwork. The proposed 2023 – 2024 budget was reviewed and approved, with basically a 4% increase except in the line item for Capital Outlay Ambulance. It also includes an employee retention line item. Board members will take it back to their townships for approval. There were 35 Advanced runs, 11 Basic, and 26 No-transport, with 1 run to Bearinger and 2 in Ocqueoc.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. They are applying for a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the building of a barrier-free dock/kayak launch/fishing platform, a 500' x 6' concrete pathway, 3 picnic pods, ADA Port-A-Potty, and a 10-space paved parking lot, at a projected cost of \$206,400. They are asking for letters of support. There was a public meeting January 18 and the response was overwhelmingly in favor of the project. Grant deadline is April 1, 2024. A 25% match is required, but they are going to try for 30%. According to Disability Network, a study from 2019 listed 19.7% of the population of Presque Isle County have disabilities. They are planning a chili fundraiser with silent auction in the future. A motion was made by Radka, seconded by Schaedig, to commit \$14,500 from the township's ARPA funds toward this project - \$10,000 was budgeted in the current budget year, which can be rolled over into the new 2024 – 2025 budget.

The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PROJECT AT THE OCQUEOC OUTDOOR CENTER TO

APPLY FOR A MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT
FOR A BARRIER-FREE DOCK/KAYAK LAUNCH/FISHING PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center is located on Ocqueoc Lake in Ocqueoc Township, and

WHEREAS, the Ocqueoc Township Board has supported the improvements that have been made at the Center through the years, for the use of Township residents, as well as residents of Presque Isle County, and

WHEREAS, the Ocqueoc Township Board supports improvements that are beneficial to all residents, including those with physical handicaps, and

WHEREAS, the Ocqueoc Township Board supports the efforts of the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center in acquiring funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for this project – building a barrier-free dock/kayak launch/fishing platform, a 500' x 6' concrete pathway, 3 picnic pods, ADA Port-A-Potty, and a 10-space paved parking lot, at a projected total cost of \$206,400, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township Board is willing to contribute \$14,500 to the project for recreation for township residents.

This resolution was offered by board member Susan Radka

Supported by board member Pam Schaedig

Upon a roll call vote,

Ayes: Pam Schaedig, Jerome Isaacs, Susan Radka, Shari Pomranke

Nays: None

Absent: Jerry Counterman

The treasurer declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

Radka gave figures on the results of the petitions regarding a special assessment district for Ocqueoc Lake. The number of property owners signing the petition was 21 out of 49 (43%) and number of parcels in favor was 31 out of 74 (42%). Based on the data, it doesn't appear that a Special Assessment District would represent the majority of the property owners, and the board will not proceed. The board thanked Susan Radka for all the research she has done and time spent on compiling the data.

The board discussed other possible ways to utilize the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for the township benefit. A split system for heating and cooling was mentioned, and Pomranke will talk to John's Plumbing & Heating for a quote. Other mentioned were new tables and chairs, and refrigerator for the township hall.

The proposed Onaway Ambulance budget was discussed, and the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT ONAWAY AMBULANCE
BUDGET FOR 2023 – 2024

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Onaway Ambulance Board to submit a proposed 2023 – 2024 budget to the townships for approval before the beginning of the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2024, and

WHEREAS, according to MCL 41.812, it is the responsibility of the Township Board to review and adopt the proposed budget for the Onaway Ambulance before the beginning of the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2024,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the proposed Onaway Ambulance budget for 2023 – 2024 in the amount of \$580,193.45, being reviewed at a regular Ocqueoc Township Board meeting, was approved and adopted at the regular Township Board meeting dated February 8, 2024.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Pam Schaedig
Second offered by Board Member Jerome Isaacs

Upon roll call vote, the following voted Aye: Jerome Isaacs
Shari Pomranke
Susan Radka
Pam Schaedig

The following voted Nay: None
Absent: Jerry Counterman

The Clerk declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

The next P.I. County Township Officers meeting will be March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Krakow Township Hall.

The Tri-Board (Ocqueoc Township Board, Bearinger Township Board, and the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Board) will meet on March 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall to adopt the proposed 2024 – 2025 Fire Department budget.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed. The figures will be studied in detail at the March meeting in order to create a proposed 2024 – 2025 township budget. A budget hearing will be set for the end of March to finalize.

Treasurer Pomranke reported that taxes are coming in steadily. She will be at the township hall February 29 for the last day of tax collection before they are sent to the county.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig
Ocqueoc Township Clerk