

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
JUNE 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on June 13, 2024 at the Township Hall. All board members were present – Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig.

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 approved. The minutes of the May meeting were read and were accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the May 22 Onaway Ambulance meeting. 20 yards of gravel were delivered for the driveway. Monies from the subscription fund were moved to a money market and CD for more interest. There will be more repair and maintenance costs, since there will be a 2-year wait for a new ambulance. There were 19 Advanced runs, 8 Basic and 13 No-Transports. 1146.7 miles were logged, with no runs for either Ocqueoc or Bearinger.

Counterman gave a report on the Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting June 12. In April there were 43 No-Transports and 76 ER runs, 3105 miles logged, with Bearinger having zero runs and Ocqueoc with 1 No-transport and 3 ER runs. In May there were 40 No-Transports and 67 ER runs, 2410 miles logged, with Bearinger having 2 ER runs and Ocqueoc with 1 No-Transport and 1 ER. Run volume is up from the previous year. There will be a wage increase July 1. New expenditures include new chairs and mattresses, as well as a new laptop. Unit #53 is getting a new chassis for the existing box, and it should be delivered by July 4th.

Schaedig gave a report on the May 21 Fire Board meeting. The next meeting will be July 3 at 6:30 p.m., the same night as the crew meeting at 7:00, so the board will get to meet all crew members. Beverly Rossetto gave the financial reports for March and April. The new fire chief Brian Bilinski was introduced and gave his report. There were 2 calls – one for downed power lines, and one a smoke investigation (burning vegetation, but there was a water source and hose there, so there wasn't an issue). The SCBA filling station won't shut off, so must be manned so there isn't an explosion. They will get this fixed. The taillight on #706 isn't working, but the needed pigtail is no longer available, so will see about converting it to LED. Brilinski is in contact with an authorized person, who thinks since it is just a repair of the dry hydrant at the Harbor, they shouldn't have to go through the whole permit process again. He commended First Responder Amy Hawkins for her response to a call at his house recently. Assistant Chief Merchant reported that the department is fortunate to have Bilinski as chief, and has been assisting him in getting things done. Anna Beach gave the medical report for March and April, which had 9 medical calls, with Rogers City responding to 8 and Onaway 1. 8 were ER transports and one to a funeral home, Ocqueoc having 7 calls and Bearinger 2. The Road Commission asked for support in getting funding to replace the bridge over the river on Ocqueoc Lake Road, and a resolution was approved. Rossetto read the thank-you that will be going out to any sending donations to the fire department in memory of Gary Yaklin - \$370 has been received so far. July 13 will be the HBCA garage sale.

Radka gave a report on the May 22 Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. The mural class scheduled for June 22 is full. The 4x8 plywood sheets have been primed. The cost is \$20 per participant, and most of the cost is covered by a grant. Aggregate stone has been delivered for

the area that will be the outdoor classroom, and the benches should be delivered in a week or two. Discussion continued on whether or not to allow camping, and the county has decided not to allow camping on the property, which is their decision since they own the property. Some board members wanted to dispute that decision, but others felt the county decision should be upheld. The next meeting will be June 26th at 1:30 at the MSU Extension office.

Counterman reported on the P.I.E.&G. Liaison meeting May 21. Tom Sobeck will be retiring June 30 and Allan Berg will replace him. Customers can expect rate increases. The Palisades Nuclear plant will be going back online, and will be a good source of energy production.

The board appointed Pomranke and Radka to research chairs and tables for the hall, and picnic tables for the yard, and report back at the next meeting.

Counterman has not heard back from Dave Kowalski at the Road Commission about a sign on U.S. 23 near the Ocqueoc Road intersection.

Counterman talked to Perry Perrou about burying the brush, clearing and leveling approximately 2 acres at the gravel pit to make it into a transfer site, and he will get an estimate to Counterman by the July meeting. Counterman will have an estimate on fencing, posts and gates. Perrou would be possibly interested in buying gravel from the township in the future, if the township is willing to sell gravel from the pit.

Large Item Day is July 13 – Pomranke and Isaacs will work 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Counterman and Schaedig 11:30 – 3:00 p.m., and Radka 9:00 – 12:30.

The clerk distributed the expense report.

Treasurer Pomranke gave the financial report. A motion was made by Isaacs, supported by Schaedig, to authorize Pomranke to move \$100,000 from the money market to a CD at Alpena/Alcona Area Credit Union to get a better interest rate. M.C.

Suburban Propane offered the township the \$1.899 rate for 1500 gallons of LP, the same rate as last year, and the board authorized Counterman to sign the contract.

Radka has heard complaints about Amish buggies in her neighborhood driving on lawns, and about manure on roadways near resident driveways. Counterman will talk to the road commission about the issue.

A packet was received from the Road Commission with the 2024 adopted budget, annual snowfall report, staff listing, list of 2023 completed projects, and future projects.

Kimberly Gildner, candidate for Probate Judge, would like to attend our July 11 meeting, and the board had no objections.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk