

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on September 12, 2024 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig. Also present were James Gilbert 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 approved with several additions to be made later. The minutes of the August meeting were read and accepted as presented.

The agenda was rearranged to have James Gilbert speak first. He introduced himself as a candidate for Probate Judge on the November 5, 2024 ballot. He gave his background, family, and work experience and asked for support.

Schaedig gave a report on the August 29 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. There was a maintenance bill for \$8,358 for a new transmission, brakes and tires. They are still waiting for word on when a new ambulance might be available. There were 38 Advanced runs, 4 Basic, and 20 No-Transports, with 1 run each to Bearinger and Ocqueoc. 1804.7 miles were logged.

Counterman gave a report on the August 14 Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting. The new rig was expected to be delivered August 15, at a cost of \$229,715, which is just for a new chassis and having the box transferred from the old rig. There was no run report since the coordinator wasn't available.

Radka reported that she and Mary Ann Heidemann gave a presentation to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board in Traverse City on the proposed project at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center. They were one of 9 projects making presentations. She was impressed by the distinguished group of attendees, and felt it was a great learning experience. 6 of the projects were in the Traverse City area and 3 in other areas. The decision will be made in October. A 30% funding match must be raised – there will be a Lumberjack Breakfast, silent auction and bake sale Saturday, October 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. as well as tours of the camp, at a cost of \$10 per ticket in advance and \$12 at the door. Professional Chef Kelly Vogelheim is hosting an interactive class in “Building Soup and Stew” on October 5, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The class is limited to 12 people, at a cost of \$15. People can register on the website. Radka thanked the many volunteers who have helped with projects at the Center, including Craig and Laurie Goodlock, and Joel Jaroch.

Counterman gave a report on the Fire Board meeting September 5. The Fire Chief reported 5 calls, reported on training activity, and vehicle repairs. He wants all firefighters to become familiar with all the equipment. An individual gave a donation to cover the cost of new metal lockers for turn-out gear. The HBCA garage sale resulted in a donation of \$1750 and \$465 in “fill the boot”. There were 6 medical runs and 3 accidents, Rogers City responding to 8 and Onaway Ambulance 1, 5 to Ocqueoc and 4 to Bearinger.

Radka will attend the Road Commission meeting September 18 to bring up several township concerns.

Discussion followed on the topic of moving the transfer site to township property near the cemetery. It has been tabled for now. Schaedig will contact Todd Curtis about renewing the lease on the current transfer site property, for 3 or 5 years.

The board discussed setting the millage rates A motion was made by Radka, supported by Isaacs, to leave the operating millage at .7, and raise the Emergency Services millage from .7

to .75 mils. The raise is in anticipation of possibly needing new equipment in the future. On a roll call vote, Isaacs, Radka, Pomranke, Counterman and Schaedig voted Aye. Nays were none.

The transfer site is in need of gravel to fill large potholes, and Counterman will check with Todd Curtis about getting gravel from the pit and spreading it.

Our hall cleaner, Shirley Carlson, was injured in a fall and is unable to continue with the service. The board decided that it isn't necessary to have the hall cleaned every month, especially since the fly problem isn't as bad with the twice-a-year treatment. If everyone who uses the hall cleans up after themselves, it should be fine. Radka offered to clean it if it's necessary, and Counterman said it should be at the \$15 per hour rate.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed. Treasurer Pomranke reported that taxes are coming in steadily, and she will be at the hall all day Monday, Sept. 16.

Counterman reported on the P.I. Electric & Gas Liaison Meeting.

Counterman attended the MTA Emergency Services Seminar in Frankenmuth. An interesting topic was on the procedure for firemen to handle electric vehicle fires.

The problem of short-term rentals has been referred to the County Planning Commission to draft an ordinance to cover the county.

The election commission will meet at 6:45 p.m. on October 10 before the Township Board meeting to approve election inspectors for the November 5 General Election.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk