

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD

MARCH 14, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on March 14, 2024 at the Township Hall. Board members present were – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Absent was Susan Radka. Also present were Sabrina McGirr and Joel Jaroch.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Counterman and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and accepted. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Isaacs, to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February meeting. M.C

Schaedig gave a report on the February 28 Onaway Ambulance board meeting. The proposed Onaway Ambulance budget for 2024 – 2025 was approved by the majority of the entities. The new truck has been ordered, but will not be available for 2 – 3 years. Ambulance funds have been moved from savings to a money market to get more interest. Additional funds will be moved - \$60,000 to a CD and \$60,000 to a money market. A shortage of paramedics is an ongoing problem. There were 30 Advanced runs, 11 Basic, and 15 No-Transports, with 1 run to Bearinger and zero Ocqueoc.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to dispense with the reading of the Tri-Board meeting March 7, and a motion was made by Counterman, supported by Schaedig, to dispense with the reading of the Township Officers meeting March 5. M.C.

Discussion followed on having a light installed at the intersection of Ocqueoc Road and U.S. 23, and was tabled until the April meeting.

Sabrina McGirr addressed the board. She is a Level 2 Assessor, and she works in the Alpena Equalization office. She is interested in assessing services that she could provide for Ocqueoc Township. She gave her proposal, and the board will let her know before the April meeting. The board received a letter from Assessor Allan Berg, stating that he is no longer interested in providing assessing services for Ocqueoc Township.

John's Plumbing & Heating looked at our heating system at the hall, and determined that the furnace is 19 years old and we should consider replacing it. He also gave a quote for air conditioning, which the board felt wasn't necessary at this time. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to sign the paperwork for a new furnace from John's Plumbing & Heating, at a cost of \$4,840, to be taken from the ARPA funds. M.C. It should be set up for air conditioning, if we decide to install that in the future.

The Township American Rescue Plan funds need to be earmarked by the end of 2024. Besides a furnace, other items mentioned were a new door at the east entrance of the hall, a new refrigerator, picnic tables, and new tables and chairs for the hall, as well as re-sealing of the parking lot. The blacktopping will be put out for bids.

The Presque Isle County Road Commission is requesting a resolution in support of funding to construct a new bridge at the Ocqueoc River near the falls and on Ocqueoc Lake Road. The following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION #2024 – 4

Ocqueoc Lake Bridge over Ocqueoc River / Ocqueoc Falls Highway Bridge at Ocqueoc River

The following resolution was offered by Pam Schaedig, and supported by Shari Pomranke:

WHEREAS, The Presque Isle County Board of Road Commissioners wishes to secure funding to replace the bridge over Ocqueoc River at Ocqueoc Lake Road located within Section 29, T36 – R3E, Ocqueoc Township, Presque Isle County, Michigan, and the bridge over Ocqueoc River at Ocqueoc Falls Highway within Sections 27 & 22, T35N – R3E, Ocqueoc Township, Presque Isle County, Michigan

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township Board hereby supports the effort to request funding from the Local Bridge Program to replace the above named bridges.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ocqueoc Township Board concurs that this replacement is urgently needed.

Ayes: Pam Schaedig
Jerome Isaacs
Shari Pomranke
Jerry Counterman

Nays: None

Absent: Susan Radka

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

Schaedig gave a report on the February 27 Presidential Primary. During the 9 days of early voting (Bearinger, Moltke, North Allis and Ocqueoc Townships), there were 43 voters. On election day in Ocqueoc Township, there were 99 Absentee ballots processed, and 62 in-person voters, for a total of 161. The township will be reimbursed for the expenses of this election, and a reimbursement form was sent in for \$4,200. August and November elections will be paid for entirely by the townships.

The board reviewed the expenses-to-date in comparison with the budgeted amounts for 2023-2024, and entered tentative figures for next year's budget. The mileage rate as of April 1, 2024 will be \$.67 to follow the IRS rate. The rate for election workers and for extra work done in the name of the township will be raised from \$12 to \$15 per hour.

The Board set Monday morning, March 25 at 10:00 a.m. for the Budget Hearing to approve the proposed 2024-2025 budget.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk