

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
OCTOBER 10, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on October 10, 2024 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Susan Radka, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was 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. The minutes of the September meeting were read and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the September 25 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. The newest ambulance has 205,000 miles, the next 200,000, the oldest 172,000, which has some electrical issues, and Hyde will try to get them corrected and use it as a regular rig, to save mileage on the others. One full-time EMT will be going to part-time in December, which will cause an issue keeping the roster full. There is an ongoing issue with not offering health care for full-time employees – in Cheboygan, a family plan costs \$1,900 per month for health care has 3 full-time medics and 2 EMTs (the state of Michigan considers an employee working at least 30 hours per week as full-time). Blue Cross pays \$300 - \$400 more per run than Medicare or Medicaid (which make up 55 – 60% of the runs). There were 27 Advanced runs, 11 Basic, and 18 No-Transports, with 1698 miles logged. Bearinger and Ocqueoc each had 2 runs. Most of the no-transport are “lift assists” to Lynn Street Manor, which is only a quick run, but can’t be charged.

Counterman gave a report on the Rogers City Area Ambulance Service Authority meeting October 9. In June there were 133 calls with 34 No-Transports, Bearinger had 1 Transport and Ocqueoc had 5 Transports and 1 No-Transport. In July there were 123 calls with 35 No-Transports, Bearinger with 2 Transports, Ocqueoc with 5 Transports and 1 No-Transport. August had 123 calls with 38 No-Transports, Bearinger with 1 Transport and 3 No-Transports, Ocqueoc with 1 Transport and 1 No-Transport. September had 141 calls with 66 No-Transports, Bearinger with 8 and Ocqueoc with 3 No-Transports and 3 Transports. Third Quarter loss was \$83,025.87. Drug overdoses are up. They are working with MDOT and Cam Cavitt to get a sign on U.S. 23 at the road going to the Ambulance barn. They will probably order a new rig in 2025 or 2026, since they are several years behind in production, due to lack of skilled workers.

Radka gave a report on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center meeting. 9 cement benches have been received, and they hope to have them in place by the Lumberjack Breakfast October 12. They are very heavy, and need equipment to be put into place. The October “Soup and Stew” class was sold out. They have sold 144 tickets for the Lumberjack Breakfast, with many donations for the silent auction. There will also be a bake sale and they hope to make this an annual event. The grant committee was allowed to answer more questions and give additional information to raise the preliminary score. The DNR Trust Fund committee hopes to make a decision in October.

Radka gave a report on the October 2 Road Commission meeting. They presented their 5-year plan of road projects. In 2025 they are planning a crush/shape/HMA 1.5 miles on Ocqueoc Road - Cheboygan Plains to Schaedig Hwy., 2028 Ocqueoc Falls Hwy. - 1 Mile M-68 to Jarvis Rd., and 2029 on Ocqueoc Road – Cheboygan Plains to U.S. 23. Road construction inflation rate is up 90%, with much of the increase due to petroleum costs. It is also a problem getting contractors to do road projects, since there are only 2 in the state of Michigan. Radka

brought up a possible sign on U.S. 23 before the Ocqueoc Road intersection, and was told that Cam Cavitt is working with MDOT on such projects. She also brought up the problem of Amish buggies with no reflectors or flashers, and leaving manure on roadways. Radka is planning on talking with Sarah Melching, county Emergency Services Coordinator.

Dan Lalonde has finished the electrical work to get the air conditioning working in the township hall.

A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Isaacs, to vote for Thad Beard and Dan Swallow for the MML Board of Directors. M.C.

A motion was made by Radka, seconded by Isaacs, to have the Clerk order a new laptop from 1010 Technology at a cost of \$1,575.28. M.C.

A motion was made by Radka, supported by Isaacs, to reimburse the Clerk for the purchase of a printer from J&L Camera and Electronics at a cost of \$139.98. M.C.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed.

Treasurer Pomranke reported that most of the summer taxes have been collected, so tax collections have slowed.

The Board decided to keep Large Item Day as in the past – not allow tires or appliances with freon.

Joel Jaroch asked about gravel for transfer site, and Counterman will check with Todd Curtis about getting some gravel and spreading it.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Radka, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk