

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD
JANUARY 9, 2025 10:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on January 9, 2025 at the Township Hall. All board members were present - Jerry Counterman, Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Penny Blackwood.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Counterman at 10:00 a.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and approved as presented. The minutes of the December 2024 meeting were read, and one correction was made - \$3,400 is still owed on the kitchen remodel project, not \$2,400 as stated in the minutes.

Schaedig gave a report on the December 18 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Because of the raise in wages of \$3.00 per hour, Hyde has another Paramedic employed – his wife has insurance, so he is willing to work for Onaway. Even with this, Hyde is still having trouble filling the roster, but he has several possibilities for part-time employees. The budget committee will meet January 15 to have a proposed budget for the January 22 board meeting, so it can be taken back to the townships for approval. There were 21 ALS, 7 BLS, and 21 No-Transports. 1,272.7 miles were logged, with 2 runs to Bearinger and zero Ocqueoc.

Counterman gave a report on the Fire Board meeting. The Fire Chief reported on runs, vehicle repairs, equipment testing, and training. The ISO rating of the Fire Department is 8-10B, which is the highest possible for a rural fire department, with the mutual aid agreements. The Medical Coordinator reported 7 calls for December, with 67 calls for 2024. The board approved a preliminary budget for 2025 – 2026, which will be presented to the townships for discussion at their February meetings.

Amish buggy signs have been ordered through the Road Commission, and the board decided where they should be placed on township roads. Some of the buggies now have silver reflective tape and red reflectors, which is an improvement.

The transfer site 5-year lease with Todd Curtis was reviewed, and on a motion by Isaacs, seconded by Pomranke, to sign the agreement. M.C. It will be sent to Curtis for signature.

One EGLE notification was received, a second violation notice and order to restore a property on Ocqueoc River.

The question was raised about whether the assessor needs to take the oath of office. According to MTA it is required. The assessor will be sent an oath form to fill out and return.

Due to Windows 10 not being supported after October 2025, the electronic poll book must be replaced, since it can't be upgraded to Windows 11. A grant is available through the state. The Clerk will research laptops. A purchase must be made before February 28 to be eligible for the grant.

It was brought up about re-doing the surface of the transfer site, but the board decided that, since the township doesn't own the property, it shouldn't spend the money to do that. There is gravel there, to be used to fill in holes as necessary. Contact has been made with the DNR about a possible land swap, possibly to be used as a future transfer site.

The expenditure report was distributed and reviewed. In February the board will begin coming up with figures for the 2025 – 2026 budget, to be finalized in March.

The treasurer gave the financial report. The ARPA fund has been closed, with all funds distributed. Winter taxes are coming in steadily. She appreciated having her deputy available to process taxes while she was out of town.

Supervisor Counterman won't be able to attend the 10:00 a.m. February 13 township board meeting, due to Board of Review training. The board decided not to change the meeting, since the meeting dates have been in the newspaper and posted at the hall and on the website.

Our auditor may be retiring, but will let the board know by February, in case we need to find another auditor. In the meantime, they are filing our W2s and 941s, since they now must be done electronically. The process of having withdrawals done by electronic funds transfer directly out of the checking account is being finalized.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Schaedig, Clerk