

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD  
NOVEMBER 14, 2024

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on November 14, 2024 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Shari Pomranke, Joel Jaroch, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Penny Blackwood.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 7:05 p.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and approved. The minutes of the October meeting were read and accepted as presented.

Schaedig gave a report on the October 23 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Coordinator Hyde again mentioned recruitment – one full-time has insurance by working full-time at McLaren, but is interested in full-time in Onaway. Currently employees are given \$100 per month “Employee Retention” payment, but might consider full-time in Onaway with another \$100 per month. In the Marketplace, rates are dependent on income and age. Currently there are 5 employees who could be eligible – the board asked Hyde to give a report on age and income of the employees, to determine the approximate cost of offering more toward insurance. The newest rig (210,000 miles) is in the shop with a transmission issue, but if it is transmission, it would be under warranty, since the transmission was replaced recently. Hyde is working on moving the power load to the oldest rig (174,000 miles) to use that as the main vehicle. He is also going to research other companies for purchasing a new rig. There were 31 Advanced runs, 8 Basic, and 25 No-Transports. 1,765.3 miles were logged, with one run each to Ocqueoc and Bearinger.

Jaroch reported on the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center Lumberjack Breakfast. They were “barely break even”, but they felt it was beneficial to get recognition for the Center. Approximately 150 people attended, and many toured the Center. They plan on doing it again next year, but not having a silent auction, just a live auction.

Counterman reported on the Fire Board meeting November 7. The new fire chief wants all members to become familiar with all the equipment. Rigs have been inspected, and some tires have been replaced. 2 Board members from Bearinger will be replaced, since they are no longer on the township board.

Radka had a written report about road issues after she talked to Sarah Melching and the Sheriff’s Department. The board felt it necessary to pursue the purchase and setting of signs warning motorists about Amish buggies in the township. The Clerk will check with our insurance company about the issue. If there are no issues, she will ask the Road Commission to price the cost of 6 signs. She will ask Sheriff Brewbaker if there has been any progress in having them put reflective Slow Moving Vehicle signs on their buggies.

Curtis delivered gravel to the transfer site, and Counterman spread it. There is still a pile there to be used as needed.

Ocqueoc had 73% turn-out for the November 5 election – 134 during the Early Voting days, 145 in-person voters on election day, and 155 absentee ballots.

It was mentioned to the Clerk that MTA no longer suggests that Cemetery Deeds be given to persons purchasing a lot in the cemetery. They now are recommending Cemetery Lot Certificates, which the Clerk will research. As a result, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolution to Change from Using Cemetery Deeds to Cemetery Lot Certificates

WHEREAS, the Michigan Townships Association recommends the use of Cemetery Lot Certificates instead of Cemetery Deeds for recording burials in the Township Cemetery, and

WHEREAS, the Ocqueoc Township Board wants to be compliant with recommended practices of Michigan Townships,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Ocqueoc Township Board will provide a person, wishing to have a lot in the Ocqueoc Township Cemetery for a burial, with a Cemetery Lot Certificate as their record of the transaction

The resolution was offered by Board Member Jerome Isaacs, seconded by Board Member Pam Schaedig.

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted Aye:

Pam Schaedig
Jerome Isaacs
Joel Jaroch
Shari Pomranke
Jerry Counterman

The following voted Nay:                      None

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

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Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

The Board approved Danielle Zalewski as Deputy Treasurer and Penny Blackwood as Deputy Supervisor. Schaedig will work on getting a Deputy Clerk.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed. A motion was made by Pomranke, seconded by Isaacs, to move \$1,000 from Stabilization to Clerk Office for the purchase of a new laptop. M.C.

Treasurer Pomranke reported on winter taxes, which will be coming out soon.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to pay per diem and expenses for new trustee Joel Jaroch to attend the New Officials Training in Gaylord January 15 in Gaylord. M.C.

The next Township Officers meeting will be held on December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at North Allis Township Hall.

December Board of Review will be on December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Joel Jaroch thanked the Board for the opportunity to be involved in governing the township and hopes to bring something positive to the position. We are glad to have him on the board. We would also like to thank Susan Radka for her years of service.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Jaroch, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

