

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP BOARD  
DECEMBER 13, 2024 10:00 A.M.  
CHANGE IN MEETING DATE BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER  
CORRECTED

The regular meeting of the Ocqueoc Township Board was held on December 13, 2024 at the Township Hall. Board members present were - Jerome Isaacs, Joel Jaroch, Shari Pomranke, and Pam Schaedig. Also present was Deputy Supervisor Penny Blackwood and Susan Radka.

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Blackwood at 10:05 a.m. and began with the pledge to the flag. The agenda was distributed and approved as presented. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to dispense with the reading of the November minutes. M.C.

Schaedig gave a report on the November 20 Onaway Ambulance Board meeting. Looking at the current budget, Repairs and Maintenance will be over budget until we get a new rig, which could be another 2 years. Currently the service has 3 full-time Basics, and 2 full-time medics. Unless Hyde can get another Medic, he will have a problem filling the roster for January. Onaway has a hard time competing with other services. The board estimated that if we raised wages by \$3 and the "employee retention" would be raised by \$100, it would increase the expenses by \$56,580, but just the \$3 wage raise would increase it by \$52,560, each entity payment would be increased by \$8600, for a payment of \$30,936 per entity. The board approved the \$3 per employee raise for now, with still no health care coverage. The budget committee will look into the increases that might be included in the next budget. The board didn't sign the agreement with Cheboygan County agreement for the payments for Forest and Waverly Townships – currently the county pays it monthly, even though it is collected twice a year with taxes. They feel the total should be given to townships, and let them collect the interest, instead of Cheboygan County getting the interest. The December meeting will be the 18<sup>th</sup> due to the Christmas holiday.

Radka was excited to report that the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center has been awarded a grant from the DNR Trust Fund for the floating dock project. Thank you to Radka and the committee for their hard work in procuring the grant! They will be going to local organizations to ask for support for the matching funds needed. The plans are to install the dock first, and then work on the walkway down to the lake, which will require an engineer to make sure the grade is correct. They hope to begin in 2025. The meetings of the Friends of the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center will be changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m., and the location will change to the Huron Bank meeting room in the new building at the corner of 2nd Street and Michigan Ave. in Rogers City. The next meeting will be January 22, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to appoint Joel Jaroch as the township representative to the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center board. M.C.

The Road Commission has quoted \$591.95 for 6 Amish buggy signs and posts, with the County installing them. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to purchase the signs and posts, and have the county install them. M.C. Schaedig will contact Dabid Kowalski to make plans for the project, and let him know where we'd like the signs.

Sheriff Brewbaker is checking with other sheriffs about enforcing the Slow Moving Vehicle signs on buggies. Radka noticed reflective tape on a buggy she was behind recently, which is an improvement on visibility.

Schaedig checked with Dockside Printing in Rogers City regarding Cemetery Lot Certificates. They quoted a price of \$50 plus set-up fees for 50 certificates. A motion was made by Schaedig, supported by Isaacs, to have them made and purchased through Dockside. M.C.

The Board thanked Shari Pomranke, Penny Blackwood, and Assessor Peggy Boldrey for helping a resident get the correct paperwork for a poverty exemption. Discussion followed about how we can make taxpayers aware of this option, if they find themselves unable to pay their taxes. They talked about an article in the Advance, the township newsletter, website, or through the County Treasurer. The following is the Poverty Exemption Resolution for 2025 with the new federal guidelines:

#### OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP POVERTY EXEMPTION RESOLUTION FOR 2025

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the Township Board, and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Supervisor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the Township of Ocqueoc, Presque Isle County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the Supervisor/Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an

appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines for the 2025 Assessment Year  
Number of Persons Residing Poverty Guidelines  
In the Principal Residence Annual allowable income

1 Person	\$15,060
2 Persons	\$20,440
3 Persons	\$25,820
4 Persons	\$31,200
5 Persons	\$36,580
6 Persons	\$41,960
7 Persons	\$47,340
8 Persons	\$52,720
Each addition person, add	\$5,380

The following is a limit on the amount of assets an applicant can have:

- \*Limit on Cash Balances: \$2,500 (check/savings). All bank statements must be submitted with application
- \*1 personal vehicle is exempt from overall asset value limit
- \*Primary Residence is excluded, however, excess land over 5 acres will count toward overall asset limit.
- \*Annual dividend income (taxable & non-taxable) must be less than \$1,000.
- \*Overall Asset Value Limit: \$34,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Supervisor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption. As this policy and resolution do not establish specific guidelines for granting a 25% or 50% reduction in taxable value as allowed by MCL 211.7u, the Board of Review shall be limited to a 0% reduction (denial) or 100% reduction (approval).

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member Pam Schaedig, supported by Board member Jerome Isaacs.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

“Aye”: Shari Pomranke  
Joel Jeroch  
Jerome Isaacs  
Pam Schaedig

“Nay”: None

Absent: Jerry Counterman

The Township Deputy Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

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Pamela Schaedig, Clerk, dated December 13, 2024

The transfer site will be open on Thursday, December 26 instead of Wednesday, Christmas Day, but will be open regular hours on New Years Day. John George is available for sand/salt if necessary, for the winter season.

Todd Curtis is raising the yearly lease for the transfer site from \$1,800 to \$1,900. Discussion followed about the future of the transfer site. For now, a motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Schaedig, to sign a 5 year lease with Todd Curtis for \$1,900 per year. M.C.

Discussion followed on allocating the balance of the American Rescue Plan Funds - \$19,251.36 is still in the account. Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to obligate the balance of the funds - \$14,500 contracted to Presque Isle County toward matching funds for the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center dock grant project, for public recreation, \$3,400 for the second half of the kitchen remodeling project at the township hall, paying for the assessor's laptop (\$1,270.94), and the balance to be paid toward the clerk's new laptop. On a roll call vote, ayes all.

The Township Officers meeting on June 3 will be in Ocqueoc for the annual picnic.

The Clerk read several notifications from EGLE regarding projects in the township.

Jaroch reported on the project to restore the area near his property. An engineering firm out of Alpena is working to oversee the project.

Thank you to Jaroch for replacing the flood lights at the east door of the township hall.

The expense report was distributed and reviewed.

Treasurer Pomranke reported that winter taxes are coming in steadily.

The board meeting was changed from Thursday evening, December 12 to Friday morning, December 13 due to inclement weather. Discussion followed about changing the township board meetings during the winter months. A motion was made by Schaedig, seconded by Isaacs, to change the November, December, January, February and March board meetings to 10:00 a.m., while the April - October meetings would remain at 7:00 p.m. M.C. A list of meetings days and times will be put in the Advance, posted at the township hall, and put on the website. The change will begin in January 2025.

Radka mentioned that Blaise Ryan is the attorney for P.I.E.&G., and is impressed with him. He could be considered if Michael Vogler completely retires and can't serve the township.

The clerk's new computer will still need a new office program, and has gotten a quote from 1010 Technology for \$142. It was included in the original quote, but not purchased and installed. It will be installed as soon as it is received.

A motion was made by Isaacs, seconded by Pomranke, to pay bills and adjourn. M.C. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Schaedig, Clerk

